

2.1 2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful applicant of the Quick Response Grant program (QRG).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Council is committed to supporting local community groups and individual creative efforts that have arisen outside of the normal funding cycle of the Monash Community Grant Program (MCGP) to assist in strengthening the community and building cohesion.

Two applications were assessed between the period of 2-22 March 2023. Funding of \$2,468.00 has been awarded to one successful applicant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2022/23 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$111,587.66, of which \$2,468.00 has been allocated in this period. Including this decision, the total allocations made to date are \$52,678.31, with a remaining budget for the program of \$58,909.35.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipient for the period 2-22 March 2023 is presented to Council within the available budget.

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RECOMMENDATION

*That Council notes the successful application that has been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 2-22 March 2023 to a total of **\$2,468.00**.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful applicant of the Quick Response Grant program (QRG).

BACKGROUND

Monash Council has one of the largest community grant programs in Victoria and is proud of its commitment in supporting and valuing the dedicated community groups and organisations within our municipality.

At its meeting in June 2020, Council endorsed the establishment of a Quick Response Grant program (QRG). The basis for this grant program was to enable the Monash community and Council to remain adaptive and agile in response to COVID and ensure that groups could continue to meet and bring the community together. This program was proven to be extremely successful.

Council, at its meeting in May 2021, endorsed the QRG as a permanent open grant program.

The continuation of the Quick Response Grant Program has enabled Council to continue to support the local community groups and artists to remain agile and innovative.

As per the Guidelines that were endorsed at Council on 31 May 2022, the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 July 2022 until 12 May 2023, or until the allocation has been exhausted.
- Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel.
- Applicants will receive a response from Council within six weeks of the application being received.
- After receiving notification of a successful application, applicants must commence the project within four weeks and complete by 30 June 2023.
- All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the next applicable Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The QRG provides an opportunity for groups or individual artists whose idea, program, or issue falls outside of the normal grant round and previously had no opportunity to apply for funding through Council. By providing this source of funding it ensures that Council is continuing to remain adaptive and agile to community needs. Community groups and artists can apply for up to \$5,000 in cash and/or in-kind hall hire, with the total budget allocation of \$111,587.66.

It is important to note that Quick Response Grants were developed for the community to provide innovative projects and are not to be a duplicate of an existing program, whether funded through MCGP or other avenues.

The QRG have been promoted through multiple Monash platforms, including:

- Monash Bulletin
- Monash social media – Facebook, Instagram and twitter
- As part of a mail out to current grant recipients
- Art & About e-newsletter

The grants opened on 1 July 2022 and will remain open until 12 May 2023 or until the allocations are exhausted.

The assessment criterias consist of the following:

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need or opportunity
2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
3. The number of Monash residents that will benefit
4. The capacity of the organisation/community/individual to undertake the project
5. Budget expenditure

An evaluation matrix was developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, to ensure the applications were considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. The matrix provides the assessment process with rigour and consistency.

Two applications were assessed between the period of 2-22 March 2023. A total of **\$2,468.00** has been awarded to one successful applicant, outlined in the table below. The amount awarded was determined by the project, amount and specific items requested in the application budget.

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Melbourne Community Support Organisation	Eid Celebrations	\$2,468.00
TOTAL		\$2,468.00

Details of the project as outlined in the submission are as follows:

Melbourne Community Support Organisation (2223QRG0064) - \$2,468.00

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha are two major cultural/religious events for muslim community. Eid-ul-Fitr is falling on 22nd April and Eid-ul-Adha is on 29th June 23. We intend to hold communal lunch on both days.

This provides an opportunity to build connections with the wider community as people from all walks of life are welcome to attend and know more about the traditional way of celebrating the two major events.

The migrant community of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan come together, connect with each other and build a sense of community. These events are very helpful in alleviating feeling of isolation and

depression in the migrant community, therefore improving mental and emotional well-being of the community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Quick Response Grants program is a subset of the Monash Community Grants Program Policy that has been implemented with the intention of supporting the Council Plan as well as Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan and other relevant strategic documents.

The Program encourages community connectivity and participation, as well as focusing Council's support on community groups most in need. The MCGP Policy is reviewed annually to ensure that it meets the changing needs of both Council and the community.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash community sector has a rich history of innovation and promoting community participation. The QRG program enables Council to be adaptive to the community's needs and for many community groups to respond effectively and innovatively for their members and local community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The 2022/23 Monash Quick Response Grants Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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CONCLUSION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipient for the period 2-22 March 2023 is presented to Council within the available budget.