

7.4 2018/19 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 2018/19 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. In support of community initiatives, Council has allocated a total budget of \$2,563,767.07 to the Monash Community Grants Program.

The value and interest placed on Council's Community Grants Program is high, with the quantum of funding requests considered in the 2018/19 round totalling \$3,315,933.63. A total of 255 applications were considered for funding under the 2018/19 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 \$2,530,287.52 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 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program. This total recommendation is made in the context of:

- All applicants were assessed using the weighted assessment criteria outlined in the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program Policy and Guidelines, with the exception of the Positive Ageing category where funding formulas were applied for cash, in-kind hall hire and in-kind printing allocations; and
- Positive Ageing groups in 'year two' of their current three year agreement received an allocation (cash and in-kind) that was consistent with the allocations provided to these groups in 2017/18.

After all eligible and recommended applications are allocated, the MCGP budget has a surplus of \$33,479.55. The Evaluation Panel is recommending to allocate this budget surplus to fund both an increase to the 2018/19 Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program budget, as well as to fund the development of a volunteer framework which will clearly identify the local demand for volunteers, level of volunteer support required, a transparent funding and service model that responds to community, community agency and council needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Evaluation Panel's recommendation presents an overall allocation of funding that fits within the available 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council allocate a total of \$2,530,287.52 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 2018/19 budget).

The surplus of \$33,479.55 will be allocated to fund both an increase to the 2018/19 Neighbourhood Matching Grants program budget, as well as funding the development of a volunteer framework in collaboration with South East Volunteers for Monash.

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

7.4 2018/19 MONASH COMMUNITY GRANTS ALLOCATIONS

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the in-principle allocation of the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program budget (\$2,563,767.07), subject to the adoption of Council's 2018/19 budget, in the following way:

- a) *Allocate a total of \$2,530,287.52 in cash and in-kind grant allocations to local community groups and organisations in line with the Monash Community Grants Program Policy & Guidelines;*
- b) *Allocate \$22,692.90 to fund a one-off project to develop a volunteer framework in collaboration with South East Volunteers for Monash; and*
- c) *Allocate \$10,786.65 as an increase to the 2018/19 Neighbourhood Matching Grants program budget for one year only.*

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 2018/19 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 the Council Meeting of 26 September 2017, Council formally adopted the policy and guidelines for the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program. Council's policy reinforces its ongoing support and commitment to the community and community organisations.

Implementation of the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program required all applicants to submit their applications online, via the SmartyGrants online portal.

DISCUSSION

Applications for the 2018/19 MCGP opened on Monday 30 October and closed on Friday 8 December 2017. This offered community groups and community organisations a period of six (6) weeks to submit an application.

The 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program was promoted in a number of ways, including:

- Formally advertised in the following publications, on the following dates:
 - *Monash Leader* – 9 October and 23 October 2017
 - *Neos Kosmos* (Greek) – 16 October 2017
 - *Il Globo* (Italian) – 16 October 2017
 - *Sing Tao* (Chinese) – 13 October and 27 October 2017
- Letters and emails were sent to all current and past grants recipients, commencing from 9 October 2017.
- Officer support to applicants also included:
 - Three (3) x Information Sessions held on 19 & 23 October and 1 November 2017;
 - Eight (8) Application Support Sessions held throughout November 2017;
 - 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 30 January 2018, it was determined that the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel would consist of Councillors Klisaris (Chair), James, Little, Paterson & Zographos. The Evaluation Panel met on two (2) occasions in February 2018 and considered all applications in the context of the Monash Community Grants Program Policy and Procedures.

As outlined in the 2018/19 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 255 applications were considered for funding allocations in the 2018/19 round. Of these, 141 are new applications, while the remaining 114 applications have a current funding agreement:

- 7 Specialist Services organisations
- 5 Neighbourhood Houses
- 102 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.

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:

- Glen Waverley Toy Library (on behalf of Monash Toy Libraries) is recommended for funding for the *Monash Toy Libraries*. This funding will support the restocking, renewal and improvement of the Monash Toy Libraries following a merger of the Oakleigh, Glen Waverley and Monash (Jordanville) libraries, now managed by one committee since December 2017.
- The Victorian Skateboard Association is recommended for funding to deliver the *All Aboard Skateboard program* which will consist of free, co-educational skateboard workshops coordinated through Monash schools. The key focus of this program is to encourage new skateboarding participants with an emphasis on promoting gender equality in a sport that is typically male-dominated.

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 2016/17 or 2017/18 rounds) at the time of the 2018/19 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	Panel Recommended Allocations 2018/19
CS181901	Poseidon	\$2,712.15 in kind hall hire
CS181918	Manihiki Henua of Victoria	\$19,672.12 in kind hall hire
CS181994	Monash Neighbourhood Watch	\$ 554.95 in kind hall hire
CS181992	Friendship Australian Egyptian Association Inc (FAEA)	\$5,152 in kind hall hire (no cash funding allocated)
CS181925	Australia Coptic Families Social Club	\$4,053 in kind hall hire (no cash funding allocated)

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

A total of \$309,856.49 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Strengthening category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$152,615.60 Cash;
- \$125,564.20 Hall Hire; and
- \$10,292.00 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 five (5) organisations who have a current funding agreement, which the Evaluation Panel has recommended to endorse for Year Two funding. These organisations are:

- Monash Oakleigh Community Support and Information;
- Pronia (Australian Greek Welfare);
- Bestchance;
- Project Respect; and
- Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition.

New Community Partnership: Specialist Services Funding

A further eight (8) 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:

- New Hope Foundation Inc;
- Monash Men's Shed;
- South East Community Links;
- Uniting Connections;
- Power Neighbourhood House;
- Winaccomm Association Inc;
- Wavecare Counselling Inc; and
- South East Volunteers (one-year funding only).

Examples of highly recommended services in this category include:

- *South East Community Links* is recommended for funding of \$71,833.54 cash in support of the Monash Multicultural Youth Support Program. SECL will continue to work with CALD young residents in Monash aged 12-25 years, in particular those from refugee and migrant backgrounds as well as the growing number of international students. Their well-researched and multi-pronged approach will facilitate casework and capacity building activities to foster connection and belonging with strengthened engagement and participation in educational, recreational and social activities. Council will enter a three-year funding agreement with this specialist service organisation.
- *Uniting Connections* is recommended funding of \$100,766.00 cash to continue delivering their highly regarded Monash Chinese Family Program. This program includes a suite of services available to Chinese speaking families in Monash, delivered using culturally sensitive and preventative interventions designed to strengthen parenting capacity and enhance community participation and connectedness.

South East Volunteers

South East Volunteers submitted a new application in 2018/19 within the Specialist Services criteria seeking funding of \$146,500. During the 2018/19 assessment process, staff met with South East Volunteers on several occasions to establish clarity on the alignment of their funding request against grant eligibility criteria, their application objectives, proposed outcomes as they relate to Monash, and their current funding model. As a result, South East Volunteers submitted a revised budget for consideration by the Evaluation Panel. Of their revised bid of \$125,256.67, the panel deemed \$80,000 eligible under the grant guidelines, which represents a reduction of \$45,256.67 of their final 2018/19 request. This is also a reduction from the current grant of \$143,869.25. SEVs operates out of a purpose built Council facility to the value of \$41,981.48.

The cash funding amount recommended for South East Volunteers relates specifically to coordination of volunteers as well as the Monash and Oakleigh Safety Registers. The panel have recommended only funding services that are clearly and solely related to servicing Monash. The panel recognises the importance and long held partnership between Council and South East Volunteers and the significant leadership role of SEVs in supporting our community and local agencies through their volunteering coordination. It also recognises and applauds SEVs entry and service delivery into other municipalities and wants to ensure that council funds are used solely for our local community. The panel believes it is now timely to conduct a strategic review of volunteering and to ensure that Council and SEVs programs respond to local need and provide the best outcome to community. The framework will be developed in partnership with South East Volunteers to provide role clarity for Council and South East Volunteers including measurable outcomes that will ensure the delivery of the highest quality and volume of volunteer services continues in Monash.

It is recommended that the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer and Director Community Development and Services meet with the South East Volunteers' Chair and Chief Executive Officer to discuss the funding reduction and the partnership opportunity with the development of the volunteer framework for Monash.

A total of \$664,110.84 is recommended for funding to organisations under the Community Partnership: Specialist Services category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$536,097.35 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.

CATEGORY 2B: Community Partnership Funding: Neighbourhood Houses

The overall objectives of this grant category are:

- 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 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 five (5) Neighbourhood House organisations who have a current funding agreement. The Evaluation Panel has recommended to endorse Year Two funding for all of these organisations:

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

New Community Partnership: Neighbourhood Houses Funding

In addition to the recurrent Neighbourhood House grants, The Evaluation Panel recommends new funding for three (3) eligible Neighbourhood Houses:

- Wavlink Inc. (*one year funding only – pilot program*)
- Notting Hill Community Association Inc (*one year funding only*)
- Mackie Rd Neighbourhood House (*two year funding only*)

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

A total of \$483,360.90 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Partnership Neighbourhood Houses category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$72,100.00 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. Therefore, the Evaluation Panel is required to review and endorse year-two allocations of cash and in-kind funding for 102 groups.

In addition, five (5) new Positive Ageing applications were received for the 2018/19 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 2018/19 (year two) 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 2018/19.

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. The officer rationale for recommending a variation to funding has been to ensure that no group is disadvantaged if they have continued to deliver the same scope of meetings/activities/programming in year two, as they did in year one.

Positive Ageing Funding Exceptions

There are a number of Positive Ageing groups who have been recommended for year-two funding as an exception to the 2018/19 MCGP Policy & Guidelines. They do not meet the eligibility criteria as they either had outstanding grant documentation at the time of assessment, or their hall hire request exceeds the category's cap. Although these groups are under a current funding agreement, Positive Ageing applicants are still required to meet eligibility criteria for each round.

Hall Hire request exceeds cap:

While in-kind allocations provided under the Positive Ageing category are capped at \$30,000 per annum, the Evaluation Panel is recommending that full funding be provided to two (2) groups for in-kind hall hire. These allocations are consistent with the grants which these groups received in 2017/18 (year one).

Outstanding documentation:

Through the assessment process for the 2018/19 round, six (6) organisations were deemed technically ineligible as they had documentation outstanding from the 2017/18 round (e.g. funding agreement or workplan documents at the time of the 2018/19 MCGP round's closing date. The Evaluation Panel however has recommended funding as an exception to the MCGP Policy & Guidelines given the positive outcomes which these groups have provided to their members. These organisations are noted in table 2 below:

Table 2: Positive Ageing Funding Exceptions

Application ID	Organisation	Reason for Exception	Panel Recommended Allocation 2018/19
PA171840	Estia Syntaxiuhon Ellinon	Outstanding documentation	\$1,530 cash
PA1718048	Polish Senior Citizens Club – Mount Waverley	Outstanding documentation	\$ 435.20 cash \$2,219.80 in kind hall hire
PA1718112	The Greek Orthodox Community of Oakleigh and District	Outstanding documentation	\$4,250 cash
PA1718113	Archangel Michael Senior Social club Oakleigh	Outstanding documentation	\$3,746 cash \$ 369.60 in kind printing
PA1718115	Victorian Tamil Senior Benevolent Society	Outstanding documentation	\$5,736 in kind hall hire
PA1718118	Wavecare	Outstanding documentation	\$6,558.50 in kind hall hire
PA1718054	Glen Waverley Senior Citizens Centre	Hall Hire request exceeds cap	\$48,195.80 in kind hall hire
PA1718067	Golden Age Senior Citizens	Hall Hire request exceeds cap	\$48,140.03 in kind hall hire

To avoid any future risk to their funding eligibility, officers will work with the groups who were deemed ineligible to ensure that they submit documentation within the required timelines.

A total of \$823,271.09 is recommended for funding to groups under the Positive Ageing Category comprising of:

- \$172,190.80 Cash;
- \$624,694.88 Hall Hire;
- \$14,530.00 Other/Non-Council Facility Hire (in-kind); and
- \$11,855.41 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 event funded under this category includes:

- Amuse Theatre Group Inc. has been recommended to receive \$2,500 cash and \$1,000 towards non-Council facility hire. This funding will support them to deliver the *Amuse & Reach Your Potential Workshops and Creative Training*. This project will include a series of workshops and creative training sessions for performers, led by trained and experienced presenters.

A total of \$151,918.70 is recommended for funding to groups under the Arts and Cultural Projects Category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$61,913.85 Cash;
- \$78,004.85 Hall Hire; and
- \$12,000 Other/Non-Council Facility Hire.

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

CATEGORY 5: Community Events

The Community Events category provides cash funding up to \$5,000 and in-kind funding for 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 J U Alumni Association Melbourne Chapter is recommended for \$2,500 cash and \$774.90 in kind hall hire, in support of their *Celebration of Cultural Diversity in Multicultural Australia* event. This event will showcase the diverse population of migrants living in Monash and celebrate cultural diversity through folk songs, folk dances, as well as a play depicting a migrant's journey and multicultural Australia.

Community Events Funding Exceptions

The Evaluation Panel is recommending funding to the following organisation, as an exception to the MCGP Policy & Guidelines. Officers will work closely with this group throughout the planning of their event to develop their capacity in event management and documentation.

Table 3: Community Events Funding Exceptions

Application ID	Organisation	Reason for Exception	Panel Recommended Allocation 2018/19
EVENTS27	Friendship Australian Egyptian Association Inc. (FAEA)	Application initially scored low against criteria. Panel requested that the group resubmit their application with further details in their event documentation. Assessment of the revised application resulted in a higher score.	\$2,500 cash

A total of \$55,449.50 is recommended for funding to groups under the Community Events category, comprising of the following allocations:

- \$48,300.00 Cash; and
- \$7,149.50 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 highly recommended festivals considered under this category include:

- Uniting Church of Australia is recommended to receive \$6,000 cash funding to deliver *Carols in the Park* event at Warrawee Park, Oakleigh. This annual event is produced by an Organising Committee, which comprises of representatives of local churches. This well-attended family event has grown from strength to strength in recent years.
- Hindi Nikketan Inc is recommended for funding of \$2,500 cash in support of their *Diwali Festival* (Indian Festival of Lights). This celebration is one of the most important festivals in the Indian calendar, celebrated with the objectives of fostering and strengthening social harmony and promoting cross-cultural exchange in the multicultural Australian society.

Major Festivals Funding Exceptions

The Evaluation Panel is recommending funding to the following organisations, as an exception to the MCGP Policy & Guidelines. Officers will work with these groups to ensure that they meet eligibility criteria in future.

Table 4: Major Festivals Funding Exceptions

Application ID	Organisation	Reason for Exception	Panel Recommended Allocation 2018/19
FEST09	Australia Coptic Families Social Club	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as documentation from their 2017/18 grant round was still outstanding at the time of application submission. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial cash funding as an exception to the Policy.	\$6,000 cash
FEST12	Sankat Mochan Samiti Inc.	The application scored low against category criteria. The Evaluation Panel however determined to provide partial cash funding as an exception to the Policy	\$1,000 cash
CS181940	Friends of the Children Foundation	The application is not eligible against the MCGP Policy & Guidelines as the stated purpose of the event is fundraising. The Evaluation Panel determined to provide partial cash funding as an exception to the Policy	\$820 cash

A total of \$42,320.00 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.

GRANTS ALLOCATION SUMMARY

The table five (5) below provides a summary of community grant recommended allocations for the 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program.

Table 5: 2018/2019 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	\$ 152,615.60	\$ 125,564.20	\$ 10,292.00	\$ 21,384.69	\$ -	\$ 309,856.49
Specialist Services	\$ 536,097.35	\$ 11,394.45	\$ -	\$ 116,619.04	\$ -	\$ 664,110.84
Neighbourhood Houses	\$ 72,100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 411,260.90	\$ -	\$ 483,360.90
Positive Ageing	\$ 172,190.80	\$ 624,694.88	\$ 14,530.00	\$ -	\$ 11,855.41	\$ 823,271.09
Arts & Cultural Projects	\$ 61,913.85	\$ 78,004.85	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 151,918.70
Community Events	\$ 48,300.00	\$ 7,149.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,449.50
Major Festivals	\$ 42,320.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,320.00
TOTALS	\$1,085,537.60	\$ 846,807.88	\$ 36,822.00	\$ 549,264.63	\$ 11,855.41	\$ 2,530,287.52
					MCGP BUDGET	\$ 2,563,767.07
					Remaining	\$ 33,479.55

Allocation of Remaining MCGP Budget

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 2018/19 program resulted in a budget surplus.

To ensure that the MCGP budget is best utilised in support of the Monash community, the Evaluation Panel has determined to allocate the surplus funds in 2018/19 in two different ways.

The Panel recommends an allocation of \$22,692.90 to a one-off project in 2018/19, to develop a comprehensive volunteer framework in collaboration with South East Volunteers. The rationale for the decision to fund such a project relates to the complexity of volunteer support, service provision and how volunteering supports the Monash community (including return on investment). Drawing from the extensive experience of South East Volunteers, officers, current volunteers and other key stakeholders, the development of this framework will provide Council with:

- A robust understanding of the volunteering needs in Monash;

- Development of an evidence base to support future volunteering services;
- Recognition of South East Volunteers, Council and the role they play in supporting volunteering,
- An opportunity for South East Volunteer and Council to work together to develop a through and clearly defined volunteering resource and service model that responds to current needs; and the
- Development of volunteer services in line with a community development model.

This framework will guide the future direction that Council will take in supporting volunteering in all of its forms across the municipality. Furthermore, it will provide role clarity for Council, South East Volunteers and other key stakeholders including measurable outcomes that will ensure that a best value approach is adhered to in delivering the highest quality and volume of volunteer services.

It is proposed that the remaining surplus budget of \$10,786.65 will be allocated to the 2018/19 Neighbourhood Matching Grants program budget (for one year only).

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants program provides 'quick response' funding of up to \$2,000 to small groups of neighbours who have come together for the purpose of making a positive impact on their own neighbourhood communities.

By increasing the 2018/19 Neighbourhood Matching Grants budget, this will make additional funds available for locally based community projects and activities who would otherwise be ineligible for application to the Monash Community Grants Program. In doing so, Council is offering an incentive for the community to initiate locally-driven projects and activities, to improve social connections, develop community capacity and leadership and to inspire a positive sense of place. Council's recently formed Neighbourhoods & Placemaking team will have an active role in working with the community to identify, develop and implement projects which are eligible for funding via the Neighbourhood Matching Grants program. These additional staff resources means that the Neighbourhoods & Placemaking team will have a greater capacity to work directly with the community, and support the delivery of projects with an evidence-based community need and strong community leadership.

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 to developing, coordinating and managing the many activities funded by Monash Community Grants Program is well recognised and respected by Council.

The 2018/19 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 2018/19 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 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program is delivered within the available budget, subject to the Council budget adoption at the Council meeting on 26 June 2018.

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. Officers ensured that all funding allocations that were below the requested amount) were reasonable and with consistent rationale.

The Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel has recommended allocations totalling \$2,563,767.07 for the delivery of projects and services throughout 2018/19.

ATTACHMENTS

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| Attachment 1 | 2018/19 Monash Community Grants Program Policy & Guidelines |
| Attachment 2 | 2018/19 MCGP Summary of Allocations |