

7.2.1 2023/24 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

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| Responsible Manager: | Kerryn Jansons, Manager Community Strengthening |
| Responsible Director: | Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services |

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 1 June to 12 July 2023 to a total of \$17,596.

INTRODUCTION

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

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Inclusive Services

Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Council is committed to supporting the 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 community and building cohesion.

Seven (7) applications were assessed between the period of 1 June (when this new program opened) to 12 July. Funding of \$17,596 has been awarded to six (6) successful applications.

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, utilising the allocated funds each year.

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 30 May 2023 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 June 2023 until 10 May 2024, 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 2024
- 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 \$115,042.

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

The grants opened on 1 June 2023 and will remain open until 10 May 2024 or until the allocations are exhausted.

Seven (7) applications were assessed between the period of 1 June to 12 July 2023.

The assessment criteria consists 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.

A total of **\$17,596** has been awarded to six (6) 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 |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Cook Islands Community Services of Victoria | Taku Ipukarea | \$5,000.00 |
| The Pontian Association of Melbourne Euxenos Pontos | Positive ageing and maintaining our culture and heritage | \$2,253.00 |
| South East Volunteers | Monash Volunteer Expo | \$3,985.00 |
| Notting Hill Neighbourhood House | CALD Event in Notting Hill - Celebrating Singapore National Day 2023 | \$1,638.00 |
| Dr Gloria Moore | Best of Both Worlds: an inspiring legacy of resilience | \$1,505.45 |
| Pratibha Madan | Living Painting Traditions of India - Art Exhibition & Workshop | \$3,214.55 |
| TOTAL | | \$17,596.00 |

Details of the projects as provided by the applicants are as follows:

Cook Islands Community Services of Victoria (2224QRG0003) - \$5,000.00

This Project is based on:

- 1) Strengthening the traditional cultural awareness for the second and third generation within the community and the wider multicultural communities. This includes language, arts and craft, dancing, cultural hymns and songs, dress making, and cooking food in our traditional way.
- 2) Focusing on the wellbeing and welfare of the community and creating activities to bring the community out and socialize with each other so we can identify some needs and provide resources to support them.
- 3) Creating training necessary to educate the community to have a multicultural mindset by inviting key services like Police, Justice, Centrelink and others.
- 4) Encouraging the community to work together in all events and activities.

Having the hall is a huge advantage for the community to do all these projects.

The Pontian Association of Melbourne Euxenos Pontos (2324QRG0007) - \$2,253.00

This organisation wishes to provide a meeting place for our elderly and younger members.

During these meetings a variety of activities are provided, including dance tuition for the younger members and dancing for the elderly.

Dance is a good form of exercise, thus this activity provides exercise and maintains our roots and heritage alive.

South East Volunteers (2324QRG0005) - \$3,985.00

COVID-19 and the lockdowns have had a crippling effect on the volunteering sector. We need to offer Community Service Organisations an opportunity to showcase their programs, highlighting the vital role that volunteers provide. We also need to provide a place that allows potential volunteers an opportunity to see what volunteer roles are available in their local area and to talk to someone about volunteering in general.

At the Monash Volunteer Expo, the residents of the City of Monash will come face to face with community organisations and learn more about volunteering opportunities. They will be able to find out about the services that community services organisations provide. It will also give CSOs an opportunity to increase their number of volunteers and to network with other community organisations.

Notting Hill Neighbourhood House (2324QRG0010) - \$1,638.00

This year, Notting Hill Neighbourhood House will be celebrating the 58th Singapore National Day.

The evening will include a

- Cooking Demonstration by our community chef, Jenny Chua,
- Storytelling session about Singapore's history,
- Singing and dancing activities, and
- a lion dance performance (by Hung Ling Lion Dance Association).

This will be the second year running this event.

This Celebration falls in line with Notting Hill Neighbourhood House (NHNH)'s strategic themes of Community Engagement and Lifelong learning, as we are joined by our local Singaporean neighbours to plan this event, bringing a sense of ownership and belonging to the Neighbourhood House and its wider community. We are confident that this session will be enjoyed by many, including our neighbours from other CALD backgrounds. and will be another example of the cross-cultural exchange and appreciation of the cultural diversity present in Notting Hill

Dr Gloria Moore (2324QRG0012) - \$1,505.45

Anglo Indians are a little-known world minority. I am dedicated to bring their hidden history to the world. Five hundred years counting their Portuguese ancestors, four counting the British from the 1600s in India. Brought into being by these Europeans they made a monumental contribution to the Raj yet were excised from British Indian history by their scholars. This exhibition will celebrate their lives and contribution beyond British India to their diaspora to Commonwealth countries today.

Pratibha Madan (2324QRG0015) - \$3,214.55

This project aims to promote cultural diversity and understanding by showcasing the rich heritage and artistic traditions of India. Through the art exhibition and workshops, it aims to provide the local community in Monash with an opportunity to engage with and learn about the unique and vibrant art forms from various regions of India.

Art Exhibition: The art exhibition will feature a collection of my own artworks as well as artefacts representing different painting styles from various regions of India, such as Madhubani, Warli, Gond, and miniature painting. The exhibition will be held at the Track Gallery, a prestigious art space known for promoting diverse art forms in the local community. The artworks will be accompanied by informational displays, providing visitors with insights into the historical and cultural significance of each style.

Workshops: To enhance community engagement and foster creativity, I plan to conduct a series of art workshops at the Track Gallery, while the exhibition is on. These workshops will provide participants with hands-on experience in traditional Indian painting techniques. Participants will learn basic skills and have the opportunity to create their own artworks inspired by the Indian painting traditions showcased in the exhibition. The workshops will be open to people of all ages and skill levels, encouraging inclusivity and cultural exchange.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2023/24 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$115,042, of which \$17,596 has been allocated in this period with a remaining budget for the program of \$97,446.

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.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

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 2023/24 Quick Response Grants Program is entirely consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. In particular, the program supports:

- freedom of expression;
- peaceful assembly and freedom of association;
- taking part in public life; and
- cultural rights.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The QRG is a subset of the Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP). As these programs are both focussed on having a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment (GIA) was undertaken in April 2023. This was included in the MCGP Allocations Report that was tabled at the May 2023 Council meeting.

As per the previous GIA we are continuing to collect data on how projects address gender inequality, how inclusive/accessible they are and the anticipated reach of the projects by gender.

CONCLUSION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 1 June to 12 July 2023 are presented to Council within the available budget.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil