

2.1 2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

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.

Five (5) applications were assessed between the period of 15 September - 26 October. Funding of \$12,887.16 has been awarded to three (3) 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 \$12,887.16 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$35,072.27, with a remaining budget for the program of \$76,515.39.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 15 September – 26 October 2022 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 15 September – 26 October 2022 to a total of \$12,887.16.

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.

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.

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 **\$12,887.16** has been awarded to three (3) 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
Chinese Professionals Club of Australia (CPCA)	Track Gallery Exhibition: Impression of the Word: Diversity, Beauty & Resilience	\$3,688.16
St Luke's Playgroup Mount Waverley	St Luke's Playgroup Mt Waverley	\$4,360.00
Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre	Healthy Eating on a Budget	\$4,839.00
TOTAL		\$12,887.16

Details of the projects as outlined in the submissions are as follows:

Chinese Professionals Club of Australia (2223QRG0001) - \$3,688.16

The main activities of this project include preparing and exhibiting at the Track Gallery, to present a collection of approximately 100 photographic images that appreciate the diversity, beauty, and resilience of the world.

The images were taken by members of Chinese Professionals Club of Australia (CPCA), in particular by those of the Photography Interest Group within the Club over the last couple of years, including both before and after the covid lockdowns, from abroad as well as in Australia.

It is the first time for the CPCA Photography Interest Group, in its more than 10 years' history, to hold a professional style exhibition open to the general public. This will significantly benefit the Interest Group which has more than 100 members for its future endeavour of photographic arts. The exhibition will also provide a great opportunity to enhance culture connections, through the interaction between CPCA, which is mainly of Chinese background, and the broad community. Meanwhile, the themed exhibition represents its own benefits to the community, allowing exhibition visitors to better appreciate the natural and cultural diversity. In addition, the Photo Walk Day images to be exhibited will present a well recognition of people's resilience, which are envisaged to help post-covid recovery, benefitting the broad community.

St Luke's Playgroup Mount Waverley (2223QRG0025) - \$4,360.00

Providing a community playgroup for Monash residents. This group is supportive of all cultures, providing early parenting support, social networking for parents/carers. There is no other Playgroup in close proximity operating on a Tuesday or Thursday, this group is facilitated by a qualified Playgroup facilitator. The project will be providing age-appropriate activities that support parents, carers and grandparents to engage with their children.

Dixon House Neighbourhood Centre (2223QRG0026) - \$4,839.00

A literacy and cooking program for people on low income and low literacy (i.e. those with special needs, ESL) to cultivate a love of nutritious food and cooking simple fresh meals on a budget. The program aims to:

- raise awareness and encourage lifelong healthy eating habits;
- improve literacy and numeracy skills (reading, writing, speaking & listening);
- develop cooking skills in a safe, hygienic, and sustainable manner;
- have ready knowledge of healthy and cost-effective options for different meals;
- build self-esteem and independence through literacy, numeracy, and cooking skills development;
- establish connections with others through group activity and shared meals; and
- improve mental health and alleviate loneliness via worthwhile activity

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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