

## **Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability grants program 2018-19 Guidelines**

### **What is the Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability grant program?**

Victoria is served by more than 100,000 emergency management volunteers who play a critical role in keeping our communities safe. They do this across the state on each and every day of the year.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the significant contribution of emergency management volunteers through much needed investment in equipment, facilities and training.

The Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants Program has been established to ensure emergency management volunteers can continue to deliver their crucial work to keep Victorians safe.

#### ***The Grants Program is open to volunteers, clubs, units and organisations from***

- Life Saving Victoria (LSV)
- Victoria State Emergency Services (VICSES)
- Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) units
- Other eligible volunteer emergency services groups as defined in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV).

Applications can be made either by an individual volunteer, unit/club, or by an agency/organisation.

#### ***Grants are available for***

- community engagement and education projects; including delivery of programs that enhance community understanding and appreciation of the fundamental importance and essential nature of volunteering before, during and after emergencies, and will increase their support, recognition and investment in volunteering
- operational equipment such as generators, hoses, chainsaws, thermal imaging cameras, rescue and safety equipment and trailers
- off-the-shelf vehicle
- minor facility improvements / maintenance
- training and development, including program fees, travel, facility hire
- other miscellaneous requirements that volunteers believe they need to assist in the sustainability of their club, unit or organisation, and that will enhance services to the community.



### ***Amount of funding available***

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be available to each club, unit or organisation, with multiple grants permitted.

Grants of up to \$150,000 will also be available for multi-agency or partnership proposals, and larger initiatives that support volunteerism or local communities - in either awareness, preparedness, response, recovery or resilience.

A co-contribution is not required to apply for funding through this program, however a co-contribution can be considered where applicable.

### ***Criteria for application***

The application must demonstrate at least one of the following:

- address immediate volunteer needs and enhance operational capability
- provide further benefit to the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies
- increase the leadership, skills and capability of volunteer/s
- encourage the retention and growth of volunteers in clubs, units and organisations

All projects, must:

- meet the appropriate emergency management standards; and
- meet the appropriate agency standards.

### ***Timeframe for projects***

Projects funded under the 2018-19 ESVS grants program must begin on or after the start of the funding allocation.

Funding should be fully expended by the end of the 2018-19 financial year.

### ***Application process***

Applications for ESVS grants must be submitted through SmartyGrants, a web base grants management system. Further information and a link to the application portal can be found at [www.emv.vic.gov.au/ESVSgrants](http://www.emv.vic.gov.au/ESVSgrants)

Application forms need to be completed, addressing the criteria, and including an explanation of why the grant is required and how it will assist volunteers. Information on the total cost of the item/activity/project being requested will also need to be attached to the application.

Submissions will be assessed against the criteria by the Application Review Panel and recommendations forwarded to the Minister for Emergency Services.

The closing date for applications is 9am, Wednesday 22 August 2018.

A further application period may be opened if the full funding allocation has not been exhausted by the closing date.

### ***Next steps***

Applicants will be advised in writing by EMV of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement that covers the proposed funding requirements and reporting obligations.