



Applying for local grants and sponsorships

Community Bank · Mt Eliza

How a Community Bank works

Bendigo Bank's Community Banks give the profits they make back to the communities they are part of. As a branch grows it has more money to return to its community via grants and sponsorships.

Here in Mt Eliza:

- 80% of our branch profit is given back to our community via grants and sponsorships of local not for profit community organisations and initiatives
- 20% of our profit is able to be paid as dividends to our local shareholders.

Decisions on local sponsorships are made by the volunteer Board of Directors of Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd (MECE). This local company runs Community Bank Mt Eliza in partnership with Bendigo Bank.

Our policy

Successful applicants must:

- primarily bank with Community Bank Mt Eliza
- be a local not for profit organisation
- not be an individual
- not be fundraising for a secondary cause or organisation
- not be a political party or organisation.

Assessment

When assessing your sponsorship application the MECE Board of Directors considers:

- the value and benefit to the community
- the relevance to the community
- being consistent with the vision, mission and values of MECE and Bendigo Bank
- protecting the integrity of both MECE and Bendigo Bank
- the application being non-politically motivated
- how the application will help grow the business of Community Bank Mt Eliza, its brand and its image.

Here in Mt Eliza we run the majority of our sponsorship program through an annual event: The Mt Eliza Community Pitch.

Reciprocity

Our sponsorship activities are based on the assumption that organisations will support the bank that supports them. The more business, referrals and leads you can steer to Community Bank Mt Eliza, the more funds the branch has to steer straight back to your organisation and the community.

We'll reward your organisation for the business you steer our way.

Follow us on social media

 facebook.com/mtelizacommunitybank

 instagram.com/mteliza_communitybank/

Our website

bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza



The Mt Eliza Community Pitch

The Mt Eliza Community Pitch is the event by which we distribute our funds.

We invite other local businesses to join us for the event. They contribute their own funds and distribute them on the night. This considerably increases the pool of funds available to applicants, and gives us lots of networking opportunities.

The event is promoted in the lead-up, with information available from the branch, in our quarterly newsletter, on our Facebook page and on our website.

A few months prior, we call for applications. Application forms are available on our website and from the branch all year round.

There are some important selection criteria. All applicants must:

- have their primary bank account with Community Bank Mt Eliza
- be an incorporated association, have a DGR status, or be a community, not for profit organisation
- be geographically located and operate in the wider Mt Eliza area
- submit an application for their project that has broad community benefit
- be applying for funding as the recipient of that funding (i.e. not be fundraising on behalf of a third party organisation)
- not be a political party or organisation
- be available to deliver a five-minute 'pitch' on the night of the event.

Our local Board of Directors assess the applications and narrow the field down to ten applicants who are invited to participate on the night.

Frequently asked questions

I'm fundraising for cancer research. Can I apply for a grant?

We don't provide grants to individuals or groups who are fundraising on behalf of third party organisations. We applaud your efforts and know there are some great causes out there. But our priority is to support and serve the Mt Eliza community and the local organisations doing great work here.

I have an account with another Bendigo Bank branch. Can I still apply?

If your account is based at another Community Bank it might be best for you to apply for support from them. Every Community Bank is set-up to support their local community and customers.

How do I apply for the Mt Eliza Community Pitch?

We announce the event and call for applications in the months leading-up to it. Application forms are available on our website and from the Mt Eliza branch. They can be submitted to us at any time throughout the year.

For more information

bendigobank.com.au/mt-eliza

Mt Eliza Community Enterprise Ltd
PO Box 307, Mt Eliza VIC 3930
Email: pitch@mece.com.au

What sort of organisations are successful applicants?

In 2019 our successful Community Pitch applicants were: Baxter Cricket Club, Mt Eliza Soccer Club, Mt Eliza Football Netball Club, Mornington Peninsula Legacy Club, Mt Eliza Girl Guides, Peninsula Home Hospice, Overport Park Development Foundation, Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House, Dogs for Kids with Disabilities.

Our local Board of Directors assess all the applications and narrow the field down to ten groups who are invited to participate on the night.

What do you expect us to do at the Community Pitch?

At the event each applicant group has five minutes to tell the audience about their organisation, what they do and who they support. The best presentations highlight the passion and people involved. You don't need fancy videos or PowerPoint presentations, just speak from the heart and tell us what inspired you to get involved. We ensure that all the groups participating in the event go home with funding.



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