

2.1 2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of successful applications to 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.

Three applications were assessed between the period of 4 - 12 May 2023. Funding of \$8,916.55 has been awarded to three successful applications.

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 \$8,916.55 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions, the total allocations made for the 2022/23 funding year are \$69,012.86.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 4 - 12 May 2023 are presented to Council within the available budget.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 4 – 12 May 2023 to a total of \$8,916.55.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful applications to 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 closed on 12 May 2023.

The assessment criteria 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.

Three (3) applications were assessed between the period of 4 - 12 May 2023. A total of **\$8,916.55** has been awarded to three (3) successful applications, 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 7-Melody Notes	Duanwu Rice Dumpling Festival	\$2,616.55
Pip Edwards	Creative Street Number for Strip Shop Businesses	\$5,000.00
Bangladeshi Senior Cits Club Victoria	Senior's Mental Health: Surviving Loneliness and Depression	\$1,300.00
TOTAL		\$8,916.55

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

Melbourne 7-Melody Notes (2223QRG0072) - \$2,616.55

Melbourne7 Melody Notes is seeking government funding to support a Duanwu Rice Dumpling Festival event in June. This event is aimed at promoting cultural exchange and understanding in our community and celebrating the traditions and heritage of the festival. The beneficiaries of this event are members of the Monash community who are interested in learning about and experiencing Chinese culture, particularly through music.

The event will include traditional music performances by local musicians and cultural activities such as a dragon boat racing musical show and traditional Cantonese Opera. These activities are designed to provide attendees with an immersive cultural experience that highlights the significance of the festival and its place in Chinese culture. We hope that this event will serve as a platform for cultural exchange and understanding between different communities in Melbourne.

The expected outcomes of this event include increased awareness and appreciation of Chinese culture, particularly through music, and enhanced social cohesion within the community. By bringing people from different cultural backgrounds together in a shared celebration, we hope to foster a sense of unity and promote cross-cultural understanding. Additionally, the event will provide opportunities for musicians to showcase their talent and gain exposure within the community.

Pip Edwards (2223QRG0082) - \$5,000.00

The community proposed project aims to use mosaic street numbers for strip shops located on Coleman Parade and Willow Avenue in Glen Waverley. The proposed project aims to beautify the strip shop community by using mosaic street numbers.

The strip shop community is an important part of our local area, but it often lacks the visual appeal that draws people to other parts of the city. Through this project, we hope to make the community more vibrant and attractive by incorporating mosaic art that reflects the unique character of the business.

The project will be completed over a period of 30 days. In addition, Pip will coach the business owners in the symbolic language of colours and choose the right colour scheme to reflect or complement their business. Currently, many shops have poor visibility and no cohesion of street numbers within the strip. These street numbers will be made of mosaic in large visible size of 34 cm.

These numbers will be designed to be visually appealing and functional, helping to improve the overall appearance of the shops and make them easier to find. Pip will also provide workshops for local business owners who are interested in learning about mosaic and making their own numbers.

The proposed grant will be used to cover the cost of materials, including tiles, adhesives, grout, and workshops, as well as the artist's time and expertise. The estimated budget for the project is \$10,000. However, Pip is happy to give back to her local community for the amount of \$5000 through the Quick Response Grants Program with no cost to the business owners.

Bangladeshi Senior Citizens of Victoria (2223QRG0089) - \$1,300.00

The Seniors health promotion program aims to help local community residents, especially seniors, to set up active living and close community connections against isolation and depression.

We hold various activities, including folk dance, line dance, Thai Chi, and Karaoke, every Tuesday afternoon from 1 pm-3 pm. We organize outgoing recreation trips every month.

This program will provide a platform to promote attendees to set up active lifestyles and to do socialize. When they attend our classes, they will exercise their body and get in a good mood after chatting with others. They can talk about their difficulties and others can help to get solutions, which is a real relief from stress. They can make new friends and build friendships, a stronger connection with community life.

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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The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$111,587.66, of which \$8,916.55 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions, the total allocations made for the 2022/23 funding year are \$69,012.86.

CONCLUSION

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