

Submission on behalf of Southern Youth Development

As a recipient of previous Community Grants funding, we at the Southern Youth Development are grateful for the opportunity to use this grant to benefit the youth in our community. We run several successful programmes for youth and are a local example of a 'tried and true' high-impact service for rangatahi in Dunedin.

We are submitting that a larger budget is allocated to community grants. Small funding is beneficial for smaller proposals, however, to enable us as an education and youth employment provider to positively impact even more youth across Dunedin a greater budget is required.

We understand the maximum amount that can be applied for has been capped at \$5000 for a many years. This cap should be increased to recognise increasing costs of running programmes and doing business.

An example of a programme that could provide more impact is our alternative education programme. This initiative is designed to support rangatahi under 16 who have disengaged from traditional education and lack opportunities for learning and social connection. Without this structured intervention, these rangatahi risk being socially isolated at home, exposure to unsafe environments, or on the streets. Our programme provides a pathway for personal and educational development by developing essential life, work, and social skills with long term benefits. The most notable outcomes include re-engagement in formal education, further training, or employment along with strengthened community involvement.

Syd also provides a range of other successful programmes that would benefit for additional funding opportunities include:

- Youth work in schools and the community
- Bikes@Syd: bike recycling and waste minimisation programme for young people with bikes being redistributed into the community
- Hive: afterschool programme focusing on combining a community of people, industries and technologists with a focus on creativity and collaboration.
- Gardens and Property maintenance: opportunities for youth employment