

BETTY CAMPBELL ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE FUND POLICY

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Council seeks to focus its community investment where public good benefits are maximised. This is particularly achieved through projects aiming to build community capability and capacity.

This policy, formerly known as the Community Group Accommodation Assistance Fund Policy, guides the Council's approach to the provision of accommodation assistance grants for not-for-profit community groups seeking to promote social wellbeing for Wellington residents. It:

- targets the Social and Recreation outcomes of making Wellington more liveable, more inclusive, more actively engaged, better connected, healthier and safer
- supports the achievement of the Council's strategic priority of *building capability and capacity within the Wellington community to promote social cohesion and sound social infrastructure* by helping the Council to strengthen the infrastructural capability of Wellington's community services and to assist social service agencies to remain viable as part of this.

The policy provides for contestable cash grants for community group rental subsidy. It recognises the:

- role of community groups in achieving the Council's strategic outcomes
- Council as funder to support community groups in promoting social cohesion and strengthening social infrastructure, providing cash grants for rental subsidy where needed to complement funding available from other sources
- Council as a partnership broker, advocate and facilitator for, and advisor to, community groups.

2. Council's role

The Council's preferred role in the provision of community group accommodation assistance is through facilitation of partnerships, with provision of funding assistance where needed. The Council seeks a balance between funding agreements and facilitation support, as this has proven effective in providing the flexibility needed to ensure the Council's objectives can be met.

3. Partnership and facilitation

The Council's commitment to the sector in Wellington City is long term, in line with its goal of growing sustainable communities. Developing ongoing relationships with community groups will facilitate improved understanding of needs and opportunities, and help groups to:

- develop effective governance structures and processes for self-sustainability
- plan for increasing independence from the Council's support.

The Council seeks to work with community groups that:

- provide direct services to promote social wellbeing for Wellington residents (*Social wellbeing* means living in a supportive, ongoing community and having access to shelter, education, food and income.)
- contribute to building community capability and/or capacity for promoting social wellbeing for Wellington residents by providing coordination and support for other groups. *Groups supporting groups* might provide:
 - training opportunities or support services for other groups
 - support and guidance for emerging groups
 - coordination of a range of services.

4. Implementation

The following principles guide management of the Betty Campbell Accommodation Assistance Fund:

- Policy implementation should demonstrate accountability, transparency and alignment with the Long Term Council Community Plan.
- Allocations should only be given where help is needed. Groups should be not-for-profit and demonstrate that accommodation costs present a barrier to operational effectiveness.
- Allocations should be
 - for community groups that are located within Wellington City, as will be the target users
 - cost-effective
 - made cognisant of other policies, including universal building access.
- Allocations should promote:
 - capability and capacity development
 - community group sustainability, self-reliance and collaboration
 - efficient use of accommodation.

Eligibility is open to groups at any location in Wellington City as one type and location of property is unlikely to meet all needs and therefore the Council assistance needs to be flexible. The Council recognises that some community groups receive particular benefit from location in the central city, and some from clustered

accommodation. Affordability of accommodation remains the central issue being considered by this policy.

The funding is to be administered by officers through a contestable process as cash grants for rental subsidy and assessed against the criteria set out in the relevant operational guidelines for this policy. Agreements are intended to help community groups to secure suitable accommodation and may be made for periods of up to three years at a time. The following criteria will also be considered in evaluating an application:

- partnership with Mana Whenua and Taura Here
- partnership with community networks. This may include clustering and other sharing of resources
- collaboration with the wider sector, including Government and philanthropic providers
- development of people's potential
- promotion of a diversity of cultures
- contribution to access for all residents to community resources.

5. Review

Council officers will continue to gather relevant information to inform any future policy decisions.