

Overview of the ANHCA Public Fund for DGR March 2016



ANHCA Public
Fund for DGR

Background

The Australian Neighbourhood Houses & Centres Association (ANHCA) is the national peak body for Neighbourhood Houses & Centres. ANHCA represents over 1,000 Neighbourhood Houses, Community Houses, Learning Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Community Centres across Australia which are member organisations of their state or territory peak/representative bodies.

A 2011 briefing paper, *Prevention is Better than Cure*, produced by the Victorian peak, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (previously the Association of Neighbourhood Houses & Learning Centres (ANHLC)) revealed that only 7% of Neighbourhood Houses nationally have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. This finding impacted negatively on the ability of the sector to apply for philanthropic funding and receive tax deductible donations.

In 2013, following lengthy negotiations with the Federal Government, amendments were made to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* to include ANHCA as an Item 1 DGR entity that can receive tax deductible gifts. Today, under Division 30, section 30-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, the ANHCA Public Fund for DGR ('The Public Fund') acts as a vehicle for Neighbourhood Houses and Centres without DGR status in their own right to receive tax deductible donations of \$100* or over and apply for grants from philanthropic trusts and foundations.

*At present the ANHCH Public Fund does not have the capacity to administrate donations of under \$100

Purpose

The Public Fund can only direct funds to other entities in furtherance of ANHCA's purposes, which are to

- Contribute to national policy & issues of common interest to the Neighbourhood House & Centre Sector in Australia
- Promote and strengthen the national identity of the Neighbourhood House and Centre Sector in Australia
- Enhance the quality, skills and knowledge of the Neighbourhood House and Centre Sector in Australia
- Support the activity and work of the Neighbourhood House and Centre Sector in Australia.

Approval to use the Public Fund for the purposes of seeking donations or grants is only provided to Neighbourhood Houses and Centres to carry out their community development and community-focused activities and programs, or to improve their service delivery by building their capacity, skills and knowledge. Approval is also granted to Neighbourhood House regional networks and other associated organisations if they are used to further the work of Neighbourhood Houses and Centres.

How the Public Fund Works

The Public Fund for DGR is a vehicle Neighbourhood Houses and Centres can use to accept tax deductible donations or apply for grants from philanthropic foundations/trusts and corporations requiring DGR Item 1 status. Through the Public Fund, ANHCA is legally authorised to direct funds to other entities from donors and philanthropists in order to support the activity and work of Neighbourhood Houses and Centres throughout Australia.

The Public Fund Sub-committee delegates responsibilities for assessing organisations and their funding applications to the Public Fund Administrator. The Administrator is responsible for initially liaising with applicant organisations to confirm eligibility, overseeing the record-keeping and processing of donations, providing reports to ANHCA Public Fund Subcommittee for them to approve release of funds, and ensuring any acquittal reports are provided to donors or funders.

Neighbourhood Houses and Centres must apply to the Public Fund for DGR in order to:

- Receive tax deductible donations
- Apply for grants from philanthropic trusts and foundations.

A full summary of the application processes is available at <http://www.anhca.asn.au/content/anhca-public-fund-dgr>.

If the application of a Neighbourhood House and Centre meet the prescribed criteria, it is submitted to the Public Fund Sub-committee who must endorse the application for it to proceed. A full summary of the application processes is available at <http://www.anhca.asn.au/content/anhca-public-fund-dgr>.

Receiving tax deductible donations

Once approved, the applicant organisation is notified and can is in a position to accept tax deductible donations of \$100 or more. Fundraising will be done at a local level by the applicant organisation. ANHCA does not conduct fundraising campaigns on behalf of applicant organisations.

Applying for grants from philanthropic trusts and foundations

Where the applicant organisation is making formal applications for funding to philanthropic bodies or corporations, grant applications are submitted in the name of the ANHCA Public Fund for DGR on behalf of the applicant organisation. Information on how this works in practise can be found at <http://www.anhca.asn.au/sites/default/files/FAQs%20for%20Philanthropic%20bodies%20and%20corporates.pdf>

Organisations which successfully attract philanthropic grants through the Public Fund are asked to submit a report at the completion of their project. This enables the Public Fund to ensure compliance requirements are met and provides an opportunity to gather information on the project being funded and its outcomes. Feedback provided on successfully funded projects and donations are used as case studies to promote the Public Fund.

Structure

ANHCA is an unfunded organisation and operates through contributions from its members, which are

- Community Centres South Australia (CCSA South Australia)
- Linkwest (Western Australia)
- Local Community Services Association (LCSA New South Wales)
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic)
- Queensland Families & Communities Association (QFCA Queensland)
- Neighbourhood House Tasmania (NHT Tasmania)

The subsequent work of the Public Fund for DGR is also supported by the contributions from the ANHCA membership as well as a 5% administration fee deducted from all donations and grants. The work of the Public Fund for DGR is currently supported by the following positions and organisations:

Administrator

Paid Position: 23 hours per fortnight

Role:

- Administer Public Fund applications in accordance with the rules and legislation governing Public Funds, the purpose of the ANHCA Public Fund and the policies and procedures of the organisation.
- Resource the Public Fund Sub Committee
- Manage the internal operation of the Public Fund
- Resource state peaks and grant makers

Promotions

Paid Position: 7 hours per fortnight

Role:

- Promote the Public Fund to the National Neighbourhood House Sector, primarily through the state peak bodies
- Develop and distribute quality resources
- Maintain a quality social media and web presence.

Sub Committee

- Maintain the integrity and purpose of the Public Fund by:
 - Determining the outcomes of applications to use the Public Fund
 - Developing and implementing policies and procedures
 - Providing guidance to the Public Fund Administrator
 - Providing feedback to the ANHCA Board
 - Approving the disbursement of donations.

Financial administration (voluntary role)

- Receipt of donations and grants
- Disbursement of donations and grants to approved recipients.

State Peaks

- Work with the Public Fund staff to promote the Public Fund to their state members
- Cultivate relationships with state based and national philanthropists to promote the work of Neighbourhood Houses in their state
- Provide feedback from the state peak's membership on any aspects of the Public Fund.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria

- Manage and host Public Fund staff
- Liaise with ANHCA Board in relation to the management of the Public Fund.

ANHCA Board

- Provision of overarching governance of the Public Fund
- Provide information on issues of National concern as they relate to the Public Fund
- Promote the Public Fund in national forums.

Where to from here

Project workers are currently in the middle of their second six month contract. The current contract is due to expire in March 2016.

The priorities for the Public Fund in this second term are to:

- Review and refine existing information and promotional materials for applicant organisations, grant makers and donors
- Development of a new website
- Conduct webinars to resource state peak bodies and their members

- Continue to streamline internal processes
- Increase the understanding of grant makers on how the Public Fund operates.

How to get involved

Neighbourhood Houses and Centres

- Apply to access the Public Fund to receive general donations
- Apply for grants from philanthropic trusts and foundations through the Public Fund
- Share experiences, outcomes and resources gained through using the Public Fund with Neighbourhood House colleagues
- Provide feedback to the Public Fund on ease of access, information and resources.

Skilled Volunteers

- There is a requirement for some members of the Public Fund for DGR Subcommittee to be “responsible persons” as per the relevant ATO guidelines. People who fit this category, interested in becoming a member of the Subcommittee as vacancies arise, can register their interest with the Public Fund.

Donors

- Donations can be made to the Public Fund with a request the funds be targeted to a specific Neighbourhood House or Centre or Neighbourhood House state peak association.
- Donations can also be made to further the capacity of the Public Fund which in turn furthers the capacity of Neighbourhood Houses and Centres nationally.

Grant Makers

- Contact the Public Fund or the state peak bodies to learn more about the fantastic work of over 1000 Neighbourhood Houses and Centres across Australia and how they can work with you to fulfil the purpose of your foundation.
- Provide feedback to the Public Fund on process, information and resourcing in relation to organisations seeking grants through the Public Fund
- Support the Public Fund to increase its capacity.

Further information

ANHCA Public Fund for DGR ABN 47 588 370 196

Phone: 9670 1060

Mobile: 0421 791 192

Email: publicfund@anhca.asn.au.

If you would like information about the work of Neighbourhood Houses and Centres in your state please contact the relevant organisation as follows:

Community Centres SA (CCSA, South Australia)

+61 8 8371 4622

www.communitycentressa.asn.au

Linkwest (Western Australia)

+61 8 9485 8929

www.linkwest.asn.au

Local Community Services Association (LCSA New South Wales)

+61 2 9660 2044

www.lcsansw.org.au

Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania (NHT Tasmania)

+61 3 6244 1615

nht.org.au

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic Victoria)

+61 3 9654 1104

www.nhvic.org.au

Queensland Families and Communities Association (QFCA, Queensland)

+61 7 4055 6440

www.qfca.org.au

