



Community Support Package

FINAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATORS
SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
COVID 19 RESPONSE
2020-2021

At the April 2020 Council Meeting, one month into the COVID 19 Pandemic, the South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed a COVID 19 Community Support Package (CSP) of up to \$2 million to support the South Gippsland community and businesses to remain healthy, connected and innovative as the Pandemic unfolded across Australia.

The CSP is a set of initiatives that represent South Gippsland Shire Council's response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, and its aim to provide support, economic relief and social and economic stimulus to key sectors of the South Gippsland Community.

THREE PHASE APPROACH

TARGETED SUPPORT

Delivery of financial relief to business and householders, and support to vulnerable and isolated community members during the initial phases of COVID restrictions.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Focussed on supporting key industries such as tourism, small business and the arts and creative sector.

RECOVERY & RECONNECTION

Focussed on recovery, rebuilding social connection and supporting economic development, tourism, sport and community wellbeing.



the ripple effect

community support grants \$156,000

12 projects to support young people
21 projects to connect communities
12 projects to support community spaces
9 projects for vulnerable and isolated communities
16 projects to support communities to move online
13 projects to help community sports clubs to continue

'This grant allows us to reach out to those vulnerable members in our community and offer them a nutritious meal, a conversation over the phone to check on their well-being and strengthen community connection. By doing this we are promoting community connection and social inclusion.'

'This has strengthened our ability to bounce back and continue to provide a space for organisations and communities to utilise into the future.'

83 community organisations
25 towns and villages
5 regional projects
1,000+ community volunteers



community health & wellbeing \$160,000

400+ masks distributed
7,500 brochures distributed
80 participants enrolled in MHFA



898 flu vaccinations across 17 sessions
52 community organisations received COVID starter kit
80+ volunteers making masks in for the Great Southern Sewing Bee
Community Support Brochure Partnership with Health Service Providers
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training offered to community members
Youth and Teen Mental Health to be rolled out to Yr 9 & 11 students
Extended early learning program support to connect with vulnerable families

business & tourism support \$390,000

Support targeted to industries experiencing greatest impact.
Street Trader Permit Waiver - 166 local businesses accessed support
Reduced Business Registration & Permit Fee - 544 businesses supported
Small Business hardship grants - 136 businesses accessed grants
Shop Local Campaign - programmed for Spring to stimulate economic activity
Tourism Ambassadors Program, marketing collaboration with regional agencies

800+ businesses assisted with grants and fee waivers
1,000+ businesses provided with weekly updates and advice
Dedicated Business Concierge service



94% suppliers paid within 14 days
44 hardship support arrangements made



Strengthening Councils local buy and fast tracking of payments
Update Hardship Policy providing payment options for those experiencing hardship
\$31,928 in rental relief on Council owned properties
\$126,000 to Council Recreation Reserves- extension to maintenance grants

hardship response \$157,928

arts, culture & creative industry \$252,000

11 projects designed to maintain social connection and provide opportunities for artists and local creative business

Great Southern Bale Trail
I sent a Postcard
Small Hall Big Sound
Small Hall Big Art
Small Hall Big Film
Reconnect
Writers in Libraries
Arts Connect
It's a Gala
Artists in Spaces

66 creative industry workers
photographers, printers, musicians,
filmmakers, graphic designers, visual artists,
performance artists
11 local venues hired
680 audience members



It is great that the Council valued the arts and supported so many local artists/local community members through this process. It is such a great way to spend rates. Roads and rubbish pickup is great, but there is so much more to being a Council than those programs / services.



phase three

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Reimagine and rebuild connection in community

LOCAL FOOD NETWORK ENTERPRISE

Grants to strengthening the sustainability of local food network enterprises and supply chain.

ECONOMY AND VISITOR ECONOMY

Creation of an implementation fund for the Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategies.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION THROUGH ART

Reinvigorate the community through legacy art projects including installation and travelling exhibitions

EVALUATION

Undertake an evaluation of the CSP, including measuring community benefit and effectiveness.

next steps

The Community Support Package has been developed to be innovative and flexible and is an example of Council's ability to respond to the needs of its community.

The package has supported our community and business sectors to navigate some of the difficulties associated with the Pandemic, and has allowed for a creative approach to recovery and reconnection.

There are challenges ahead, and Phase 3 is well placed to support the community through those challenges.