

Voting opens for the 24 finalists in this year's Australian Ethical Community Grants program

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Ethical members and public urged to vote online

Australian Ethical has opened the online voting in this year's Community Grants program with 24 charities shortlisted as finalists from 432 applications.

This year saw a marked increase in applications - up from 380 in 2019 - together with a significant uptick in queries and social media activity as the program continues to grow its reach.

Nick Chadwick, Foundation Officer at Australian Ethical, said: "We're not surprised to see this increase. As the economic downturn bites, financial support for charities has fallen at a time when many of them are experiencing more demand for the services they provide.

"Coming so soon after this year's bushfires, it's putting a real strain on their resources and even threatening the survival of many. As a result, we could lose some very valuable programs and organisations, which I think makes this year's Community Grants even more important."

Community Grants 2020 Finalists

People	Planet	Animals
Love Mercy Foundation	Environs Kimberley	Wildlife Asia
Sustain	Rainforest Rescue	Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia
Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Service	Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network	WOTCH Inc
Yogahood	The Bower Reuse and Repair Centre	Mandurah Wildlife Rescue
Free to Feed	Positive Change for Marine Life	Bangalow Koalas
Western Edge Youth Arts	Moodji Farm	Invasive Species Council
We Care Connect	Planting Seeds	Mt Rothwell Landcare
Free to Shine	Seaside Scavenge	Greyhound Rescue

Voting is now open to the public here <https://www.australianethical.com.au/about/foundation/community-grants/>

About Australian Ethical's Community Grants program

The Australian Ethical Community Grants program offers grants of \$10,000 - \$20,000 to Australian not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises operating both in Australia and overseas.

Each application is assessed against an impact assessment framework and as in previous years the finalists align with Australian Ethical's three pillars of people, planet and animals.

Chadwick said: "The grants program is all about helping small organisations do big things which is why it's targeted at grassroots organisations with an annual operating revenue of under \$1.5 million.

"These past few months we've also been working with previous grant recipients to understand their situation and provide practical help throughout COVID-19. We've offered flexibility in reporting outcomes and deadlines with the option to shift funding to new projects to ensure their most important priorities are still met."

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.

Last year saw more than 16,000 Australian Ethical super fund members and managed fund investors, employees, shareholders and the wider community vote to choose the final grant recipients.

John McMurdo, Australian Ethical CEO, said: "It's never been so important for companies to advocate for change and use their scale for good. And while taking a stand is a good start, real action is what's needed.

"That's why we're so proud to make money matter and help improve the personal, environmental and societal issues that affect our members and the wider community."

Voting closes 26 July 2020 with the final grant recipients announced in September.

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.

In addition to the Community Grants program, the Australian Ethical Foundation makes strategic multi-year grants and impact investments. Employees also devote hundreds of hours to volunteer with non-profit organisations to drive change at the local community level.

Other details

- 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

¹ Every year Australian Ethical distributes up to 10% of its yearly after-tax profits (before deducting bonus and grant expense) to charitable organisations and social impact initiatives through the Australian Ethical Foundation. This commitment is embedded in Australian Ethical's constitution.

About Australian Ethical

Australian Ethical is Australia's leading ethical investment 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 \$3.92 billion in funds under management across managed funds and superannuation. Visit: www.australianethical.com.au