

1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	22/02/2022	22/046	22/02/2022

2 Policy Statement

Griffith City Council acts principally as a facilitator and enabler of local community development with activities carried out in collaboration with service providers including community groups, charitable organisations, and government and non-government agencies.

Council is involved in community planning and consultation, research, advocacy, promotion of social cohesion and participation, information provision and grant funding. Through these activities, Council will work strategically with local services to maximise the efficiency and quality of service delivery to the community of Griffith City. Council encourages, enables and assists local groups and organisations to provide relevant services and activities for residents of Griffith City.

3.1 Principles

The Community Development Policy is aligned with the Griffith City Council Community Strategic Plan and the Griffith City Council Community Engagement Strategy

Community development activities will be conducted in accordance with the social justice principles of **Equity, Access, Participation** and **Rights**, promoting **Inclusion** by ensuring all members of the community feel safe, supported, valued, and given opportunities to participate meaningfully in community life.

3 Scope and Application

The Community Development Policy provides a clear framework for Council and the local community to maximise the quality and effectiveness of services, relevant to community priorities, contributing to the Vision and Aims of the Community Strategic Plan.

The implementation of this Policy includes the following activities for Community Development:

1. Community and Social Planning

Community and social planning provides a strategic planning framework for community development, services and facilities in the Griffith City area. Council will investigate and document local priorities, in consultation with service providers and local residents. Council also makes available research and planning information to assist other agencies, particularly community-based organisations, to effectively plan their services and programs.



Council will appoint a Communities Committee whose role will be to advise Council on strategies to positively impact in areas of community health and wellbeing, act as a conduit between the community and Council, identify opportunities for external funding and advise Council on facilities and services to meet the needs of the whole community.

2. Leadership & Advocacy

Council acknowledges its strategic capacity to influence decision-making in other levels of government and the wider community, in ways that can enhance the quality of life of the Griffith City community. As a result, Council will play an advocacy role to other levels of government, agencies and businesses and contribute to local inter-agencies and forums.

3. Promoting Social Cohesion & Volunteering

Council supports, facilitates and provides funding for social and cultural activities through strategic activations and programs as an important means of promoting social cohesion.

Council supports volunteering within Council and acts as an advocate for volunteering in the broader community.

4. Information Provision

Council informs the community about community development and services through the provision of a broad range of information via Council's website, e-newsletters, social media, print media, and Council facilities. Council will facilitate the sharing of information within the community and between service providers and agencies to promote access to community services and activities.

5. Collaboration & Support

Council will facilitate, support and encourage program and service delivery through effective collaboration with other levels of government, other councils, service providers and community based organisations and groups.

Council supports community organisations through grants programs as well as information sharing, collaborative projects and community inter-agencies.

Council will work strategically and support local service providers to maximise the efficiency and quality of service delivery.

6. Community Facilities & Subsidised Accommodation

Council will maintain Council owned community facilities and make these available, where possible, for those community services that are responsive to community priorities at a subsidised rate. Allocation of facilities will be by Expression of Interest and Council resolution. Council will actively pursue innovative ways to maximise the use of public and community assets, including co-location of services and the provision of community service hubs.

4 Definitions

Community Development: working with communities to enhance well-being and build a stronger and more connected community. Community development principles include inclusion, empowerment, social justice, human rights, self-determination and collective action. Community development activities are aimed at reducing social isolation and empowering individuals to live within a supported community.

Community Services: are direct services that are provided to the most vulnerable in the community, including services for seniors, youth, children and families, people with disabilities and carers, communities and in the areas of mental health, housing support, legal aid, migrant support and domestic violence. Direct services are generally funded and within the remit of the NSW and Federal Government.

6 Legislation

- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Local Government Act 1993
- Children's Guardian Act 2019
- Multicultural NSW Act 2000
- Age Discrimination Act 2004

7 Related Documents

- Griffith City Council Communities Committee – Terms of Reference
- Griffith City Council Community Strategic Plan (guiding Griffith 2040) (2016-2021)
- NSW Office of Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework
- Griffith City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021
- Griffith City Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2019

8 Directorate

Economic & Organisational Development