

An interim review of Victorian municipal road safety strategy development

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Abstract

Between March 2008 and August 2011, the TAC, through the TAC Community Road Safety Grants program, funded twenty five projects in local councils or community groups to develop municipal or community based road safety strategies.

The TAC established the Community Road Safety Grants (CRSG) program to provide community groups with opportunities to address local road safety issues within the context of the Victorian road safety strategy. Since March 2008, the TAC has conducted 10 rounds of funding, resulting in more than 200 approved projects totalling around \$3.7 million in grants.

In 2012, the TAC commissioned a study to develop an understanding of the development and implementation of community/municipal road safety strategies. Particularly, the TAC aims to understand processes, support, consultation, barriers to implementation and evaluation of strategies and associated action plans.

The results of the study will assist the TAC and its road safety partners to review guidelines and policy on the implementation of community based and/or municipal road safety strategies.

This paper will report on the process undertaken in this review, with outcomes to be presented at the conference.

Keywords

Municipal strategy, Strategy development, Community Engagement

Introduction

The TAC through the TAC Community Road Safety Grants program has funded numerous local councils or community groups to develop municipal or community based road safety strategies.

The TAC established the Community Road Safety Grants (CRSG) program to provide community groups with opportunities to address local road safety issues within the context of the Victorian road safety strategy. Since March 2008, the TAC has conducted 10 rounds of funding, resulting in more than 200 approved projects totalling around \$3.7 million in grants.

Twenty-five projects address the review and/or development of municipal or community road safety strategies.

Applications for these projects usually include the engagement of a contractor to undertake the following activities:

- Review of current strategy;
- Review of local crash and infringement data;
- Stakeholder consultation;
- Community consultation;
- Development of draft strategy and actions; and
- Finalisation of strategy and recommended actions.

The TAC undertook this review to gain a greater understanding of the development and implementation of municipal and community road safety strategies funded through the TAC Community Road Safety Grants Program. The results of the study will assist the TAC and its road safety partners to review guidelines and policy on the implementation of community based and/or municipal road safety strategies.

Method

The TAC engaged Nucleus Consulting Group (Nucleus) in December 2011 to undertake the review to consider the following issues:

- process undertaken to develop the strategies, including data collection, consultation, partnerships etc;
- understanding of available support through organisations such as VicRoads regions, Police, Victorian Registered Community Road Safety Groups etc;
- barriers to receiving support including access to/provision of data;
- the level of support or endorsement by Councils;
- development of action plans for the strategy;
- level of implementation of the strategy and actions;
- evaluation of the strategy or specific actions; and
- value for money in terms of the level of funding provided through the grants program for individual strategy development.

To conduct the review, a methodology of three steps was developed by Nucleus Consulting group as outlined in Table 1.

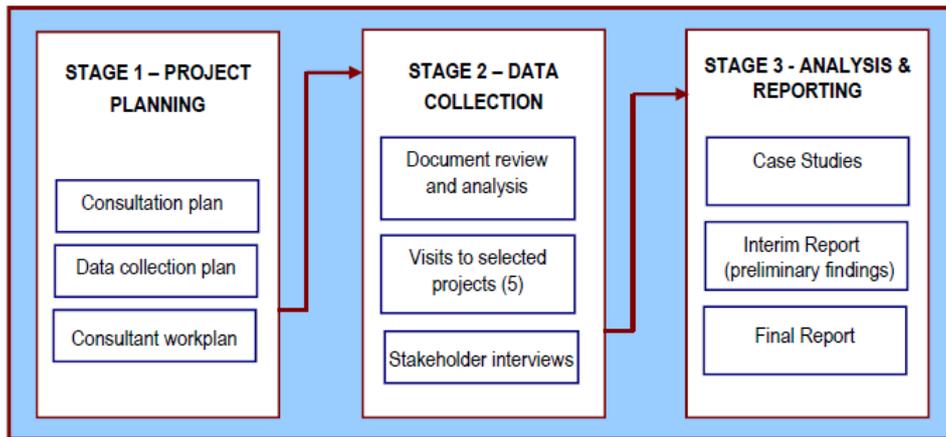


Table 1. Project methodology

The TAC contacted each municipality or community group to advise them of the review. An email was sent to the key contact for each project to provide an outline of the review and its purpose (see figure 2).

Dear Grant Recipient

In nine rounds of the TAC Community Road Safety Grants program, 25 projects have been approved to develop municipal or community based road safety strategies.

In the June 2010 issue of the 'Update' newsletter, the TAC advised that it would be undertaking a review of projects funded to develop municipal road safety strategies. The TAC is also interested in gaining an insight to community based road safety strategies, which have been funded by the TAC.

This review will assist the TAC and its road safety partners to review guidelines and policy on the implementation of municipal and community based road safety strategies. The project has been awarded to Nucleus Consulting Group and will commence in January 2012, with a view to finalisation by the end of March 2012.

The outcomes of the review will be to broaden the understanding of how local road safety strategies have been developed, including:

- Processes undertaken (eg data collection, consultation, partnerships etc)
- Levels of support, endorsement and ownership
- Extent of implementation of the strategy and actions
- Monitoring, review and evaluation.

The TAC understands that road safety strategy projects will be in various stages of development, implementation or evaluation.

The first stage of the project will be a desk top review of applications, supporting documentation and data, and progress and final reports. Nucleus Group will identify a sample of projects for telephone interviews (second stage) and the third stage will involve an in-depth review of a small number of projects to develop case studies. The TAC will contact Councils and community groups identified for Stages 2 and 3 to ensure willingness to participate in the review. It is likely this stage will commence from early February 2012.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important review.

Figure 1. TAC email to grant recipients

Following agreement by the TAC on the methodology, the key tasks for Stage 1 (Review Planning & Project Profiles) included:

- *Collation of relevant documentation*

To enable the review process to be thorough, all documentation relating to the approved projects was provided to Nucleus, including project application forms and reports as well as any other program documentation for consideration.

- *Development of templates*

Project profiles were developed, for the more detailed case studies, to guide the structure and nature of information required to be collected (see Appendix A).

- *Review and analyse*

Project application forms, progress and final project reports (for all 25 funded projects) were reviewed and analysed. Information from documentation was used to develop a profile for each project.

- *Telephone interviews*

Key contacts, provided by the TAC, from each project were telephoned as part of the development of each profile. This enables the TAC to gain insights into the development and success of local road safety strategies or ways that the program might work more effectively.

- *Case study projects*

Structured interview outlines (consultation questions) were developed in readiness for Stage 2 to guide discussion with the nominated case study projects.

The key tasks for stage 2 (Development of Case Studies) included:

- Telephone discussion with key contacts of projects to discuss project profiles and explore key issues further.
- Review of key characteristics of finalised project profiles to select five projects for more detailed case study.
- Visit five projects to undertake project profile review and conduct interviews. Visits included interviews and discussion with project sponsors, project workers and external partners, providing opportunities for review of project processes and outcomes.
- Preliminary analysis of projects in order to explore strengths/weaknesses of models and particular practices.

The key tasks for stage 3 (Analysis and Reporting) included:

- Preparation of a report identifying and exploring issues relating to review objectives, including:
 - Analysis of project profiles to compare and contrast the breadth of structure and practice across the reviewed 25 projects funded (drawing out aspects of ‘better practice’ as well as barriers)
 - Finalisation and presentation of five detailed case studies describing the manner in which local road safety strategies were assembled and implemented
 - Summary analysis to enhance understanding of how community and municipal road safety strategies are developed and implemented
 - Implications for guidelines and policy on the implementation of community based and/or municipal road safety strategies.

Results of Stages 1 and 2

Twenty five projects were eligible for review by Nucleus using the method described above. At the time of writing of the paper, 23 projects had confirmed their involvement. Twenty one projects have reviewed and confirmed their project profiles.

Five projects have been identified as case studies, finalised and agreed to by the councils or groups.

Next steps

The TAC is in the process of reviewing the draft report from Nucleus. The draft report provides detailed information on each project, the results and outcomes of which will assist the TAC and its road safety partners to review guidelines and policy relating to municipal and community road safety strategies



Review of Community and Municipal Road Safety Strategies

PROJECT PROFILE: xxx COUNCIL

Project overview	ROUND x
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	
Project name	
Sponsor agency	
Key personnel	
Contact details	
Nominated Project Partners	
Scheduled project period	
Actual project period	
Signed funding agreement available*	
Project plan provided with funding agreement*	
If project completed, have interim/final reports been submitted*	
Has a completed and endorsed road safety strategy been submitted*	
Period covered by road safety strategy	
Project budget	
\$ requested from TAC	
\$ other funding	
Other resources (in kind)	
Who provided	
Final invoice submitted	

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Project design	
Project purpose	
Specific concerns giving rise to project	
Evidence/indicators underpinning project objectives (eg research, road safety statistics, local government data etc)*	
Community input to developing the funding application*	
Any other consultations undertaken	
Level of Council support for project	
Project implementation	
How was the road safety strategy developed	
Who managed the project	
Governance structures	
Structure and content of action plans*	
Was RoadSafe (<i>Rounds 1 – 7</i>) or a VCRSP (<i>Round 8</i>) involved in the project	
Partner contributions to project (specific role, focus/target,)	
Barriers to support from any nominated partner*	
Road safety strategy endorsed as Council policy*	
Steps taken to implement the road safety strategy*	
Degree of completion	
Any unintended positive or negative impacts*	
How was the project evaluated for success (inc indicators used)*	

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Sustainability	
What support is available to continue the project after TAC funding ceases*	
Steps being taken to promote sustainability*	

* Positive responses identify project as candidate for detailed case study