CPS Grants Programme – Assessment Criteria

1 Purpose

The Cerebral Palsy Society's Grants Programme supports the Society's purpose, mission, values and strategic objectives by providing funding that improves the lives, opportunities, participation and wellbeing of people living with cerebral palsy (CP) and their whānau.

The programme particularly supports CPS's strategic objectives of:

- delivering valued, equitable, national services and support to members;
- enabling belonging, participation and connection;
- driving CP research and education; and
- being a sustainable and trusted organisation.

The Grants Programme comprises:

1. Individual Grants
2. Academic Grants
3. Organisation Grants

All applications will be assessed against the Core Assessment Criteria, with additional criteria applying to the relevant grant category.

2 Core Assessment Criteria

In assessing applications, the Grants Committee will consider the following factors.

2.1 Benefit and impact

The extent to which the grant will provide a meaningful benefit to a person or people living with CP, including by:

a) improving independence, mobility, communication, health or wellbeing;
b) increasing participation in education, employment, recreation, sport or

community life;
c) reducing barriers or disadvantage associated with living with CP; or
d) increasing connection, belonging or inclusion.

Greater weight may be given to applications where the proposed grant is likely to make a significant or lasting difference.

2.2 Need

The level of need for the proposed support, service, equipment or opportunity will be considered.

Relevant factors may include:

a) the nature and extent of the person's disability and support needs;
b) whether the item or service is essential or would materially improve quality of life or participation;
c) whether the need is currently unmet;
d) the consequences if funding is not provided; and
e) the availability and suitability of alternative support.

2.3 Equity

CPS recognises that equitable support does not necessarily mean providing the same level of support to every member.
In prioritising limited grant funding, the Committee may give greater weight to applicants experiencing greater disability-related needs, barriers or disadvantage.

Relevant considerations may include:

a) level of functional impairment and support needs, including GMFCS level where relevant;
b) access to government, health, disability or other funding;
c) geographic or other barriers to accessing services and opportunities;
d) additional costs arising from disability; and
e) other circumstances materially affecting the applicant's ability to access the proposed support or opportunity.

No single equity factor will determine an application. The Committee will consider the applicant's circumstances as a whole.

2.4 Connection to cerebral palsy

The proposed grant must have a sufficient connection to CP and to the needs,

participation, development or wellbeing of people living with CP and/or their whānau, or to advancing knowledge and understanding of CP.

The strength and directness of that connection may be considered when applications need to be prioritised.

2.5 Value and effectiveness

The Committee will consider whether the amount requested represents reasonable value having regard to:

a) the expected benefit;
b) the cost of the item, service or activity;
c) whether there are reasonable alternatives;
d) other funding available or secured; and
e) the number of people with CP who will benefit, where relevant.

CPS may fund all or part of an application.

2.6 Previous CPS funding

Previous receipt of a CPS grant will not automatically prevent a further grant. However, when demand exceeds available funding, the Committee may consider:

a) the amount and timing of previous grants;
b) the benefit obtained from previous funding;
c) whether the present application represents a new or ongoing need; and
d) the needs of applicants who have not recently received grant funding.

This consideration should be applied consistently with the equity principle. Members with significant or ongoing disability-related needs should not be disadvantaged merely because their circumstances require more frequent support.

2.7 Availability of funds and competing applications

All grants are discretionary and subject to the funding available.
Where eligible applications exceed available funding, the Committee will prioritise applications by considering the criteria above collectively, with particular regard to need, equity and expected impact.

3 Individual Grants – Additional Criteria

Individual Grants are intended to support CPS members with disability-related needs, opportunities and participation.

In addition to the Core Assessment Criteria, the Committee will consider whether the proposed grant:

a) addresses a disability-related need or barrier;
b) supports greater independence, participation, inclusion or quality of life;
c) provides access to therapy, equipment, technology, education, recreation, sport or another activity likely to provide proven and meaningful benefit;
d) provides an opportunity that would otherwise be difficult or impossible for the member to access; and
e) complements rather than unnecessarily substitutes for funding reasonably available through government agencies or other sources.

Priority may be given to applications addressing significant unmet disability-related needs or where the grant is expected to materially improve the member's independence, participation or quality of life.

4 Academic Grants – Additional Criteria

Academic Grants are intended to support:

• CPS members to participate in tertiary, vocational or other recognised education and training; or
• a family or whānau member of a person living with CP to undertake recognised tertiary study or academic research where the study or research has a direct and substantial connection to CP and is expected to contribute to knowledge, understanding or outcomes for people living with CP and/or their whānau.

In addition to the Core Assessment Criteria, the Committee will consider:

a) the relevance of the study or training to the applicant's educational, vocational, employment or personal development goals;
b) the extent to which the grant addresses disability-related or financial barriers to participation in education;
c) the applicant's commitment to and ability to undertake the proposed course;
d) the potential for the study to increase independence, employment opportunities, participation or personal development;
e) whether the education or training is provided by an appropriate provider;
f) other educational or disability support funding reasonably available to the applicant; and
g) for academic research undertaken by a family or whānau member of a person living with CP, the extent to which the research has a direct

connection to CP and is expected to contribute to knowledge, understanding or outcomes for people living with CP and/or their whānau.

Academic Grants are intended to support CPS members to participate in tertiary, vocational or other recognised education and training.

Academic Grants are not limited to study that is expected to lead directly to paid employment. Education may also contribute to independence, confidence, participation, personal development and the ability of people with CP to live fulfilling lives.

5 Organisation Grants – Additional Criteria

Organisation Grants are intended to support organisations, groups, programmes or initiatives that provide meaningful benefits to people living with CP.

In addition to the Core Assessment Criteria, the Committee will consider:

a) the number and proportion of people with CP expected to benefit;
b) the significance of the benefit to people with CP;
c) whether the programme or initiative addresses an identified need or gap;
d) whether people with CP are meaningfully included in the design or delivery of the initiative where appropriate;
e) the organisation's ability to deliver the proposed activity effectively;
f) the reasonableness of the amount requested relative to the expected benefit;
g) other funding available to the organisation; and
h) the extent to which the proposal aligns with CPS's strategic objectives and values.

Greater priority may be given to initiatives that:

a) directly benefit a significant number of people with CP;
b) provide opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable or difficult to access;
c) improve accessibility, inclusion, participation or connection;
d) develop sustainable capability or services for the CP community; or
e) demonstrate collaboration with CPS or the wider CP community.

Funding will generally not be prioritised for activities where the benefit to people with CP is incidental or represents only a very small component of the overall programme.

6 Decision-Making Principles

The criteria are intended to guide rather than replace the judgement of the Grants Committee.

The Committee should:

a) consider applications on their individual circumstances;
b) apply the criteria consistently;
c) apply an explicit equity lens when prioritising competing applications;
d) record the principal reasons for declining or materially reducing an application;
e) avoid treating previous decisions as binding precedents where circumstances differ; and
f) ensure that grants collectively remain within the budget and any allocations approved by the Executive Committee.

Where applications exceed available funding, the objective is not to distribute funding equally between applicants, but to allocate CPS's limited resources equitably to achieve the greatest reasonable benefit for people living with CP.