



Dear Community

Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (RRKAC) has recently completed an extensive review of the Member Support Program (MSP). This review was undertaken to ensure the MSP was best practice, contemporary and aligned to the corporation's future aspirations, which are outlined in the RRKAC Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024.

Included in the review, was robust sector analysis, and benchmarking to compare the current MSP policy with the external service sector. Community engagement was also completed to inform, and shape the revised policy, to reflect our communities' challenges, opportunities, and needs.

As a result, changes have been made to the Member Support Program. Important revisions include:

1. MSP will be more explicitly focused on community wide recovery and empowerment. Support for people in hardship will remain an important priority, but there will be a renewed emphasis in ensuring the MSP is used to enhance all levels of recovery:
 - Sustaining: supporting people through significant crises or challenges, to ensure that those crises ease, rather than triggering further crises.
 - Recovery: helping people support their own, and their families, recovery, leading to genuine improvements in wellbeing.
 - Enrichment: enhancing opportunities for people, and their country, to become physically, emotionally, culturally, and spiritually 'enriched'.
2. 'Hardship' funding will be available to all age groups. (It is currently only available to Seniors.) While respect for, and care for, our elders is crucial, given the challenges they've lived through, we recognize that early hardship can create life-long—even inter-generational—disadvantage. 'Hardship' funding will be directed primarily to members experiencing poverty. Repeated access will trigger RRKAC case management to ensure strategies are put in place to alleviate the hardships experienced and member engagement in this process will determine ongoing support.
3. More effort will be put into ensuring that MSP funds are not used where other funding sources may be available for members. In other words, MSP funds should not be used where there is an existing source elsewhere.
4. An additional employment bucket has been included in Education Support. This funding has been developed to support RRK members enter into the work force and sustain employment. This fund aims to support the funding of critical costs



associated with employment, including work clothes, costs of licenses, PPE, and basic tools.

5. There will be renewed emphasis on fostering access to, and involvement in, lore and cultural practices.
6. A new Living Stronger Fund has been created. The Fund is designed to support members, individually and together (as families and as a community), in actively grasping opportunities to become physically, emotionally, culturally, and spiritually 'enriched,' and stronger in body and spirit. Members can apply for up to \$1500, from the Living Strong Fund to use in a range of ways, including support in:
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Sport and Recreation
 - Arts and Creativity
 - Pursuing ambitions and interests
 - Vehicle maintenance
7. As part of the Living Stronger fund, vehicle repairs are now recognized as a key element of the Member Support Program. Enabling members access to safe and reliable vehicles is a legitimate factor in reducing hardship and will develop RRK members capacity to achieve and maintain employment, access health services, and attend Lore and Culture practice. This will be capped at \$1,500 per annum.

This is a positive step forward for RRKAC after broad community consultation and a further demonstration of the great work the team is doing to support RRK people.

New booklets will be sent to members and be available online shortly to allow you to consider the changes that have been made.

If you have questions or concerns about the Member Support Program or the details of this information, please contact the Member Support team on 08 9185 5005 or come in and speak with the team at the RRKAC office.

Warm regards,

Tom Murphy
Manager, Community and Economic Development