

COOLAMON SHIRE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Coolamon Shire Council has constituted a Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund Committee. The following is information concerning the roles and objectives of this Committee.

The Council has appointed seven Trustees to manage the Benefit Fund.

FUNDING

Council has opened a Community Sponsorship Account with Beyond Bank. The Community Sponsorship Account is a simple concept. It is a savings account that enables people to open an account that has no account keeping fees and pays a generous interest rate. When the account is opened you nominate that you want Beyond Bank to pay bonus interest to the Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund. In this way Beyond Bank is giving you the power to contribute to your community without it costing a cent. If you have a Community Sponsorship Account that is benefiting another organisation, you can support the Community Benefit Fund as well because it is possible to have multiple benefiting accounts.

GOALS & AIMS

- i) The Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund will establish an account with Beyond Bank under the Community Sponsorship Scheme whereby funds can be donated to the fund.
- ii) Members and residents of the Coolamon Shire will be encouraged to invest their funds with Beyond Bank Community Sponsorship Account known as the Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund and 1% of the interest will be paid to the fund.
- iii) Monies will be distributed at the discretion of a majority resolution or by any three of the Trustees whether the meeting be in person or by telephone hook up.

TRUSTEES ROLES

The Trustees at their discretion or members and residents of the Coolamon Shire can contact the Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund Trustees and make application for funding to assist residents in the Coolamon Shire with disaster situations such as:

- a) A natural disaster such as a fire, flood or storm.
- b) Serious illness or injury.
- c) Financial assistance due to a crisis situation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

When assessing an application the Trustees will take into account the following:

- i) Whether there are any other funds available through any government department, charity or other organisation.
- ii) How long it could take to organise such funds.
- iii) The urgency of the situation and whether the crisis or disaster could be minimised if urgent action is taken.
- iv) Whether the Community Benefit Fund is the last resort available to the applicant and/or whether the nature of the emergency is such that the Community Benefit Fund provides the only emergency funds available in the circumstances.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE/ REIMBURSEMENT OF ASSISTANCE

The monies can be made available for:

- i) Travel.
- ii) Expenditure in relation to urgent medical fees not covered by Medicare or a Medical Fund or medical and related fees that must be paid before Medicare or the Medical Fund will provide a refund on the condition that the applicant will repay the Fund any refund they receive from Medicare or the Medical Fund as soon as practical.
- iii) Urgent assistance to help with basic everyday expenses as a result of a crisis.
- iv) Should the applicant receive:
 - a refund, grant, compensation or assistance to any medical costs;
 - Insurance or compensation refund;
 - major donation or fundraiser from another source;

then the applicant will reimburse the Community Benefit Fund as soon as practical on the basis that the key aim of the Fund is to provide emergency assistance on the understanding that if any refund or compensation is paid that the Fund will be reimbursed.

CLAIMS/RECORDS

Claims can be made by way of:

- i) Verbal submission on the condition that a written Application form should then be completed and lodged within 72 hours.
- ii) Letter or application setting the assistance required and the cost or action to be taken.