

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 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.

Eight applications were assessed between the period of 22 March – 3 May 2023. Funding of \$7,423.00 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 \$7,423.00 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions, the total allocations made to date are \$60,101.31, with a remaining budget for the program of \$51,486.35.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 22 March – 3 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 22 March – 3 May 2023 to a total of \$7,423.00.

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 QRG program. 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 QRG 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 QRGs 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 has 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 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.

Eight applications were assessed between the period of 22 March – 3 May 2023. A total of **\$7,423.00** has been awarded to three 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
FVREE	Ways to Play	\$3,030.00
Housing First	Monday Morning Connections	\$3,500.00
Seniors Happy Life Club	Seniors Health Promotion Project	\$893.00
TOTAL		\$7,423.00

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

FVREE (2223QRG0076) - \$3,030.00

FVREE will deliver two active play-based Ways to Play workshops to 35-40 families with children aged 0-6 living in Monash. Ways to Play workshops use a combination of singing, dancing, activities and stories to deliver messages to children and their parents or caregivers about the importance of breaking down stereotypes and respectful

relationships in the early years. The workshops are designed to bring families together to build connections between themselves, other families and the places and spaces in their local community, while learning new ways to interact with their baby, toddler or preschooler. Every family that attends the workshop receives a "Family Play Kit" containing resources and activity materials designed to be used throughout the session as well as extend learnings from the session at home.

This project also provides an opportunity to build community members' familiarity with FVREE as their local family violence service.

Housing First (2223QRG0077) - \$3,500.00

Monday Morning Connections runs every Monday from 10am-12pm and aims to enhance the well-being of residents living in social housing by promoting social interaction and fostering a sense of community. Social housing residents experience high levels of disadvantage and exclusion. Access to opportunities to connect with others and the community are fundamental to improving quality of life for our most vulnerable.

The objective of this project is to tackle the issue of social isolation and loneliness that affects residents residing in community housing. Monday Morning Connections aims to improve social, mental and physical health outcomes; build community cohesion and resilience; and promote community involvement and empowerment. The approach involves providing activities that promote both health and wellbeing, as well as facilitate connection among residents.

The program will offer a range of weekly activities and events, including social gatherings, skill-building workshops and community projects. These activities will provide opportunities for residents to connect with each other, learn new skills and build social networks.

The program will also focus on addressing the specific needs of vulnerable residents, such as those who are elderly or have limited language proficiency, those living with physical or mental disability and those with lived experience of trauma. The most marginalised people encounter complex, intersecting issues around health and well-being, socioeconomic status, cultural diversity and other indicators of disadvantage. Engagement and well-being are key to generating positive pathways for disadvantaged people by providing tailored support and resources to help them connect with others and participate in the program.

Senior Happy Life Club (2223QRG0078) - \$893.00

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 1pm-3pm. We organise outgoing recreation trips every month.

This program will provide a platform to promote attendees to set up active lifestyles and to do socialise. 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 QRG 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 QRG Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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CONCLUSION

The QRG successful recipients for the period 22 March – 3 May 2023 are presented to Council within the available budget.