

## The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Disability Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

## **16 OCTOBER 2017**

## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ORGANISATIONS IN CASTLE HILL TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF SENIORS

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams is urging organisations, who help older people in the electorate lead independent and healthy lives, to apply for funding from the NSW Government's Liveable Communities Grants Program.

Mr Williams said Round Three is now open to applicants who are working to improve the lives of seniors in Castle Hill.

"I am excited to see what fresh ideas are brought to the table in Round Three. The focus will be on projects that increase older people's participation in artistic, cultural, sport and exercise activities," Mr Williams said.

Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies said applicants will be assessed on innovation, and the potential to create sustainable long-term solutions to issues facing older people.

"DiscoDTours' 'Moove and Groove' silent disco classes for seniors and older people living with dementia, received funding under Round Two. The benefits for these participants have been remarkable and now they are looking to expand," Mrs Davies said.

Applications for the program are open to non-government organisations, local councils, universities and small businesses.

The program was a 2015 election commitment, with \$4 million allocated over four years. More than \$1.3 million has been allocated to fund Round Three.

Mr Williams strongly encouraged applications from Castle Hill and projects directed specifically towards Indigenous communities.

"When we do everything possible to remove physical and mental barriers for older people, it ensures they can fully participate in local life and everyone in the community benefits," Mr Williams said.

Applications close at 2pm, Monday 20 November, 2017. For more information or to apply please email <u>LiveableCommunitiesGrants@facs.nsw.gov.au</u>, call (02) 8879 9172 or visit <u>www.facs.nsw.gov.au</u>.

Media: June Belkovskis - 02 8882 9555