

## Shire of Ashburton – Small Business Grant Program 2025 - 2026


### Grant Objectives, Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines:

#### Grant Funding Objectives and Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant/s must be a Sole Trader or a Small Business of up to 20 employees.
- A home or office-based business, where the principal place of business is within the Ashburton region.
- Must be a permanent resident of the Shire of Ashburton.
- Small business grant funding request needs to clearly identify and meet a service gap and/or demand for the community and visitors in the region.
- Applicants can either be a new (grassroots) or an existing small business looking to expand and/or diversify its service or products.
- Applicant/s must supply a basic business plan to support their application.
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Applicants must be 18 Years or older (if under the age of 18 applicants can apply for the Shire's Young Entrepreneur's Grant program)
- Applicants must disclose any other grant funding received in the past financial year.

#### Grant Funding Guidelines:

- A total amount of \$50,000 (Excl. GST) is proposed for the entire program, funded by the Shire of Ashburton.
- Grant assessment and allocation will be completed by an objective and designated panel, combined of:
  - Shire of Ashburton delegated members (x2)
  - Shire officers (x2)
  - OCCI Chief Executive Officer (x1)
  - PICCI Chairperson (x1)
- Recommendations of successful applicants will be provided in a report to the Economic Tourism and Development Committee (ETDC) in November 2025, for their approval and further recommendation and endorsement to Council.
- Funding allocations will be no less than \$2,500, and no more than \$10,000 (Excl. GST), per applicant.

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- Applicants must contribute 30% of the applied funding to be eligible.
  - Grant funding can be used for:
    - Business applications and/or registration fees.
    - Business Capability and Capacity enhancement and development.
    - Equipment necessary to the operations and functions of the business.
  - What funding cannot be used for:
    - Computer Hardware or Software.
    - Any Travel or Accommodation costs (vehicle maintenance, fuel, plane flights and alike, accommodation).
    - Assistance for administrative day-to-day operations.
    - Consumables; alcohol; catering; incidentals; meals and alike.
  - A grant funding acquittal must be provided, by successful the applicants, to the Shire after one (1) full operational year from receiving grant funding monies.
  - Canvassing of assessment panel members is expressly prohibited.

## **Shire of Ashburton**

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