



## **ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Terms of Reference**

### **Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants Committee**

The Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG) program is an incentivised initiative that enables Australian Rotary Clubs to engage in compassionate and benevolent projects in their local communities to assist people in distressed circumstances.

The aim of the RACG Projects is to provide assistance to disadvantaged members of the Australian community irrespective of their location within Australia.

The program provides for a project to:

- be registered as a Rotary Australian Benevolent Society (RABS) project;
- receive funding toward the project that has to be matched \$ for \$; and
- be eligible to receive tax deductible gifts and donations for the project,

#### **Background**

In 2019, Dick and Pip Smith well known and respected philanthropists, who having seen many Australians suffer personal hardship whether through accident, illness or misadventure, donated \$2.0 million to the RABS to assist disadvantaged Australians identified by local Rotary Clubs as being in need within their local or wider community. Since then, further Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant (RACG) Projects have been made possible through philanthropic donations to Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS).

#### **How it works**

Projects must meet RABS criteria for registration, which are that the project provides direct relief to people in need. If the intended recipients are disadvantaged, the relief should target that disadvantage. The concept of disadvantage is unlimited and could have arisen from sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability, destitution, helplessness or poverty, any aspect of the negative side of the human condition. The criteria are not prescriptive but are to be used as a guide to determine the disadvantage.

The RACG projects are to be directed to people in need or to benefit a section of a community rather than the community as a whole. A project should arouse compassion within the community. Priority will be given to those whose disadvantage has arisen from an "ad hoc" event over which the disadvantaged had no control, such as an accident, assault, medical condition etc.

Qualifying projects should have a minimum value of \$2,000 (i.e., a minimum grant of \$1,000) and each Club is limited to two grants in any calendar year, subject to a maximum grant recommended by the committee.

Note: Grants are not available as a contribution to other community groups for discretionary expenditure or to assist in running their programs.



## **Management of the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants program**

A Committee appointed by the Board of RAWCS will administer and support the RACG program.

### **Accountabilities**

The Committee:

- is accountable to the Board for the processes for the nomination, appraisal, selection, management, reporting and evaluation of RACG projects in conformity with established RAWCS procedures and as documented in the RABS Procedures Manual.
- will provide the necessary promotion and support for the RACG to ensure Rotary Clubs are aware of the RACG program.
- will ensure that Project Managers report to the Committee on the progress of each project by submitting reports online and on time;
- minutes of the committee and grant approvals will be forwarded to the Company Secretary of RAWCS Limited for distribution as appropriate within five working days;
- The RACG Committee will meet via electronic means on a monthly basis or as determined by the chairman.

### **Financial Management**

All RACG expenditure must be authorised by a minimum of two members of the RACG committee.

### **Committee Composition**

The committee shall comprise:

- Chairperson RACG
- National Projects Manager; and
- Two (2) Rotarians appointed for two years or otherwise determined by RAWCS Board

### **Review**

The effectiveness and membership of the RACG Committee will be reviewed after 12 months by the Chairs of RAWCS and the Chair of the RACG.