

BUILDING OUR CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES: ROUND 2 (2017-18)

Background

In 2016 the Maldon & District **Community Bank**® (MDCB) asked our community to nominate a top priority for our bank to support with a special stream of funding over three years. We did this through extensive online and in person conversations, asking people what they felt needed addressing most. Ultimately, our community chose **Building Our Children's Resilience** as that priority.

In October 2016 we held a Roundtable to create mini whole-of-community discussion about children's resilience in our region with educators, service providers, researchers, experts, government and parents. The outcome was a clear local picture which in turn enabled us to finalise the criteria for this new funding program.

The Maldon & District **Community Bank**® launched the Building Our Children's Resilience (BOCR) Grant Program in late 2016 (round 1).

The current round of the program is open between 20 September and 12 November 2017, and has funding of \$20,000 in total available. We invite applications from across our communities to apply for this funding for projects or programs that will build children's resilience in this region.

Program Objectives

This program is about building children's **resilience** *by focusing on the wellbeing of those closest to them – parents, carers and educators.*

It aims to knit connections across sectors and areas in our region from Maldon to Newstead, Dunolly, Castlemaine and surrounding areas. We want this program, ultimately, to nurture the children in our region so they are able to thrive and reach their full potential socially, emotionally and academically.

Building Resilience In Children

Resilience can be defined as "the ability to draw upon the strengths within yourself and those around you to flexibly respond to life and creating positive relationships with others. The more resilient our children are the more likely they are to have a safe, healthy and fulfilling life" (C. Dawson, Cobaw Community Health, MDCB Roundtable Oct 2016).

Resilience and wellbeing are attributes which are dependent on the interplay of both the internal resources of the individual child and the external factors of their environment, namely their relationships with significant adults and their connection with social groups, their schools and communities (Building resilience in children and young people, 2012)¹. This is why evidence-based research shows that effective interventions address children's development needs and strengthen their environments. A sense of connection or belonging to school and to family is the single most important protective factor for resilience in young people¹.

Our own research and discussions with many educators, service providers, researchers, experts, advisors, parents and carers has indicated that school-based curricula for social and emotional learning (SEL)

1. Cahill, H.; Beadle, S. et al. (2012) Building resilience in children and young people: A literature review for the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD). University of Melbourne.

programs is in abundant supply with high take-up in our local schools (with more SEL programs forth coming from the Victorian Department of Education and Training as part of the Building Resilience in Children and Young People programs in 2016/2017). However, there is a gap in programs and funding to support educators and parents in building their own resilience and social and emotional wellbeing.

Recognising that the work of fostering resilience in our children requires both specific skills and high degrees of emotional energy, the MDCB grants programs seeks to make a lasting difference by funding programs and initiatives aimed at skilling up and nurturing the nurturers.

Applications will be sought annually in September for projects the following year. There will be three rounds of funding, one each in 2016, 2017 & 2018 for projects in the year following.

Applying – Round 2

We welcome applications that will build children's resilience in our region. Please carefully read our guidelines and speak to our Executive Officer, Karly Smith, before applying. Applications for 2017-18 close on midnight Sunday 12 November 2017. Successful applicants will be announced in mid-December 2017.

Please refer to the Building Our Children's Resilience Grant Program FAQs at www.mdcb.com.au

Download Building Our Children's Resilience Grant Program application form (Round 2) at www.mdcb.com.au

Contact the Executive Officer for a copy of the application form. She can email or post you a copy.

For more information or to discuss your application, contact Karly Smith at executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au or on 478 435 110. Karly works Tuesdays-Thursdays.

Building Our Children's Resilience Grant Program Guidelines (Round 2)

As a Community Bank, we are dedicated to providing quality banking and financial services in our region and to re-investing our profits back into the region where they are made. It means those who bank with us at the Maldon & District **Community Bank**[®] help build the communities in which they live.

In 2016 we asked our communities to name the top issues in our region our Community Bank could address with our profits. Building our children's resilience topped that list. This grants program is our commitment to address that priority.

Our conversations with our communities, educators, experts, government, support providers and parents have revealed a shared concern about the significant need to build children's resilience and a common agreement about:

- the critical role parent and carers play in addressing this issue, the need for education and their active engagement in their children's resilience and wellbeing
- the vital role educators play, the responsibility and load this requires, in the school environment and the importance of educators personal and professional skill development in this area
- the need for greater engagement of parents with teachers and the wider community in addressing this issue collectively
- the need to link networks already working on building children's resilience
- the need to build awareness of programs and support that exist to help parents, teachers and carers to build resilience in children,
- the value of encouraging intergenerational connection to children and ensuring communities model resilience for children,
- the need to resource schools and other primary places/centres for children so their staff are skilled and able to grow resilience
- the importance of evaluating programs that claim to build children's resilience so people can know what works and what doesn't.

Objectives

Mindful that creating real outcomes in terms of children's resilience is the product of addressing systemic environmental and individual factors, this program is about building children's resilience **by focusing on the wellbeing of those closest to them – parents, carers and educators.**

It aims to knit connections across sectors and areas in our region from Maldon to Newstead, Dunolly, Castlemaine and surrounding areas. We want this program, ultimately, to nurture the children in our region so they are able to thrive and reach their full potential socially, emotionally and academically.

Criteria

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- Focus on building resilience and wellbeing of parents, carers and / or teachers and their capacity to foster the same for the children in their care
- Be able to demonstrate target community (and or wider community) support
- Have impact in the region our Maldon & District **Community Bank**[®] services i.e. Maldon, Newstead, Dunolly, Castlemaine and surrounding areas
- Utilise innovative methods to engage program recipients actively (parents and or teachers).

Applications will be highly regarded if they demonstrate the following:

- Encourage collaboration among and across different groups – schools / pre-schools / maternal & child health agencies / education agencies & other organisations
- Strengthen links across and connect different communities / areas in our region
- Produce measureable impacts and learnings in a format that can be shared across our region
- Multiple funding / support sources.

Applicants must:

- have an ABN or partner with an auspicating organisation with an ABN
- complete an application form
- provide supporting documents
- get your application approved by the head of your organisation
- contact our Executive Officer Karly Smith to discuss your project before submitting your application. Karly is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Email: executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au
Phone: 0478 435110

Application process

Step 1: Contact the MDCB Executive Officer Karly Smith to discuss your project.

Step 2: Complete application form including a project budget. Application forms are available from www.mdcb.com.au. Contact Executive Officer Karly Smith if you would like an application form emailed or posted to you.

Step 3: Gather supporting documents – these could be reports demonstrating need, letters of support from groups / agencies / schools / parents / community

Step 4: Get the head of your organisation to sign the application.

Step 5: Submit your application form by midnight, Sunday 12 November 2017

Target groups

- Parents / carers
- Educators
- Maternal and child health carers

Target region

The region includes Maldon, Newstead and Dunolly and surrounding areas including Baringhup, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Eddington, Campbells Creek, Taradale, Bealiba, Guildford, Moliagul, Tarnagulla, Chewton, Lockwood South and Laanecoorie.

What can't be funded?

- Projects that do not directly relate to building children's resilience in the 0-14 age group
- Projects that benefit an individual rather than a community
- Projects that support private businesses and commercial activities
- Ongoing operational costs such as insurance, utilities, or rent
- Activities which are religious or political in nature, or support a religious or political cause
- Projects or programs that denigrate, exclude or offend minority groups
- Projects or programs associated with gambling
- Projects or programs that create environmental hazards
- Projects or programs that may present a hazard to the community
- Projects or programs that do not reflect community standards
- Individuals
- Applicants who have outstanding final reports for previously funded projects
- Any project retrospectively
- Expenses that occur prior to or after the project dates

Who can apply

- Schools
- Pre-schools, playgroups and child care centres
- Community groups
- Not-for-profit organisations, clubs, groups and agencies

Cross-sector and cross-region cohorts preferred

How will applications be assessed

Assessment of eligible applications will be based on the following:

- Evidence of need and relevance. Letters of support significantly strengthen your application. We strongly recommend that you include letters of support (from partner organisations, local government, client or user groups for example), in-kind support and quotes with your application.
- Clear identification of the anticipated project outcomes (what will be different, improved, increased, decreased, etc.) and how the achievement of those will be known
- A clear and achievable project plan (what will happen, when, by whom) & budget
- Capacity of the organisation to manage the grant
- Broad benefit to the community
- Value for money
- Involvement of partners & collaboration

Grants may be sought for one year only.

Closing date for applications

Sunday 12 November 2017 (by midnight)

Applications can be emailed, posted or hand delivered.

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

Applications to be sent via either of the following ways:

Email: executiveofficer@mdcb.com.au

Post: PO Box 268, Maldon. Vic 3463

Deliver: Maldon Branch – 81 High Street Maldon or

Maldon & District **Community Bank**[®] agencies at Dunolly RTC or Newstead RTC

Acquitting your grant

Round 2 grant recipients will be required to submit a brief written project report that includes a statement of income and expenditure of funds by 15 December 2018.

Successful grant recipients who do not submit the above by the set date will not be eligible to apply for further funding under this program.

Timing

Building Our Children's Resilience (BOCR) grants will be distributed each year in 2016-17 (closed), 2017-18 (currently open, closing 12 November 2017) and 2018-19 (grant round open September 2018).