

7.2.2 MONASH SPORTS CLUB GRANTS

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the guidelines for a one-off grant program for sports clubs to assist them with implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm policy which will simultaneously support actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the guidelines for the one-off Monash Sports Club Grants.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Inclusive Services

Community development and advocacy to support the Monash community.
Deliver high performing services.
Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

Good Governance

Ensure a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable organisation.
Effectively communicate and engage with the community.

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.

Council has a history of leadership in the prevention of harm from gambling by elevating gambling harm to the highest level of public health prominence in 2016 with the original 'Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2016-2020'. In November 2022 Council endorsed the updated Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy 2021-25 that strengthened Council's commitment to reduce harm caused by gambling, and highlights Council's aim to improve the health and quality of life of all community members. The policy builds continues the standing of Monash as a leader and change-agent on this public health issue within the local government sector.

The Policy articulates how Monash Council will:

- Support initiatives that aim to reduce gambling harm within the City of Monash through education and advocacy.
- Not provide support or resources to community groups or clubs which promote gambling, in particular EGM (pokie machine) venues, sports betting, and online gambling.
- Only allow access to Council-owned land and facilities for groups or clubs adhering to the policy.

At its meeting on 30 May 2023, when considering the allocation of the 2023/24 Monash Community Grants Program Council resolved in part that it:

Allocates the residual surplus to create a one-off grant program for sports club to primarily assist them with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm policy and will also simultaneously support actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework.

Officers from the Community Strengthening and Active Monash Recreation teams have subsequently developed this grant program and associated guidelines to ensure the grant meets the needs of sports clubs in Monash, as presented in this report.

DISCUSSION

Monash Council is committed to supporting our local sporting clubs to provide opportunities to members of the community to lead healthy, happy and thriving lives. Sports clubs provide a unique space in the community to promote health through improved fitness, social connections and emotional wellbeing.

The establishment of the Monash Sports Club Grants will enable Monash's sports clubs to apply for a once-off grant of up to \$2,500 to assist with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-2025 while simultaneously supporting actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework.

Funding will be provided to implement the Monash Public Approach to Gambling Policy 20201-25 and encourage greater participation from underrepresented community members in the club, such as women and girls and those from CALD backgrounds. Examples of what the funding may be used for could include replacing items (uniforms, signage, etc) that include sponsor logos not aligned with the Policy or providing information and education to members on preventing harms from gambling.

The grants will open on Monday 18 September and close on Friday 20 October. This will enable two weeks of promotion to clubs once endorsed by Council and is the cross-over period between winter-summer sports. This timeframe ensures applications will be open for 5 weeks, which is the same time period as the MCGP each year.

Guidelines have been established for this program to assist and guide applicants to ensure their eligibility (Attachment 1). Applications will need to provide information on how the club is adhering to the Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy 2021-25, the relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 and how many Monash residents are members of the club.

All applications to for a Monash Sports Club Grant will be required to submit their applications online, via the SmartyGrants portal.

An evaluation matrix will be developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, and ensuring that the applications are considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. The funding pool of \$97,406.55 will be allocated equitably across all successful applicants up to the \$2,500 cap. This may result in a higher level of funding for those clubs with male and female teams and/or teams of all abilities to promote intersectional gender equality.

The cap of \$2,500 enables funding to be provided in a timely manner once the grants are approved. All applicants will be advised the outcome of their application by mid-November, with all successful applications being formally acknowledged at the December Council meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants will be funded from the existing 2023/24 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The allocated program budget for the Monash Sports Club Grants is \$97,406.55.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants have been implemented with the intention of supporting clubs to align with the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-2025. In addition, it will also support the Council Plan 2021-25, Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-25, Active Monash Sports Club Framework and other relevant strategic documents.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash community sector has a rich history of innovation in promoting community participation and civic engagement. The establishment of these Sports Club Grants will enable many of Monash's local sports clubs to advocate and support the Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-25, benefitting a healthy and engaged Monash community, with a focus on prevention of harm from gambling.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As the Monash Sports Club Grants is focused on having a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment was undertaken as part of the work.

The GIA found that:

- Women and girls participate at lower rates than men and boys; many clubs in Monash may not have women's or girls' teams. Therefore, a grant that provides the same amount to every club may benefit men/boys more than women/girls.
- For those clubs that do have female teams, inequalities remain. For example, women and girls may miss out on new equipment/uniforms
- Funding may not be spread equitably throughout a club

As a result, we will:

- Consider providing more funding to those clubs that have both men's/boys' and women's/girls' teams
- Strongly recommending to clubs that they spend the money equally between teams

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the Monash Sports Club Grants guidelines to provide funding to local sports clubs to assist with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-2025 and meet the needs of sports clubs in Monash.

ATTACHMENT LIST

1. 23 24 Sports Club Grant Guidelines [7.2.2.1 - 3 pages]



2023/24 Sports Club Grant Guidelines

Monash Council is committed to supporting our local sporting clubs to provide opportunities to members of the community to lead healthy, happy and thriving lives. Sports clubs provide a unique space in the community to promote health through improved fitness, social connections and emotional wellbeing.

Council has a history of strong leadership in the prevention of harm from gambling with the introduction of Councils 'Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2016-2020'. This policy was updated in 2022 and highlights Council's aim to improve the health and quality of life of all community members. The policy builds upon the commitment to the reduction of harm from gambling and continues the standing of Monash as a leader and change-agent on this public health issue within the local government sector.

To assist Monash sports clubs primarily with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy and simultaneously support actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework, Council is making available a once-off grant of up to **\$2,500**.

Applications will be open from **Monday 18 September** until **Friday 20 October**.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Sports Club Grant, applicants must:

- be an incorporated community organisation with not-for-profit status;
- be a sports club within the City of Monash boundaries;
- maintain public liability insurance cover for a minimum of \$20 million;
- be compliant with Council's Sports Club Framework including having no debts or outstanding grant documentation to Council;
- adhere to the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy by not promoting venues that have Electronic Gaming Machines or gambling activities; and
- be able to expend the funding by 30 June 2024.

Previous funding from other Monash Council grant programs has no effect on an applicant's eligibility to apply.

Assessment

Applications will be checked for eligibility, then reviewed internally by Council officers and assessed against the Assessment Criteria.

● 293 Springvale Road (PO Box 1) Glen Waverley VIC 3150 **Web** www.monash.vic.gov.au **Email** mail@monash.vic.gov.au
● **T** (03) 9518 3555 **National Relay Service** (for the hearing and speech impaired) 1800 555 660
● **Interpreter Services** 普通话 4713 5001 廣東話 4713 5002 Việt Ngữ 4713 5003 Ελληνικά 4713 5004 हिंदी 4713 5005
 Other languages 4713 5000 Italiano 4713 5008 한국어 4713 5010 සිංහල 4713 5020 தமிழ் 4713 5021



Assessment criteria

1. Evidence of how the club is adhering to Council's Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy
2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
3. The number of Monash residents in your club

How to apply

Visit www.monash.vic.gov.au/grants and click on Sports Club Grants.

Applications are made through the [SmartyGrants](#) online portal.

Timeframe

Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel. Applicants will receive a response from Council in mid-November 2023.

Applicants must expend the funding by 30 June 2024.

All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the December Council meeting.

What will be funded

A pool of \$97,406.55 is available and will be allocated equitably* across all successful applicants up to \$2,500.

Funding will be provided to implement the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy and encourage greater participation from underrepresented community members in the club. Examples of what the funding may be used for could include replacing items (uniforms, signage, etc) that include sponsor logos not aligned with the policy or providing information and education to members on preventing harms from gambling.

To ensure a strong club culture, it is strongly recommended that the funding is distributed evenly across the club with gender equity in mind, with benefits such as access to new uniforms and equipment accessible to all members where possible.

Eligible items for funding are:

- Uniforms
- Equipment (up to \$500) - sporting equipment, audio-visual equipment, equipment that will allow those of all abilities to participate in a program
- Signage
- Promotional & advertising material
- Website updates to remove logos and promotional material inconsistent with Council policies
- Forums and education focussing on preventing harms from gambling
- Training for committee members

Please note the following are not eligible for funding:



- Fundraising activities
- Defibrillators
- Insurance
- Capital infrastructure
- Gifts and prizes
- Events held in venues that have Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs)
- Projects/services that are inconsistent with Council's objectives; partisan political in nature or that duplicate other existing projects/services

*this may result in a higher level of funding for those clubs with male and female teams and/or teams of all abilities to promote intersectional gender equality.

Acquittal

All grant recipients will be required to complete an online acquittal through SmartyGrants by Friday 28 July 2024 at the conclusion of the grant program.

More information

For assistance or more information, please email monash.grants@monash.vic.gov.au or call the Community Grants Team on 9518 3568