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**DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDING AGREEMENT**

**Objective Reference:** A2244973  
Reports and Attachments (Archives)

**Authorising Officer:**  
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**PURPOSE**

The Donald Simpson Community Centre is currently funded by Council through an operational funding agreement. It is due for review and subsequent renewal by June 30 2017. A review of the Donald Simpson Community Centre service delivery has been undertaken and is presented to council for its consideration.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to reduce operational funding provided to the Donald Simpson Community Centre and transfer the budget allocation to age friendly communities projects with wider community benefit.

**BACKGROUND**

The Seniors Policy adopted in 2006 sets out council's objectives:

*"to facilitate age-friendly communities (structures, facilities, services and attitudes) that support and enable seniors to enhance wellbeing, develop and maintain strong community ties and participate at a level of their choosing".*

The Donald Simpson Community Centre provides a valued service to Redland Residents and offers a range of social programs.

Council currently provides funding support to the Donald Simpson Community Centre in 3 ways which totals annually \$409,073.

This funding support includes:

1. Notional Rent valued \$250,000; Council owns the building and the centre currently operates under a lease arrangement with a peppercorn rent that is due to expire on 24/03/2024. The Donald Simpson Community Centre annual report lists a notional rent value of \$250,000. This funding is not subject to review.
2. Annual maintenance budget \$60,000. The provision of maintenance to the building which does not include in kind officer time. This funding is not subject to review, and

3. Annual operational funding of \$99,073 plus GST due to expire June 30 2107. This funding agreement is subject to review.

## ISSUES

The Donald Simpson Community Centre has been in operation for 30 years and has maintained its role as an activities centre for elders and people looking towards retirement. The needs of seniors have evolved and Council is investigating supporting a broader program of quality of life and wellbeing programs.

The Centre is now well placed to enter into shared responsibility agreements with a range of alternative funding sources. By reducing the Donald Simpson Community Centre's reliance on Council as the primary funding source the risk of Donald Simpson Community Centre's vulnerability to shifts in government policy is reduced, in turn insuring the centres sustainability.

The Donald Simpson Community Centre currently operates under a lease until 24 March 2024. The lease has an agreed maintenance schedule that we are bound by until the lease expires or is surrendered by the Centre. It is proposed that there are no changes to the current lease arrangements and funding the centre's maintenance funding and preserving the peppercorn rental arrangements.

The Centre's Annual report from 2016 indicates the Centre currently has cash reserves of \$223,831 with a further operational account of \$100,000 with only \$30,000 committed to centre developments. The Centre is in a sound financial position and will continue to be well supported by Council. The Centre has sufficient capacity to seek alternative funding arrangements in the short to medium term.

The 2016 Annual report indicated a financial membership base of 2123. March board papers indicate a financial membership base of 2013 members with 140 members from outside of the Redlands.

## Participation in the Age Friendly Communities Program

Council has been invited by the State Government to participate in the Age Friendly Communities Program which will form part of Council's Strong and Connected communities framework that would enable all people of all ages to actively participate in community life. A strong and connected community values the contribution of all and ensures access to all aspects of community life. In addition, Council has made a firm commitment to the establishment of a community hub which once established will provide an improved service provision for this sector.

A Strong and Connected Communities Framework would encompass eight areas that directly influence the quality of life and wellbeing of residents. Those areas are identified in the State Government's Age-Friendly Communities model and include:

1. *Outdoor spaces and buildings:*  
Residents live in an environment that includes open spaces, buildings, shaded areas and walkways that are safe and easy to navigate.
2. *Transport:*  
Residents can get out and about, using a range of affordable user-friendly transport services

3. *Housing:*  
Housing options are affordable, accessible and close to transport and community services.
4. *Social Participation:*  
Residents are supported to be active in their community
5. *Respect and Social inclusion:*  
Residents from all backgrounds are valued and appreciated, and no one is excluded based on race, geography, culture, language, gender, sexuality, ability or socioeconomic status.
6. *Civic Participation and employment:*  
Residents participate in employment, training, lifelong learning and volunteering opportunities and inform government policies.
7. *Communication and Information:*  
Residents' access information they need in a variety of formats to stay informed and connected with their communities, families and friends.
8. *Community Support and Health Services:*  
Residents are helped to stay healthy, active and independent through community support and health services.

### **Proposed Funding Agreement Options**

The following options have been developed for consideration regarding the ongoing operational funding agreement with the Donald Simpson Community Centre:

#### **Option 1 Cease Operational Funding 30 June 2017**

Proposes that the funding agreement with the Donald Simpson Community Centre is not renewed and funding ceases at the end of this financial year. The Centre is in a sound financial position and this option would have minimal effect upon the centres operations. This sector will continue to be funded through the reallocation of funds to the implementation Queensland Age Friendly Community Action Plan which includes the Cleveland Community Hub project.

#### **Option 2 Transition to Cease Operational Funding 30 June 2018**

Proposes that the funding agreement with the Donald Simpson Community Centre is renewed for financial year 2017/2018 at the reduced amount \$50,000 and that the funding agreement will not be renewed for future years. The Centre is in a sound financial position and this option would have minimal effect upon the centres operations. This sector will continue to be funded through the reallocation of funds to the implementation Queensland Age Friendly Community Action Plan which includes the Cleveland Community Hub project.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

### Legislative Requirements

There are no legislative implications associated with the options proposed for the renewed funding arrangements.

### Risk Management

There may be some risk implications associated with changes to the current funding agreement in relation to perceived reduced funding support.

### Financial

There are limited financial impacts to Council are identified as no additional funding is proposed

### People

There a no people impacts are identified.

### Environmental

No environmental impacts have been identified.

### Social

The redistribution of funds from the Donald Simpson Community Centre to the development of a strong and connected community framework and the Cleveland Community Hub allows Council to strengthen the entire community sector, ensuring a wider community benefit and equal distribution of resources.

## Alignment with Council's Policy and Plans

### Corporate Plan

#### 7. Strong and connected communities

Our health, wellbeing and strong community spirit will be supported by a full range of services, programs, organisations and facilities, and our values of caring and respect will extend to people of all ages, cultures, abilities and needs.

7.2 Council maximises community benefit from the use of its parklands and facilities by improving access to and the quality and shared use of, public spaces and facilities by groups for sporting, recreational and community activities.

## CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation has occurred with the following officers:

- General Manager, Community and Customer Services.
- Group Manager, Community and Cultural Services.
- Service Manager, Strengthening Communities Unit.
- Principle Advisor, Strategic Partnerships.

Preliminary consultation has also been conducted with the Mayor and Councillors where a request that a number of options be prepared for formal consideration.

**OPTION 1**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To cease and not renew the Donald Simpson Community Centre operational funding agreement 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and transfer the allocated funds to the implementation Queensland Age Friendly Community Action Plan which includes the Cleveland Community Hub project;
2. To reconfirm ongoing funding commitments to the maintenance of the Centre; and
3. That this report remains confidential until the Donald Simpson Centre Board have been formally notified of the new funding arrangements.

**OPTION 2**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To renew the Donald Simpson Centre operational funding agreement for one final year (2017/18) for the amount of \$50,000 and
2. Cease operational funding 30 June 2018 years, and
3. Transfer the balance of funding to the implementation Queensland Age Friendly Community Action Plan which includes the Cleveland Community Hub project;
4. To reconfirm ongoing funding commitments to the maintenance or the centre; and
5. That this report remains Confidential until the Donald Simpson Centre Board have been formally notified of the new funding arrangements.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To adopt Option 1 as outlined in the body of the report, and
2. That this report remains Confidential until the Donald Simpson Community Centre Board has been formally notified of the details of the new funding arrangements.