



## 2026 MARGARET ATTWOOD GRANT ROUND

**GRANT AMOUNT:** Up to \$10,000

**GRANTS OPEN:** 9am, Monday, February 13, 2026

**GRANTS CLOSE:** 9am, Friday, March 13, 2026

**APPLY VIA ONLINE APPLICATION:** Link available on the GSF website when grants are open

**FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS:** April 2026

The Margaret Attwood Grant Round is a tribute to Margaret May Attwood – a legacy that may have been lost to time, but now her name will forever sit alongside the great philanthropists that have supported the Shepparton community.

Margaret May Attwood was a generous, humble, community-minded lady. A Shepparton local, and dedicated Primary school teacher, she lived modestly in a small weatherboard home in Corio Street, but throughout her life, donated her family's wealth to causes close to her heart.

Margaret was a pioneer of philanthropic giving in the Greater Shepparton community. She understood the value of collective giving to build local capacity and support those in greatest need.

Margaret remained almost anonymous in her philanthropic endeavors and was rumoured to drop a cheque for ten thousand dollars in a raffle tin if the cause aligned with her values. Rather than seeking public acknowledgement for her donations, Margaret sought nothing but found value in the simple act of untied generosity.

### 1. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT FUNDING

The purpose of funding granted via Greater Shepparton Foundation's Margaret Attwood Grant Round is to support projects that address an immediate or unmet need which, importantly, aligns with the Foundation's vision of inclusive, interconnected communities where everybody has an equal opportunity to participate.

Funding will assist local grass roots organisations with place-based projects. Applications also assist GSF to understand what is going on at a community level, the work and initiatives that focus on tackling hardship, inequity and addressing the challenges of the most vulnerable people and groups amongst us.

Greater Shepparton Foundation will only fund projects where the services are delivered in Greater Shepparton and surrounds and/or directly benefit those who live in Greater Shepparton and surrounds.



## 2. FUNDING

Organisations which meet the criteria outlined below are encouraged to contact Greater Shepparton Foundation to discuss their project or organisation's needs.

### **Key areas where support will be considered:**

Through consultation, GSF has identified areas of major need in our community and therefore **focus areas for the 2025 Grant Round include social inclusion; youth employment, aging well; at risk of or experiencing housing insecurity; safe families; economic engagement; and the cost-of-living crisis.**

### **Consideration of project funding will take into account:**

- Evidence of need (immediate or otherwise)
- Past, present and future demand for services
- The degree of overlap and collaboration with other services
- The ability of the organisation to successfully deliver a project
- The ability of the organisation to collect data and fulfill reporting conditions
- Transparency of financial reporting
- The amount of funding available for distribution

### **Types of activities that will NOT be funded:**

- Projects which do not have the purpose of relieving or reducing poverty or distress of people in need or do not have the purpose of fostering equal opportunity to participate
- Projects outside the Greater Shepparton community
- Individuals
- For profit projects
- Projects from organisations that have not complied with a funding agreement in the past

*\*An independent community Advisory Committee is engaged to assess applications and make recommendation to the Greater Shepparton Foundation Board. Funding will be at the discretion of Greater Shepparton Foundation Board of Management.*

If you would like to discuss your project or organisation's needs with Greater Shepparton Foundation, please contact EO, Amanda McCulloch, at [amanda@greatershepparton.foundation](mailto:amanda@greatershepparton.foundation) or call M: 0447 400 443.

### **To apply for a project grant during GSF's formal grant rounds an organisation must:**

- Be a non-for-profit (with either an Incorporation certificate and/or an ABN)
- Comply with the eligibility criteria set out above
- Not have any outstanding grant round acquittals with GSF
- Be available between the period of March 23 – 27, 2026 to be contacted by an Advisory Committee member to discuss your application
- Have a representative available for a photo opportunity on April 1, 2026, should your application be successful
- Complete the online Project Funding Application Form, available via the website [www.greatershepparton.foundation](http://www.greatershepparton.foundation) during grant periods

ALTERNATIVELY, to discuss projects outside of grant rounds –

Emailing [amanda@greatershepparton.foundation](mailto:amanda@greatershepparton.foundation)

OR telephone 0447 400 443

## 4. FUNDING AGREEMENT

A Funding Agreement will be entered into for each approved project. The document outlines the funding conditions and partnership roles and responsibilities between Greater Shepparton Foundation and the organisation. Sign-off of the funding agreement indicates agreement with the mutual obligations as set out below:

### 4.1 Funding and Service Provision

The agreement details approved funding, payment schedule and acquittal requirements for the specific purpose and project detailed in the application. All funds must be expended on the specific purpose and during the specified acquittal period as per the budget submitted in the funding application. Any variation needs to be submitted in writing to the EO and approved by Greater Shepparton Foundation.

### 4.2 Evaluation and Acquittal

Funded organisations are required to submit an **Evaluation and Acquittal Report** by the due date and include appropriate documentary evidence of:

- Service provision/project delivery
- Client and/or community outcomes
- Records of expenditure
- Additional supporting documentation as appropriate for the project

### 4.3 Marketing and Branding

As per the funding agreement, organisations are urged to:

- Include Greater Shepparton Foundation logo and approved wording on any relevant promotional material.
- Display any signage provided by Greater Shepparton Foundation.
- Acknowledge Greater Shepparton Foundation as a funding partner via media releases, annual report, website and public occasions, where appropriate.
- Provide suitable “copy” or content for inclusion in Greater Shepparton Foundation promotional material, print and electronic media, where appropriate.
- Inform and invite Greater Shepparton Foundation to events, where appropriate.
- Inform Greater Shepparton Foundation prior to events, seeking in-kind assistance, fundraising or sponsorship support to avoid any conflict with Greater Shepparton Foundation events and fundraising.

### 4.4 Visiting and Other Support

Successful organisations are encouraged to promote their partnership with Greater Shepparton Foundation. This will assist Greater Shepparton Foundation to build on its number of potential funders and supporters, which in turn means more grant funds for local community groups/organisations.

Representatives of Greater Shepparton Foundation will contact or visit each project at least annually to provide a mutual opportunity for relationship building, promotion and to increase Board member knowledge of funded projects and programs.