

## 7.2.1 2024/25 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS- JUNE-SEPTEMBER

<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Fee Harrison, Manager Community Strengthening & Economic Development
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	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 3 September 2024 to a total of \$12,967.64.**

### 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**

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.

### 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. An additional eligibility criterion has been added for the 2024/25 funding year stating projects that have received funding through the QRG in previous years are ineligible.

As per the Guidelines that were endorsed at Council on 28 May 2024 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 June 2024 until 9 May 2025, 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 2025.
- 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 \$75,000.

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
- Monash Council’s website
- As part of a mail out to current grant recipients

The grants opened on 1 June 2024 and will remain open until 9 May 2025 or until the allocations are exhausted.

Four grants have been awarded for the period of 1 June to 3 September 2024.

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.

A total of **\$12,967.64** has been awarded to four 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
<b>Victoria Chinese Culture &amp; Arts Association</b>	Community Enrichment Through Learning & Art	\$4,005.00
<b>Pip Edwards</b>	Street Numbers for Kerrie Road Strip Shops & Workshops for Kerrie Road Neighbourhood House	\$5,000.00
<b>Australia Tea Society</b>	Chinese Tea Culture Event	\$1,592.09
<b>Vipanchika Grandhasala</b>	Mental Health Support & Digital Safety	\$2,370.55
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$12,967.64</b>

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

*Victoria Chinese Culture & Arts Association Inc (2425QRG001) - \$4,005.00*

This project aims to offer a series of workshops focusing on singing, dancing, videography, calligraphy, and workshops on healthy eating and family relationships. These activities are designed to enhance the cultural and artistic skills of community members, particularly seniors, fostering social inclusion and community cohesion. The project will be operated and managed by the Victoria Chinese Culture & Arts Association, with collaboration from VCCAA Home of Seniors, and Hua Yu Home Inc.

All organizations will provide talented volunteers to collaborate on performances and rehearsals. The project will also include workshops on topics such as healthy eating and physical activity, aimed at preventing high cholesterol, Alzheimer’s disease, and obesity.

By addressing these health concerns, we aim to improve the overall well-being of our participants. Additionally, the project will focus on building strong community connections, reducing loneliness, and promoting mental health. Through these comprehensive activities, we strive to create a supportive and engaging environment for all participants, enhancing their quality of life and strengthening community bonds.

*Pip Edwards (2425QRG019) – \$5,000.00*

The project aims to beautify the strip shop community by using large, individualised mosaic street numbers for each of the participating businesses. The strip shop community is an important part of our local area, and it often lacks visual appeal. Through the project, we hope to make the community more vibrant and attractive to shoppers, as well as offering free mosaic workshops for the community, through Kerrie Neighbourhood House. The numbers are 34cm large and will be created individually for each business. The project will be completed within 30- 40 days. We believe that this project will have a positive impact for the health and wellbeing of the community, by bringing people together at the Neighbourhood House to create their own small mosaic project for their enjoyment, and for no fee. The Neighbourhood House is happy to promote these workshops through their newsletter. The proposed grant will be used to cover the cost of, materials, including tiles, adhesive, grout and workshops, as well as the artist's time and expertise. We believe that this project will have a positive impact on the community, creating a sense of pride, and

belonging amongst residents and businesses. It will encourage visitors to explore the area and support local businesses.

*Chinese Tea Society (2425QRG021) – \$1,592.09*

Although tea is well known, but most people do not know that it is an herb with more than 5,000 years of history and has gradually been developed into more than six major tea categories, scientific research has found that these teas contain more than 500 kinds of trace elements beneficial to human health, is the world's most widely grown and consumed plants. Not one of! Therefore, drinking tea properly and regularly can not only foster healthy eating habits among Australians, but also improve the overall health of the nation.

Monash is a multicultural community. Here, our Tea Society hopes that through the promotion of tea culture, we can not only show the tea art with a long history of Chinese culture, but also let more Monash residents understand that drinking tea can not only relax people, but also bring health benefits, to attract more tea culture can be introduce and communication. And gradually develop Monash community residents' healthy tea drinking habits.

*Vipanchika Grandhasala (2425QRG025) – \$2,370.55*

1) Mental health awareness and Digital online safety skills to our seniors in the community. Empowering seniors with mental health awareness and digital online safety skills is crucial for their well-being in today's digital age. Here's a tailored approach to designing a program for seniors in our community.

2) Mental Health support awareness for our youth community Members. Digital online safety skills to our youth community members. Information provides to our Youth community members.

Overall, this project aims to address critical gaps in mental health and digital safety education, enhancing the well-being and security of both seniors and youth in our community.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2024/25 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$75,000, of which \$12,967.64 has been allocated in this period with a remaining budget for the program of \$62,032.36.

## **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 2024/25 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 focused on having a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment (GIA) was undertaken in September 2023. This was included in the MCGP Service Improvement Report, which was tabled at the October 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 3 September 2024 are presented to Council within the available budget.

## **ATTACHMENT LIST**

Nil