

Councillor Davis - MoN - Australia Day Council funding

Tuesday, 27 May 2025
Council

Council Member
Councillor Henry Davis

Public

Contact Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Henry Davis will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That the Council continue to fund the Australia Day Council in line with the previous year's budget plus CPI.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) provides funding to the Australia Day Council of South Australia (ADCSA) to deliver free activities in Elder Park, to celebrate Australia Day on January 26 each year. Since 2022/23 ADCSA has received \$182,000 (ex. GST) in funding each financial year from CoA.
2. This funding is provided outside of a competitive grant process, through a partnership agreement with ADCSA, which is subject to an acquittal process and the adoption of future Business Plans and Budgets.
3. In the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget, ADCSA's funding to deliver the annual event in January 2026 is proposed to be reduced to \$100,000, reflecting budget cuts across the board for a range of organisations and events. The ADCSA event has a total budget of \$1,000,000 and is predominantly funded through the National Australia Day Council. The 2025 event's income was:

Source*	Value
National Australia Day Council (Commonwealth Grant)	\$750,000
City of Adelaide	\$182,000
Sponsorship Received	\$51,000
State Government	\$45,500
Other Income	\$7,000
Total	\$1,035,500

*Source: Australia Day Council of South Australia Incorporated – Acquittal Form – Submitted 25 March 2025

4. The proposed reduction is not isolated to ADCSA and has been applied for the first time, while other community-focused and contestable grant recipients have experienced a reduction over the past two budget cycles.
5. At a meeting between Administration and ADCSA on 20 May 2025, ADCSA committed to coming back with recommendations on how the event could be scaled differently, noting the one-day event has had multiple elements including:
 - 'Mourning in the Morning' Smoking Ceremony
 - Aus Lights on the river – audio visual event after dark
 - A multicultural community parade
 - Official Ceremony in Elder Park (evening event).

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	No implications
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Continuing to fund ADCSA without increasing the overall expenditure in the Draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget will impact existing events or programs, depending on where expenditure is reduced.
Budget reallocation	Increased expenditure in the Draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget - \$87,460, indexed annually.
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -