

7.3 2019/20 MONASH COMMUNITY GRANTS ALLOCATIONS

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Program Evaluation Panel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Council regarding cash and in-kind (facility use/hall hire and printing) allocations to community groups and organisations for the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Council has one of the largest community grant programs in Victoria and Council is proud of its commitment to supporting and valuing the dedicated community groups and organisations within our municipality.

The value and interest placed on Council's Community Grants Program is high, with the quantum of funding requests considered in the 2019/20 round totalling \$3,672,502. A total of 237 applications were considered for funding under the 2019/20 round of Monash Community Grants Program. Of these applications, 114 are being considered for recurrent funding under an existing funding agreement.

The Councillor Evaluation Panel has recommended a total of \$2,563,767.07 of cash and in-kind allocations to community groups and organisations. This funding will support the delivery of projects and services across both the community and arts categories of the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Evaluation Panel's recommendation presents an overall allocation of funding that fits within the available 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program budget. A balanced budget has been presented to Council.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council allocate a total of \$2,563,767.07 for both cash and in-kind funding to local community groups and organisations through the Monash Community Grants Program (subject to the adoption of Council's 2019/20 budget).

The Monash Community Grants Program funding strengthens community capacity and social capital, which ultimately benefits the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

7.3 2019/20 MONASH COMMUNITY GRANTS ALLOCATIONS

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the in-principle allocation of the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program budget (\$2,563,767.07), subject to the adoption of Council's 2019/20 budget, in the following way:

- a) Allocates a total of \$2,563,767.07 in cash and in-kind grant allocations to local community groups and organisations in line with the Monash Community Grants Program Policy & Guidelines; and*
- b) Quarantines \$8,000 for the Active Monash Grants which will be allocated to appropriate sporting programs throughout the 2019 calendar year.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Council regarding cash and in-kind (hall hire/facility use and printing) allocations to community groups and organisations for the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program (MCGP).

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. The Monash Community Grants Program provides significant financial and in-kind support to Monash community groups and community organisations with the aim of:

- a) developing partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve Council's strategic directions;
- b) directing resources to both the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups;
- c) developing a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues;
- d) supporting local groups, activities and community connectedness; and
- e) supporting community organisations to develop skills and increase community participation.

At its meeting on 25 September 2018, Council formally adopted the policy and guidelines for the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program. Council's policy reinforces its ongoing support and commitment to the community and community organisations. Implementation of the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program required all applicants to submit their applications online, via the SmartyGrants online portal.

DISCUSSION

Applications for the 2019/20 MCGP opened on Monday 29 October and closed on Friday 7 December 2018. This offered community groups and community organisations a period of six (6) weeks to submit an application.

The 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program was promoted in a number of ways, including:

- Formally advertised in the following publications, on the following dates:
 - *Monash Leader* – 23 October and 6 November 2018
 - *Neos Kosmos* (Greek) – 22 October 2018
 - *Il Globo* (Italian) – 22 October 2018
 - *Australian Chinese News (Chinese)* – 19 October 2018
- Letters and emails were sent to all current and past grants recipients, commencing from 2 October 2018.
- Officer support to applicants also included:
 - Three (3) x Information Sessions held on 17, 23 and 25 October 2018;
 - Seven (7) Application Support Sessions held throughout November and December 2018;
 - Over the phone support to answer questions and provide clarification on the application process;
 - One-on-one meetings between officers and applicants to provide direct assistance.

At the Council Meeting of 29 January 2019, it was determined that the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel would consist of Councillors McCluskey (Chair), Klisaris, James, Paterson & Zographos. The Evaluation Panel met on two (2) occasions in February 2019 and considered all applications in the context of the Monash Community Grants Program Policy and Procedures.

As outlined in the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program Policy and Guidelines (see Attachment 1), organisations are invited to seek funding via six (6) available grants categories:

1. Community Strengthening;
2. Community Partnerships
 - a) Specialist Services
 - b) Neighbourhood Houses;
3. Positive Ageing;
4. Arts & Cultural Projects;
5. Community Events; and
6. Major Festivals.

The MCGP allocates both cash and in-kind funding across all the above categories, with the exception of Major Festivals that offers cash only. In-kind printing is allocated under the Positive Ageing category only.

A total of 237 applications were considered for funding allocations in the 2019/20 round. Of these, 123 are new applications, while the remaining 114 applications have a current funding agreement:

- 11 Specialist Services organisations
- 6 Neighbourhood Houses
- 97 Positive Ageing groups

For these recurrent grants, the Evaluation Panel recommends approval of the in-principle funding commitment made to those organisations in the initial year of their funding agreement (in most cases this was 2017/18) and therefore the recurrent funding has been allocated in line

with the initial assessment. A total of \$1,612,922.70 is allocated to this recurrent funding leaving \$950,844.37 available in the budget to allocate to new applications.

CATEGORY 1: Community Strengthening Grants

Demonstrated, evidence-based, community need is a heavily weighted assessment criterion in this category. This category has a cap of \$20,000.00 cash and a cap of \$20,000.00 for in-kind hall hire. Funding is available for one year only.

Examples of highly recommended projects in this category include:

- Centre for Holistic Health is recommended for funding for *Mental Health First Aid for Older Chinese*. The project will provide Mental Health First Aid Training to older Chinese community members to increase their knowledge about common mental health issues of older people. This project will also recruit potential senior leaders, volunteer, and carers and train them to be Mental Health First Aiders so that they could help to promote mental well-being in the Chinese community.
- Kariatides Women's Greek Club of Oakleigh is recommended for funding for *Cooking Unity for the Elderly*. This project will bring together people from different backgrounds to give them an opportunity to share food, ideas and culture and create connections with other community members.

Community Strengthening Funding Exceptions

When assessed against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines' eligibility criteria, the following organisations were deemed ineligible as they all had outstanding funding documentation (from either 2017/18 or 2018/19 rounds) at the time of the 2019/20 MCGP application closing date. Whilst technically ineligible to be considered for funding, the Evaluation Panel is recommending funding as an exception to the MCGP Policy & Guidelines.

Table 1: Community Strengthening Funding Exceptions

Application ID	Organisation	Reason for Exception	Panel Recommended Allocations 2019/20
CS181918	Manihiki Henua of Victoria	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as documentation was submitted late. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial funding (85% of hall hire) as an exception to the Policy due to the service that this group provides to its community.	\$16,318.51 in kind hall hire (Allocated 85% of Hall hire requested)
CS181992	Friendship Australian Egyptian Association Inc (FAEA)	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as documentation was submitted late. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial funding (85% of hall hire) as an	\$4,305.90 in kind hall hire and no cash funding allocated. (Allocated 85% of Hall hire requested)

		exception to the Policy due to the service that this group provides to its community.	
CS1920101	African Advancement Victoria	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as the application was submitted late. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial funding (hall hire only) as an exception to the Policy. Officers will work closely with this group to ensure the project is successful	\$1,773.32 in kind hall hire. Not funding the cash component.

Officers will work with these groups who were deemed ineligible to ensure that they submit documentation within the required timelines to ensure eligibility for future funding.

A total of \$342,323.94 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Strengthening category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$179,185.37 Cash;
- \$135,507.79 Hall Hire; and
- \$5,770.00 in Other/Non-Council Facility Hire
- \$21,384.69 Council-Owned Facility Rental

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in Attachment 2, Table 1.1.

CATEGORY 2A: Community Partnership Funding: Specialist Services

Cash and in-kind funding support, for up to three years, is available through this category. The recurrent nature of the funding is at the discretion of the Evaluation Panel.

Current Community Partnership: Specialist Services Funding Agreements

Under this category there are eleven (11) organisations who have a current funding agreement. The Evaluation Panel has recommended to endorse the final year of funding for all of these organisations who are on multiyear agreements:

- Monash Oakleigh Community Support and Information;
- Pronia (Australian Greek Welfare);
- Bestchance;
- Project Respect; and
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition;
- South East Community Links;
- Uniting;
- Power Neighbourhood House;
- Winacom Association Inc;
- Wavecare Counselling Inc; and
- Micare.

New Community Partnership: Specialist Services Funding

A further three (3) new grant applications were considered for funding under the Specialist Services. These applications were scored against the weighted assessment criteria, which informed the panel's decisions.

The following new applications have been recommended for Specialist Services grants:

- Monash Men's Shed (one-year funding only);
- Micare (one-year funding only);
- South East Volunteers (one-year funding only)

A total of \$745,676.28 is recommended for funding to organisations under the Community Partnership: Specialist Services category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$617,662.79 Cash;
- \$11,394.45 Hall Hire; and
- \$116,619.04 Facility Rental (in-kind)

A complete summary of recommendations for funding under Community Partnership Specialist Services, including both new and current grants, are listed in Attachment 2, Table 1.2.

Examples of highly recommended services in this category include:

- MiCare is recommended for funding for *Monash Emerging Communities Health & Well-being Partnership Program*. The project will include an information, advice and referral service for emerging CALD communities residing in Monash. Community education and capacity building activities will also be organised to support the orientation of family, skilled migrants and international students to key services in Monash. The project will promote the overall health and wellbeing of emerging CALD communities via connection to family support services and social recreational activities.

South East Volunteers

Following Council's approval of South East Volunteers 2018/19 Specialist Services grant, Officers met with staff from South East Volunteers (SEV) on several occasions to negotiate a revised budget breakdown and eligible funded activities. The agreed Monash funded programs were the volunteer coordination services in Monash and the management of the Monash Safety Register. These programs reflect the approved allocation of \$125,257 cash funding that had been allocated to SEV in 2018/19. The revised budget breakdown and funded activity outcomes were accepted by the MCGP team in October 2018.

For the 2019/20 funding round, South East Volunteers submitted a new application within the Specialist Services category seeking \$142,885 in cash funding. Given that the 2019/20 application was seeking funding to support the same programs (Volunteer Coordination and Safety Register management), with no additional or increased outcomes, the Evaluation Panel has recommended a cash funding allocation of \$110,000 for 2019/20 which is consistent with the eligible items within their budget.

South East Volunteers operates out of a purpose built Council facility, therefore an in-kind value of \$41,981.48 is also allocated to SEV as part of their MCGP Specialist Services grant to reflect their use of this facility.

CATEGORY 2B: Community Partnership Funding: Neighbourhood Houses

The overall objectives of this grant category include that:

- The funded program will focus on the improvement of the health and wellbeing of Monash residents;
- The funded program empowers Monash residents to participate in the funded program; and
- The provision of program funding to the Neighbourhood Houses will respond to a demonstrated community need.

All eligible applications were scored against the weighted assessment criteria which informed the panel's decisions.

Neighbourhood Houses can apply for up to \$10,000 cash per year, for a maximum of three (3) years. The recurrent nature of the funding is at the discretion of the Evaluation Panel. These cash amounts are provided in addition to in-kind rent for those Houses who occupy a Council facility, equalling the cost of the annual market rental (as valued by Council).

Current Community Partnership: Neighbourhood Houses Funding Agreements

Under this category there are six (6) Neighbourhood House organisations who have a current funding agreement. The Evaluation Panel has recommended to endorse the final year of funding for all of these organisations who are on multiyear agreements:

- Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre;
- Kerrie Neighbourhood Centre;
- Mount Street Neighbourhood House;
- Waverley Community Learning Centre;
- Power Neighbourhood House; and
- Mackie Rd Neighbourhood House

New Community Partnership: Neighbourhood Houses Funding

In addition to the recurrent Neighbourhood House grants, the Evaluation Panel recommends new funding for two (2) eligible Neighbourhood Houses:

- Wavlink Inc. (*one year funding only*)
- Notting Hill Community Association Inc (*one year funding only*)

Amaroo Neighbourhood house did not submit an application in this category so the Evaluation Panel recommends facility rental only.

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in Attachment 2, Table 1.3.

A total of \$480,740.60 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Partnership Neighbourhood Houses category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$69,479.70 Cash; and
- \$411,260.90 Facility Rental (in-kind)

CATEGORY 3: Positive Ageing

The overall purpose of this grant category is to provide funding to community groups who support ageing members of our community to continue to have active and fulfilling lives well into their senior years.

Council will also continue to fund Probus Clubs for in-kind support only. That is, in-kind hall hire (or cash to be used for the hire of a non-Council facility, where a suitable Monash Hall is unavailable) as well as in-kind printing.

In 2017/18 all groups who applied for a Positive Ageing grant were placed on a three-year funding agreement, subject to Council approval each year. The Evaluation Panel, therefore is required to review and endorse year-three allocations of cash and in-kind funding for 94 groups.

In addition, three (3) new Positive Ageing applications were received for the 2019/20 round. Allocations for new grants were calculated using the formulas.

Cash allocations

For seniors groups (excluding Probus Clubs) the following formula is applied to determine a group's cash allocation. A cap of \$5,000 is applied to all cash allocations under this category.

$$\text{Cash Allocation} = (\text{Active Monash Members} \times \$10) + (\text{Active Monash Members} \times \text{meal frequency} \times \$1)$$

The meal frequency is calculated as follows:

- 48 x meals if provided weekly
- 24 x meals if provided fortnightly
- 11 x meals if served monthly

This is based on the assumption that groups do not meet every month due to holiday periods in the groups' activity schedules.

In-kind printing allocations

Allocations for printing will only be granted under the Positive Ageing category as Council recognises the importance of printing for seniors groups to assist with the production of paper based newsletters and other group communication. The value of the printing allocation is determined using the following formula:

$$\text{Printing Allocation} = 4 \text{ pages (8 sides, capped)} \times \text{Active Monash Members} \times \text{Frequency per Annum (maximum 12)}.$$

In Kind Hall Hire/Facility Hire allocations

Hall Hire is fundamental in ensuring that the community remains connected by enabling opportunities to meet, thereby reducing social isolation.

For 2019/20 (year three) Positive Ageing grants, the Evaluation Panel is recommending to provide cash and in-kind allocations that are consistent with the allocations which these groups received for year one of their current funding agreement. Some exceptions do apply, in cases where hall hire bookings have altered in 2019/20.

The Evaluation Panel is recommending a limited number of grant variations to in-kind hall hire allocations, but only in cases where the varied amount is a result of a booking anomaly, or where a group has provided a justified reason for growth.

A total of \$825,663.65 is recommended for funding to groups under the Positive Ageing Category comprising of:

- \$164,081.90 Cash;
- \$633,636.40 Hall Hire;
- \$16,692.50 Other/Non-Council Facility Hire (in-kind); and
- \$11,252.85 Printing (in-kind).

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in attachment in the Attachment 2, Table 1.4.

CATEGORY 4: Arts and Cultural Projects

This category provides cash funding of up to \$5,000 for arts and cultural projects and no cap on in-kind for hall hire use.

An example of a highly recommended arts projects funded under this category includes:

- The Wen Xin Art Academy has been recommended to receive \$2,327.50 cash and \$495 towards Council facility hire. Grant funding will enable them to build on their existing program *Chinese Traditional Ink Painting Classes* and to connect with more multicultural communities in Monash. In 2019 they plan on partnering with Council to present an Art Exhibition as part of the Moonlight Festival.
- The Link Health and Community has been recommended to receive \$4,750 cash and \$330 towards Council facility hire. Their grant funding will support *Monash Open Studios* which will connect arts groups, studios, workshops, Neighbourhood houses and art facilities within Monash as well as funding for marketing to promote activities and events designed to engage and connect groups. Their project will culminate with an exhibition at The Track Gallery.

A total of \$96,164.95 is recommended for funding to groups under the Arts and Cultural Projects Category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$33,958.50 Cash; and
- \$62,206.45 Hall Hire;

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in the Attachment 2, Table 1.5.

Arts and Cultural Funding Exceptions

The Evaluation Panel is recommending funding to the following organisation, as an exception to the MCGP Policy & Guidelines.

Table 2: Arts and Cultural Projects Funding Exceptions

Application ID	Organisation	Reason for Exception	Panel Recommended Allocation 2018/19
ARTS192040	Encore Theatre	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as	\$10,000 in-kind Council facility hire

		documentation was submitted late. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial funding as an exception to the Policy due to the high level of community engagement from this group	
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CATEGORY 5: Community Events

The Community Events category provides cash funding up to \$5,000 and in-kind hall hire capped at \$2,000 to support small-scale, community-focused events.

An example of a highly recommended community event funded under this category includes:

- The AAC Public Tenants Group is recommended for \$2,280 cash and \$293.90 in Council facility hire, in support of their *Public and Proud* event. This event that will provide a social evening that is fun and inclusive with the opportunity to make connections. The event aims to nurture community connections and capacity in the rapidly changing Ashwood Chadstone community.

A total of \$48,023.74 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Events category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$43,456.00 Cash; and
- \$4,567.74 Hall Hire.

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in Attachment 2, Table 1.6.

CATEGORY 6: Major Festivals

The objective of this category is to support and deliver larger scale festivals that align with Council's current strategic plans and provide pathways and opportunities for community strengthening.

Funding under this category provides cash only, with no cap applied to the amount requested or granted.

Examples of a highly recommended festivals considered under this category is the :

- Australian Coptic Families Social Club Inc is recommended to receive \$6,550 cash funding to deliver the *Coptic Community Festival* event in Oakleigh. This annual event is produced by an Organising Committee and each year goes from strength to strength. This festival invites all from the community to participate and learn Coptic cultural highlights of food, art and performances.

A total of \$25,650.00 is recommended in funding (cash allocations only) to groups under the Major Festivals category.

A summary of recommendations for funding under this category are listed in Attachment 2, Table 1.7.

CATEGORY 7: Active Monash Grants

Only one application was received for this category, however the application was deemed ineligible. This has demonstrated to officers that further work is required to promote this grant category to sport and recreation clubs within Monash. The \$8,000 for this grant category will be quarantined and the grant program will be promoted throughout the 2019 calendar year to ensure that the money is allocated to appropriate sporting programs.

GRANTS ALLOCATION SUMMARY

Table three (3) below provides a summary of the community grant recommended allocations for the 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program.

Table 3: 2019/2020 Monash Community Grants Allocation Summary

	Cash	Hall Hire (In-kind)	Other/Non Council Facility Hire	Facility Rental (In Kind)	Printing (In Kind)	Total
Community Strengthening	\$179,185.37	\$135,507.79	\$5,770.00	\$21,384.69		\$341,847.85
Specialist Services	\$617,662.79	\$11,394.45		\$116,619.04		\$745,676.28
Neighbourhood Houses	\$69,479.70			\$411,260.90		\$480,740.60
Positive Ageing	\$164,081.90	\$633,636.40	\$16,692.50	\$11,252.85		\$825,663.65
Arts & Cultural Projects	\$33,958.50	\$62,206.45				\$96,164.95
Community Events	\$43,456.00	\$4,567.74				\$48,023.74
Major Festivals	\$25,650					\$25,650.00
TOTALS	\$1,133,474.26	\$847,312.83	\$22,462.50	\$549,264.63	\$11,252.85	\$2,563,767.07
					MCGP BUDGET	\$ 2,563,767.07

All eligible grant applications have been considered on their individual merits and have been scored in relation to the relevant category guidelines and criteria. Recommendations for cash and in-kind grants are allocated according to each application's individual score, and in relation to the applicant's request for funding. The Evaluation Panel has applied a fair and equitable approach to the provision of allocations. With this being the approach, the 2019/20 program resulted in a balanced budget.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Over the past three years Officers have been working within a timeline that has groups applying for grants in October for projects and/or services that will not take place until July the following year. Many groups have indicated that they struggle with this timeline. Officers also note that between July-September of each year there are acquittals and paperwork that are required from groups for the previous year. This provides no clear boundaries for when the new grant round starts often confusing groups. Officers would like to explore the possibility of moving the

timeline to commence grant applications in February – March. This will still ensure that groups are notified of their status at the June Council meeting. A further report will follow exploring the options.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Community Grants Program policy has been implemented with the intention of supporting the Council Plan as well as A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan and other relevant strategic documents. The Program encourages community connectivity and participation, as well as focusing Council's support on the groups most in need. The MCGP Policy will be reviewed regularly 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 in promoting community participation and civic engagement. The contribution of community organisations in developing, coordinating and managing the many activities funded by Monash Community Grants Program is well recognised and respected by Council.

The 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program funding facilitates community groups operating in Monash to draw on this legacy and continue their social and cultural activities and community services.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program is delivered within the available budget, subject to the Council budget adoption at the Council meeting on 25 June 2019.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel has been committed to ensuring that this year's grant program is presented to Council within the available budget. Each application was assessed in accordance with the Monash Community Grants Program Policy, against each category's objectives and criteria to ensure a fair and equitable process. The Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel has recommended allocations totalling \$2,563,767.07 for the delivery of projects and services throughout 2019/20.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	2019/20 Monash Community Grants Program Policy & Guidelines
Attachment 2	2019/20 MCGP Summary of Allocations