
School & Beyond

Expression of Interest Guidelines for Community Organisation Partners

BACKGROUND

More than nine years on from the 2009 Victorian bushfires, young people affected by the fires have emerged as some of the most vulnerable and at-risk in our communities. Whilst there have been a range of supports available to young people since the fires, the needs are complex, long term and potentially intergenerational if not addressed. Some of the key challenges include:

- Interrupted education at the time of the fires leading to developmental delays, gaps in basic competencies and disengagement with education
- Issues including high rates of absenteeism, behavioural problems, criminal and anti-social behaviours
- Mental health of many youth is fragile
- Family breakdown and instability at home
- Family environments where one or more family members are experiencing PTSD and other mental health issues

The School & Beyond program provides funds to help remove financial and psychological barriers to participation and completion of study and pathways to vocational training and employment.

The funds for this program are provided by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. There is a total of \$495,000 available.

ABOUT SCHOOL & BEYOND

School & Beyond will provide funds via approved Community Organisation Partners to support education and training costs for young people directly affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Approved Community Organisation Partners will be able to apply to FRRR for funds on an 'as needs' basis, to support costs associated with keeping individuals engaged in school or employment pathways or to support programs and activities for groups of young people who may be at risk or have left the system. By providing funds to services rather than directly to individuals the support can be directed to those most in need as identified by those working closely with them and in a timely way. By funding programs as well, it also ensures that funds are made widely available and are accessible to all fire affected youth who may not necessarily have a financial hardship but are still in need of targeted support to assist them to remain or re-engage with education.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program is designed with the achievement of the following outcomes in sight:

Individual benefits

- Improve employment pathways for youths in bushfire affected regions
- Relieve financial barriers to participation
- Provide alternative avenues for youths to engage in education and training

- Encourage youth to take up more meaningful roles in their communities
- Increase in school attendance
- Increase in self-reported self-esteem and confidence
- Improved sense of purpose and self-worth
- Enrolment in and completion of vocational training programs
- Engagement with local community activities such as leadership and mentoring programs

Health and Community benefits

- Improve the capacity of the services working with youth to assist in the development of appropriate responses to identified needs among fire-affected young people
- Reduce the prevalence and impact of problems associated with youths disengaging in educational and vocational activities in bushfire affected regions.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION PARTNERS

Community Organisation Partners will need to clearly demonstrate their relevance as a Community Organisation Partner. They must:

- Provide support to youth affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires as part of the organisation's core business. This includes organisations operating outside of 2009 fire affected regions, but servicing young people who re-located after the fires
- Have a strong track record engaging and retaining at-risk youth in education and training settings
- Be able to provide evidence of appropriate policies and procedures in relation to the protection of children and youth
- Hold strong local and regional partnerships and networks that can support young people's education and vocational needs and aspirations
- Have appropriate levels of organisational capacity to respond to emergent needs and coordinate the partnership with FRRR
- Have appropriate processes in place to monitor and report outcomes for individuals in line with the School & Beyond aims and outcomes

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING RECIPIENTS

- Young people aged between 12 and 24 years
- Young persons must have been a resident in a 2009 bushfire impacted community at the time of the disaster (they do not need to currently reside in a 2009 fire impacted town however)
- Young persons must be either at risk of disengaging or have recently disengaged from an education or vocational setting
- Young persons must be experiencing financial hardship or a trauma-related issue that may be impacting on their ability to effectively engage in education/training
- The support must improve the vocational opportunities and improve long term outcomes for the bushfire affected youth/youths
- The support should positively impact the youth's family life/relationships

WHO CAN APPLY

Partner organisations require an ABN or Incorporation Certificate. Please note no specific tax status is required. Community Organisation Partners must be a non-profit organisation. Private businesses are not eligible.

Priority will be given to the following types of organisations:

- Secondary Schools and P-12 Schools
- Non Profit Community Colleges
- ACFE providers including Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres
- Community health organisations
- Community welfare service organisations

HOW THE PROGRAM WILL WORK

- Eol's accepted & assessed
- Community Organisation Partners enter into MOU with FRRR
- Community Organisation Partners submit funding requests to FRRR using program template
- FRRR considers and approves requests quarterly. Where a request is time critical, an out of session request can be made. There is no limit on the amount that can be requested but costs must be substantiated and demonstrate good value for money. The FRRR Board is responsible for approving requests
- Community Organisation Partners will be required to report on activities and outcomes 6 monthly, including financial report and evaluation of outcomes in relation to the School & Beyond program objectives
- New Community Organisation Partner Eol's can be submitted at any time and will be considered quarterly

WHAT TYPES OF ITEMS OR ACTIVITIES CAN BE SUPPORTED?

Funds must be used for activities that provide education and skill development opportunities for young people affected by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. Examples include:

- Access to items required to participate in education such as books, uniforms, travel costs (where this is the primary barrier to participation)
- Funding for tutors to support students
- Course or program fees (where not subsidised), travel
- A program or activity which aims to engage a group of young people in education, training, or employment pathways and which build their vocational and personal skills, such as a Barista training course or job interview skills
- There is no limit on the amount that can be requested but costs must be substantiated and demonstrate good value for money
- Wages and operating costs can be supported if critical to the activity or program. Administration costs will not be supported

WHAT CAN'T BE FUNDED?

- Purely social, sporting or recreational activities
- Projects not relating to education, training and employment pathways for young people affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires
- Requests for funds that can be accessed via other means such as course subsidies, government allowances, counselling services, other philanthropic funds such as Community Foundations or other VBAF programs
- Requests for funds to support general operating costs
- Projects outside Australia and overseas travel
- Federal, State and Local Government core business and areas of responsibility
- Projects that support private businesses or commercial activities

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the Expression of Interest form and attach all supporting documentation requested:

- You must attach an up to date organisational financial statement (most recent audited financial statements or Profit & Loss Statement or Balance Sheet)
- You must attach a copy of your ABN or Incorporation Certificate
- Evidence of appropriate working with children policies and procedures
- Quotes and letters of support significantly strengthen your application. We strongly recommend that you include letters of support, in-kind support and quotes with your application
- All supporting material must be submitted with the expression of interest
- Expressions of Interest must be signed by the delegated Head of the Organisation (Principal/CEO/President) or the application will not be considered

CLOSING DATE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

5pm Friday 29th June 2018

Expressions of Interest can be submitted by email (preferable) or post.

Please note emailed forms are preferred in word format.

Mailed applications to be post marked on or before the closing date

Email: recovery@frrr.org.au

Post: School & Beyond; FRRR, PO Box 41, Bendigo, Vic 3552

For further information visit www.frrr.org.au

We recommend that you speak with us before submitting your Expression of Interest

Call 1800 170 020 or email recovery@frrr.org.au