

2.1 2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Acting Director: Fee Harrison

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.

Four applications were assessed between the period of 26 August – 14 September. Funding of \$9,270.18 has been awarded to four 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 \$9,270.18 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$22,185.11, with a remaining budget for the program of \$89,402.55.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 26 August – 14 September 2022 are presented to Council within the available budget.

2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 26 August – 14 September 2022 to a total of \$9,270.18.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of 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, 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 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 will remain open until 12 May 2023 or until the allocations are exhausted.

Four applications were assessed between the period of 26 August – 14 September 2022.

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 **\$9,270.18** 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
Amputee Golf Victoria	Victorian Amputee Open – Golf Championship	\$2,250.00
Tamil Australian Friendship Society	“Kalai Vizha” (Art and Cultural Festival)	\$1,170.18
United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia (USMAA)	Ageing and Living Well Forum	\$3,000.00
Multicultural Women Victoria (MWV)	Connecting, a Ceramic Exhibition	\$2,850.00
TOTAL		\$9,270.18

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

Amputee Golf Victoria (2223QRG0003) - \$2,250.00

We are hoping to host our annual state championship for amputee golfers within the local community. This event will be open to all golfers in the state that suffer from limb loss.

The event will be hosted at Huntingdale Golf club from 30th - 31st October. We haven't been able to host this event for the last 2 years due to Covid and are very excited to be in a position to again invite amputee golfers from the community to compete in such a prestigious event.

The event will attract around 40 competitors all suffering from limb loss. Competitors will predominantly be from the local community, but we may see some entrants travelling interstate into the city. The event will have media coverage from our internal resource and would include everything from Press coverage to social media campaigns.

We also plan to have a community outreach programme prior to event highlighting golf as a sport of choice to anyone suffering from limb loss. This will take the form of a 'come and try' event at the golf course in Huntingdale.

Tamil Australian Friendship Society (2223QRG0011) - \$1,170.18

"Kalai Vizha" (Art and Cultural Festival) is an annual event of art, musical and cultural performances. The main object of the event is to bring multicultural Australian community together with their respective cultural performances.

Tamil community living in and around Monash showcasing cultural performances of their language and traditions. This event also encourages the younger generation to mingle with their community seniors and learn their traditions and customs.

The event also aims to teach children good values and showcase our culture to other Australian communities. This will encourage all communities to understand and respect each other to live harmoniously in our multicultural Australia.

This event will cover all forms of theatre performances such as dance, music, classical instrumental performance, drama, speech etc.

United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia (2223QRG0015) - \$3,000.00

Multicultural Women Victoria and USMAA with the support of the Victoria Multicultural Commission are partnering to deliver a Monash Multicultural Ageing Well Forum for older community members and their families/friends from CALD backgrounds to increase their knowledge, rights and understanding of issues affecting them into the future as they become older.

The proposal seeks to host a Forum on the 5 November 2022 (9:30AM -4PM) to increase knowledge and competence in accessing services in the areas of:

- (1) financial and legal issues, and
- (2) Aged Care system/services and supports (including Council services), to live well and age positively.

Multicultural Women Victoria (2223QRG0023) - \$2,250.00

Visual artists Leila Ashtiani, Humaira Fayazi and Sofie Dieu would like to present "Connecting", a community art exhibition that will take place at Mount Waverley Community Hub in the Track Gallery this November.

This wellbeing community project will bring together multicultural women to celebrate together their creativity, form new friendships and expand their circle. These women have taken part in a series of clay workshops held with the help of MWV Women's Circles between February and June 2022 by the two artists. Using clay to investigate their unique cultural background and creativity, participants have created masks and bush inspired artworks. These are now ready to be displayed and to form the bridge between the two communities.

This project aims at addressing and preventing isolation, discrimination, mental health issues as well as gender inequality. It also acknowledges multicultural women's special needs and support them to reconnect after two years of heavy disruption.

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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CONCLUSION

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