



Social Enterprise Policy

INTRODUCTION

Whitehorse City Council is committed to attracting, promoting and supporting innovative and dynamic Social Enterprises to Council and the broader Whitehorse community, through:

- Specific partnership opportunities
- Procurement processes
- Raising awareness of Social Enterprises amongst local businesses and community organisations as well as other levels of government

Social Enterprises employ innovative market solutions to achieve social impact. Council appreciates the social and economic value and importance that Social Enterprises generate and can bring to our community.

We recognise that this sector needs a supportive and dynamic ecosystem to support its unique mission, goals and business models.

1. POLICY PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to articulate Council's intention to support and guide further development of a robust Social Enterprise sector in Whitehorse.

2. WHAT IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy defines social enterprises as businesses that:

- Are led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit.
- Derive a substantial portion of their income from trade (which distinguishes them from charities)
- Reinvest the majority of their profit/ surplus in the fulfilment of their mission.

Social enterprises operate under various legal structures, with over 70% of social enterprises in Victoria being incorporated as not-for-profits organisations. Social enterprises in Victoria are diverse and range in size - from sole entrepreneurs, to

small (fewer than 20 employees), medium (20-200 employees) and large enterprises (more than 200 employees).

Social Enterprises are encouraged to be registered with Social Traders but may also identify as an Aboriginal Owned business or an Australian Disability Enterprise.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of this Policy are to:

- Foster an environment where local Social Enterprises thrive.
- Advocate for Social Enterprises as an innovative response to social issues and as part of the diverse and inclusive local economy.
- Engage and support the local Social Enterprise sector through Councils operations and procurement opportunities.

4. SCOPE

The Social Enterprise Policy guides Council Officers in the development of opportunities which attract, promote and support Social Enterprises in the municipality.

Council's Procurement and Property and Leases Policies must guide the development of Social Enterprise opportunities and be implemented as appropriate.

5. POLICY

Council will play a role in attracting, supporting and promoting Social Enterprises this may include:

- Providing opportunities for Social Enterprises to operate from Council buildings or facilities.
- Some or no financial support in regard to Capital works to create a fit for purpose operating space.
- Undertaking awareness and activation campaigns in relation to social enterprises.

- Creating events, forums or networking opportunities, which foster collaboration and mutual support.

Council's commitment to social enterprises has a focus on reducing barriers to employment experienced by:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with disability or lived experience of mental illness
- Young people aged 16 -25 years
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities including asylum seekers and refugees
- People who have experienced long term unemployment

To achieve its intentions Council will:

- Provide opportunity for social enterprises to operate from Council facilities via an expression of interest process which will be utilised to identify preferred providers.
- Consider the purpose and location of the building, and complementary co-location of the services to be delivered by the Social Enterprise.
- Offer premises at minimal rent, payable by Charities under the Property and Lease Policy. At the time of writing this Social Enterprise Policy document the minimal rent is \$100+GST unindexed for the lease term. However the minimal rent figure is subject to change dependent on any approved changes to the Property and Lease Policy.
 - The Social Enterprise Operator(s) will be required to pay all outgoing charges, these charges will be defined in the eventuating lease agreement(s).
- Reserve the right to seek alternative uses for any identified site should a suitable Social Enterprise operator not be identified.
- Utilise its profile, partnerships and communication channels to promote our municipality as a location of choice to establish Social Enterprises.
- Promote social enterprise opportunities when they arise in Council buildings.
 - Social enterprises will apply for limited promotional support through Council stated processes and adhere to procedures and timelines as required.
- Through its procurement policy, provide guidance on how Council can support social enterprise activities.

6. RELATED PLANS, POLICIES & LEGISLATION

- Victorian Local Government Act 2020
- Victorian Disability Act 2006 (under review)
- Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy 2021 -2025
- Whitehorse Community Vision 2040
- Whitehorse Council Plan
- Whitehorse Investment and Economic Development Strategy
- Whitehorse Disability in Whitehorse Action Plan 2022-2026
- Whitehorse Procurement Policy
- Whitehorse Social Procurement Policy (under development)
- Whitehorse Property Lease and Licence Policy (under review)
- Whitehorse Fees and Charges Policy (under development)

7. REVIEW

Responsible Manager: Manager Community Engagement & Development
Date Adopted: Month and Year
Date of Next Review: Month and Year

8. APPENDICES

Definitions

Appendix 1 Definitions

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| Australian Disability Enterprise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally operated by not for profit or charitable organisations • Federally funded employment services providing employment for people with disability who require significant support to work. |
| Social Enterprises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit. • Derive a substantial portion of their income from trade. • Reinvest the majority of their profits/surplus in the fulfilment of their mission. |
| Charities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A charity is an entity established to raise funds for, or offer support to, the disadvantaged in society and to operate for the public good. In Australia, there is a statutory requirement that charities are not for profit and so the terms ‘charity’ and ‘not for profit’ are often used interchangeably. |
| Corporation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporation is a company or group of companies that act as a single legal entity. Corporations are a common type of business model. They are owned by shareholders who share in the corporation’s profits and losses. |
| Social benefit supplier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supplier that is an Aboriginal business, Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) or social enterprise. |
| Social enterprise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprises are businesses that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are led by an economic, social, cultural, or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit; - derive a substantial portion of their income from trade; and - reinvest the majority of their profit/surplus in the fulfilment of their mission. |
| Sustainable procurement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic use of procurement to drive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. |