

Annual Grants Program 2010

FACT SHEET

Community Justice Stream – *Doing Justice Locally*

The Community Justice Grants have been developed to support projects within the City of Yarra that strengthen the community, tackle local problems at a local level and in the process create a safer place to live, work and visit. It is funded through the Community Justice Advisory Group (CJAG) of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre.

Background The Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) – Australia's first community justice centre – is an innovative approach to justice. The NJC brings together a multi-jurisdictional court with a wide array of support services, providing comprehensive support for victims, witnesses, defendants and local residents. With mediation, crime prevention programs and community projects, the NJC aims to address the underlying causes of offending and improve safety for the community.

The NJC goals are to:

- lower the crime rate
- increase the participation of the community in the justice system
- increase offender accountability, improve justice outcomes by reducing breach rates
- improving the confidence of the community in the justice system
- provide assistance to victims of crime.

One of the ways that the NJC works locally is through the Community Justice Advisory Group (CJAG). This is a group of 15 people drawn from the community including residents, traders, police, council, and government. They form a link between the City of Yarra community and the NJC. The CJAG is actively involved in circulating information, initiating and participating in research, and is involved in decision-making and defining the future directions of the NJC.

Purpose Statement

At the Neighbourhood Justice Centre we work in partnership with the City of Yarra community to strengthen community. We actively engage with the local community to tackle the cycles of crime and violence. This is community justice in action – ***justice done locally.***

The CJAG Community Justice Grants aim to work in partnership with the local Yarra community to identify and deliver projects that address the underlying causes of offending, lower the crime rate, support victims and improve safety for the community.

**Stream
Objective**

The Neighbourhood Justice Centre flourishes through active community participation. By engaging the community in justice, we want to come up with local solutions to local problems and improve confidence in the justice system.

We encourage applications to develop **local solutions to local problems** within the context of the NJC goals (above). This year the focus is on **strengthening the community**.

In strong communities:

- people feel safe
- people are well informed
- people take responsibility
- people are involved in the community
- people participate in community activities.

**Community
Justice Stream
guiding
questions for
applicants**

We would like you to think about the following questions before completing your application.

- What are the particular justice issues that impact on you/your community?
- Which group in the community will your project focus on and why?
- Will your project work in partnership with other community groups?
- What evidence do you have to support your approach or strategy?
- What do you think the impact of your project will be?
- How will you know if your project has met its aims?

Examples

- A justice focussed project that promotes awareness and educates people who live or work in the City of Yarra.
- A project that supports young people at risk.
- A project that supports people affected by crime.
- A project that promotes positive alternatives to behaviours that leads to contact with the justice system.

**Eligibility
Criteria**

To be eligible for funding applicants must:

- Demonstrate that members of the community will be involved in the project process
- Provide evidence of appropriate management skill and financial capacity experience to carry out the project
- Outline relevant experience in delivering community projects
- Design a program which shows its aims and outcomes with direct reference to the guiding questions contained in this Fact Sheet
- Provide regular reports and feedback as required and maintain a relationship with the CJAG throughout the program cycle.

- Successful applicants will be asked to acknowledge the NJC contribution and use the NJC logo in any promotional activity.
- Please also note that the NJC may promote the projects funded, in its own materials.

**Applicants are encouraged to contact the Executive Officer CJAG,
Maree Foelz on 9948 8634 or Email: maree.foelz@justice.vic.org.au for further
information.**