

Australian Ethical opens its Community Grants program, urges grassroots organisations and charities to apply

MEDIA RELEASE

As COVID-19 threatens the survival of many charities, the program offers grants of \$10,000 - \$20,000 to Australian not-for-profits and social enterprises

Australian Ethical (ASX: AEF) has opened its Community Grants program for 2020 to help keep charities alive and fulfilling their missions at a time when COVID-19 presents a real threat to their existence.

The grants program is a defining feature of Australian Ethical's role as a leading purpose-driven organisation. Grants are allocated from the Australian Ethical Foundation¹, which to date has donated more than \$3.5 million to support organisations building resilient communities in Australia and overseas.

Nick Chadwick, Foundation Officer at Australian Ethical, said: "We know that a lot of charities and their employees and volunteers are doing it really tough right now as they continue working with the most vulnerable in our communities during this difficult time.

"COVID-19 is putting such a strain on their resources that it's possible many of these charities may no longer exist in six months or a year. As a result, Australia – and the world – could lose some very valuable and impactful programs, services and organisations.

"That's what makes the Community Grants program so important. We really want to see the sector emerge from this global crisis as intact as possible."

The program offers grants of \$10,000 - \$20,000 to Australian not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises operating both in Australia and overseas. The application period is open until 22 May 2020 and Australian Ethical is inviting grassroots organisations making positive humanitarian, environmental and animal welfare impacts invited to apply.

Last year, the program received 380 applications with more than 16,000 Australian Ethical super fund members and managed fund investors, employees, shareholders and the wider community voting online to choose the final grant recipients.

¹ When Australian Ethical first began in 1986 it was written into its constitution that it would gift up to 10% of its yearly after-tax profits (before deducting bonus and grant expenses) to charitable, benevolent and conservation causes. Today, this is facilitated by the Australian Ethical Foundation.

Chadwick said: “NGOs and not-for-profits play such an important role in serving their communities, particularly those vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected during crises like COVID-19.

“Following the recent Australian bushfires, support for these services is needed now more than ever.”

In addition to the Community Grants program, Australian Ethical will also be giving grants to specialised Australian charities and research institutions working on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19.

About the Australian Ethical Foundation

When Australian Ethical first began in 1986 it was written into its constitution that it would gift 10% of profits to charitable, benevolent and conservation causes.

Today, this is facilitated by the Australian Ethical Foundation, which allocates funding to charitable organisations and social impact initiatives aligned with the company’s three pillars of the planet, people and animals. This includes the Community Grants program as well as strategic multi-year grants and impact investments. Australian Ethical employees also devote hundreds of hours to volunteer with non-profit organisations to drive change at the local community level.

John McMurdo, Chief Executive Officer at Australian Ethical, said: “Our members invest with us because they want to make their money matter.

“And with fundraising activities grinding to a halt, COVID-19 has already dealt unprecedented challenges to charities who work tirelessly to make a difference. But as this crisis has revealed, charities and local not-for-profits are the backbone of strong communities and their survival has never mattered more.

“A resilient economy is nothing without a resilient charitable sector and Australian Ethical is proud to help where we can.”

Other details

- For application guidelines click [here](#). Applications close 22 May; recipients announced in September
- To read about what last year’s recipients have been up to, please click [here](#)
- Australian Ethical also has a selection of case studies, photos and interviews with previous recipients. Please contact Camilla Herring at cherring@australianethical.com.au for details

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About Australian Ethical

Australian Ethical is Australia’s leading ethical wealth manager. Since 1986, Australian Ethical has provided investors with wealth management products that align with their values and provide competitive returns. Investments are guided by the Australian Ethical Charter which shapes its ethical approach and underpins both its culture and its vision.

Australian Ethical has over \$3.5 billion in funds under management across superannuation and managed funds.

Visit: www.australianethical.com.au

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