7.2.3 2023/24 MONASH SPORTS CLUB GRANTS RECIPIENTS

Responsible Manager:	Fee Harrison, Manager Community Strengthening
Responsible Director:	Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Monash Sports Club Grant program to a total of \$67,882.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of successful applications to the Monash Sports Club Grant program.

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.

In November 2022 Council endorsed the updated Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy 2021-25 that strengthened Council's commitment to reduce harm caused by gambling, and highlights Council's aim to improve the health and quality of life of all community members. The policy continues to build the standing of Monash as a leader and change-agent on this public health issue within the local government sector.

The Policy articulates how Monash Council will:

- Support initiatives that aim to reduce gambling harm within the City of Monash through education and advocacy.
- Not provide support or resources to community groups or clubs which promote gambling, in particular EGM (pokie machine) venues, sports betting, and online gambling.

 Only allow access to Council-owned land and facilities for groups or clubs adhering to the policy.

At its meeting on 30 May 2023, when considering the allocation of the 2023/24 Monash Community Grants Program Council resolved in part that it:

Allocates the residual surplus to create a one-off grant program for sports club to primarily assist them with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm policy and will also simultaneously support actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework.

As per the Guidelines that were subsequently endorsed at Council on 29 August 2023 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 18 September to 20 October.
- Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel.
- All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the December Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The provision of the Monash Sports Club Grants will assist Monash's sports clubs with the implementation of the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-2025 while simultaneously supporting actions from both the Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan and Active Monash Sports Club Framework.

Funding is being provided to implement the Monash Public Approach to Gambling Policy 2021-25 and encourage greater participation from underrepresented community members in the club, such as women and girls and those from CALD backgrounds. Examples of what the funding will be used for includes replacing items (uniforms, signage, etc) that feature sponsor logos not aligned with the Policy and providing information and education to members on preventing harms from gambling.

The applications for these grants were open for five weeks, from Monday 18 September to Friday 20 October, which coincided with the cross-over period between winter-summer sports.

The assessment criteria consisted of the following:

- Evidence of how the club is adhering to Council's Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy
- 2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- 3. The number of Monash residents in your club

An evaluation matrix was developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, and ensuring that the applications are considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way.

The assessment panel was comprised of three officers from the Community Strengthening and Active Monash Recreation teams.

The available funding pool was \$97,406.55, with a cap of \$2,500 per application.

36 applications, totalling \$85,782, were received, with 29 recommended to be funded.

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Mount Waverley Catholics Cricket Club	MWCCC Anti-EGM Sponsorship Program	\$2,500.00
Mazenod Football Club	Uniforms season 2023/24	\$2,500.00
Glen Waverley Hawks Cricket Club	Glen Waverley Hawks 2023/24 Sports Club Grant	\$2,500.00
Monash City Villarreal FC	2024 Uniforms and Equipment	\$2,500.00
Eastern Devils Football Club	Reducing Harm and Increasing Inclusion	\$2,500.00
Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club	Uniform for the members	\$2,000.00
Glen Waverley Cricket Club	Sports Clubs Grant 23/24	\$2,500.00
Oakleigh Cricket club	Clothing Sponsor Update	\$2,500.00
Oakleigh Golf Club	Uniform for Oakleigh Golf Club Members	\$2,500.00
Glenvale Tennis Club	Sport equipment and uniforms	\$2,500.00
Victorian Sikh Association	Supporting Gambling Harm in the Sikh Community	\$2,500.00
Waverley Blues Football Netball Club	Football Jumpers for under 9 and 10	\$2,500.00
Oakleigh Amateur Football Club	Uniform and website/social media upskill	\$2,500.00
Mulgrave Cricket Club	Updating MCC Sponsorship Material to exclude Gambling Advertising	\$2,134.00*
Oakleigh Youth Club Football Club	Increasing female participation in Australian Football	\$2,448.00*
Mazenod Old Collegians Football Club	Uniforms and Equipment	\$2,500.00
Oakleigh Little Athletics Centre	Equipment for Oakleigh Little Athletics Centre	\$500.00*
Waverley Night Netball Association	All Abilities Uniforms and TV Signage	\$2,500.00
Waverley Little Athletics Centre Inc	New training tops, including specially designed ones for female athletes	\$2,500.00
Monash Croquet Club	Croquet: the next big hit	\$2,500.00
St Pauls Cricket Club Glen Waverley	Social Harm Minimisation Project	\$2,500.00
Waverley Park Hawks Junior Football Club	New Jumpers for the club	\$2,500.00
Mt Waverley Tennis Club	Club Uniform Update	\$2,500.00

Mount Waverley Bowling Club	Improving bowling experience for new bowlers and students	\$1,500.00*
Glen Waverley Bowls Club	Tournament Shirt	\$2,500.00
Mazenod Old Collegians Cricket Club	Making Cricket Accessible	\$2,500.00
Ashwood Football Club	Non-gaming sponsor jumpers	\$2,500.00
Ashwood Cricket Club	Driving positive and healthy practices at Ashwood CC	\$1,800.00*
Warriors Gridiron Club Inc	Our only punting is on the field	\$2,500.00
TOTAL		\$67,882.00

^{*}These applications have been fully funded to the amount requested in the application.

Details of how the funding will be used, as provided by the applicants, are as follows:

Mount Waverley Catholics Cricket Club (2324SCG002) - \$2,500.00

We wish to completely eradicate the club's reliance on any sponsorship money obtained from organisations that feature EGMs and have the potential to cause community harm through gambling addiction.

This grant will replace any such previous sponsorships and still enable us to operate day to day, supplying uniforms, equipment and such. This will also aid us in running our Social Sixes program, aimed at encouraging women to play social cricket, and the eventual formation of an all-abilities team in the next 24 months.

Mazenod Football Club (2324SCG003) - \$2,500.00

Funding will be used to contribute towards the total costs of uniforms across the junior and women's teams for season 2023/24.

It will assist the Club's implementation of polices of encouraging increased participation in sport amongst youth in the Monash LGA.

Glen Waverley Hawks Cricket Club (2324SCG004) - \$2,500.00

The Glen Waverley Hawks Cricket Club would use the grant monies to fund player uniforms, some safety equipment such as upgrading first aid kits or player helmets, and general playing equipment. As well as promotional brochures for the club such as "Players Needed" - both female and male -and efforts to promote Gambling Harm Education among our players/volunteers.

Monash City Villarreal (2324SCG005) - \$2,500.00

Funding will be used to purchase uniforms and equipment for the 2024 season which will bring down our club overheads and costs. As a non-for-profit organisation, all our income goes back to the club and members. This grant will help us keep our playing fees down in 2024 to encourage more players to take up the sport and join our club, in particular, females. It will also enable us to maintain our position of not seeking sponsorship monies from organisations that promote alcohol

and gambling. This is very important to our club as we are community based with many junior players. Our club also offers reduced fees for female players to encourage more female participation.

Eastern Devils Football Club (2324SCG006) - \$2,500.00

The grant funding would be used to directly pay for specially designed Indigenous Jumpers with the dual purpose of promoting the reduction of gambling harm in our community. The advertising of sports betting and gambling companies are a constant during television broadcasts and for spectators attending sporting events in person. By having uniforms that include a logo/s that promote harm minimisation of gambling, we will actively support having open and honest conversations regarding the impact that gambling can have on all people.

By acknowledging that gambling is a public health issue with wide ranging effects, this encourages our community members to consider the bigger picture of the impact gambling can have not only on their financial situation but also mental health. We want to be able to support people who may be directly impacted by their own gambling problems or those of other family members.

The Eastern Devils Football Club pride ourselves as leaders in the community, through our positive and inclusive culture. We would like to also be seen as leaders in the space of harm minimisation, through initiatives such as highlighting community issues like normalisation of gambling product promotion. Educating our members and stakeholders about the severe impacts of gambling on people of all ages and backgrounds will be a focus, by offering information and strategies to reduce the likelihood of this issue occurring.

Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club (2324SCG007) - \$2,000.00

The project is intended to purchase 80 new Club Polos as uniforms for the members who are participating in the twice a week golf matches coordinated by the Oakleigh Veterans Golf Club. This will give a sense of identity for Club members, as well as encourage new membership, as we can provide the uniforms free of cost based on the grant received. Having the uniform with the Club name and logo will also result in publicity for the club and thereby attract new members. Most of the members participating are with an average of 70 years and mostly single, widowed, retired or semi-retired people who are mostly living alone and this twice a week match encourages them to be active and the comradeship helps them to get out of their otherwise lonely, isolated life.

Glen Waverley Cricket Club (2324SCG008) - \$2,500.00

We intend to purchase new uniforms that remove the reference to any sponsors that have gambling at their venue (eg. Mulgrave Country Club).

We would also like to purchase new signage and promotional material to encourage more players especially more girls and women to our women's team and girls' program.

Oakleigh Cricket Club (2324SCG009) - \$2,500.00

- (1) Costs involved in providing new playing shirts to ensure the displayed information on playing shirts are in line with Council's Gambling Harm policy.
- (2) Equipment required to assist with the formation of a Girls' Under 12 competition. Equipment includes the provision of safety helmets and specialized equipment relevant to the age group.

Oakleigh Golf Club (2324SCG011) - \$2,500.00

Funding will be used to purchase new uniform, specifically jackets for the winter months. The new uniform is being introduced to complement existing and to provide the opportunity for members to be appropriately attired through the colder months.

The jackets are essential for participation and club representation and demonstrate another key opportunity to consolidating the recent successful merge of the men and women's clubs.

The addition of new uniforms at Oakleigh Golf Club can assist in implementing the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy in a few ways.

Firstly, the uniforms can help create a professional and inclusive atmosphere within the club. By having all members and volunteers wearing the same uniform, it promotes a sense of unity and professionalism. This can contribute to a positive environment that prioritizes well-being of members. Secondly, uniforms can create a further sense of togetherness in a club and provide a greater opportunity to approach a club member if they are in need of support due to a gambling problem.

In terms of encouraging greater participation from underrepresented community members, the new uniforms can play a role as well. By having a consistent and recognisable uniform that will be heavily subsidized, it can create a sense of belonging and inclusivity for all members, regardless of their background. This can help break down barriers and make individuals from underrepresented communities feel more comfortable and welcome at the club.

Furthermore, the club can actively promote its commitment to diversity and inclusivity through various channels, such as social media, community events, and partnerships with local organizations. By showcasing the diverse range of individuals who are already part of the club, it can send a positive message to underrepresented community members that they are valued and encouraged to participate.

Glenvale Tennis Club (2324SCG013) - \$2,500.00

The club has a strong culture to promote the sport in the community especially among the youngsters and at present we have maintain a number of participants under 18's playing in competitions. We're in the process of creating and having club uniforms made for the 1st time. Enabling sporting equipment to those who are disadvantaged. Open days are one of the priorities of the club to promote the sports, which involve advertising materials and seeking schools and kindergartens within the suburb.

Victorian Sikh Association (2324SCG014) - \$2,500.00

The Victorian Sikhs intend to include either a logo or text on the new uniforms to promote and support this initiative to Gambling Harm Policy. This will be supported by doing up some signage around the club facilities and in particular our event days. Our website to include links and how community members can access and reach out for support if required.

Some equipment for sports so as to get the community active and outdoors and away from online gambling. Getting the community involved in the sports is an all-family affair with all ages so creates a family activity.

Waverley Blues Football Netball Club (2324SCG015) - \$2,500.00

The funding will be used to replace the end-of-life football jumpers for our under 9 and 10 players that are all-gender teams. Like most clubs we strive to keep costs down and to allow greater

participation in sport, especially for juniors who are new to team sports. As a club we offer subside fees for this age group. This group feeds from our Auskicks program and with this program we do speak to local schools to encourage a broad range of participation across a diverse group of children.

Oakleigh Amateur Football Club (2324SCG017) - \$2,500.00

The funding will be used to help support the club to purchase new playing uniforms, particularly for our women's team who have not had their uniforms updated for many years. We also require this funding to help keep building our online presence via our website and social media channels. We want to ensure we are addressing all our supporters online and need the expertise and investment to be able to do so. Our club has never been affiliated with any gambling products, nor we will ever. We would like to include reference to this gambling policy on our website if we are successful.

Mulgrave Cricket Club (2324SCG018) - \$2,134.00

The club makes every endeavour to keep senior and junior subscription fees as low as possible, but this generally only covers the bare minimum towards our major operational expenses of fielding the teams including ground rental, cricket balls, and senior coach. The club relies on the generous support of sponsors and social memberships to allow for additional funding towards capital purchases for our facility (kitchen and social room), cricket training equipment, cleaning and stocking amenities, etc. With the introduction of City of Monash latest policy directed towards the prevention of harm from gambling, our club needs to make some adjustments to previous held arrangements with organisations who fall into the restricted categories, meaning we no longer can display any of their advertising material. In order to comply with the CoM requirements, the club have been required to invest in updated apparel with acceptable logos, and also represent our replacement sponsors on sponsorship boards in the social room.

Oakleigh Youth Club Football Club (2324SCG019) - \$2,448.00

Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club are applying for this grant to support the continued growth and development of our girls' teams. We currently have 4 girls' teams (U12,U14,U16,U18) plus some girls playing in mixed teams (typically up to U11) and want to start further girls' teams in other age groups as our participation numbers continue to climb. We wish to purchase 36 uniforms comprising shorts and jumpers for a total cost of \$2,448.

A successful grant submission would be used to purchase playing jumpers and shorts which are tailored for the girls' physique. A tailored uniform will be more comfortable, practical and flattering to wear than the boys' uniforms currently provided, encouraging more girls to play footy with the Oakleigh Dragons JFC and support their learning and development through involvement in team sports (club motto is 'Through Football Better Citizens').

Our expected outcomes of this project are:

- Recruitment of enough girls to field 2 additional teams in the 2024 season and to strengthen the pathway that we offer to females at our club.
- Engagement of girls from families that are financially challenged, particularly at these times that we are experiencing with the cost-of-living ballooning.

Mazenod Old Collegians Football Club (2324SCG020) - \$2,500.00

As a football club with 7 teams, we are constantly needing money for new playing apparel and equipment for training and playing. We always aim to reduce the financial burden on current players as much as possible, as well as to minimize financial barriers to any potential players. One way we do this is by providing as much of the required playing uniform, as well as equipment, free-of-charge; this allows us to keep to a minimum the annual player subscription they are required to pay. We understand that by minimising costs to players will encourage greater participation - with the obvious positive impact on improved fitness, social connection and emotional well-being. This not only has a positive impact on the player themselves, but also on their families, our Club, and the wider community (including the City of Monash).

As we have 2 teams in our Women's program, we want to encourage even greater participation in this area. The style and cut of the jumpers and shorts required for this program are naturally different to those of the Men, as well as the range of sizes we require. This program is one that our Club is extremely proud of as it promotes our goal of being 'inclusive', and of creating a safe and welcoming environment. As we have a number of participants from the 'rainbow community', we want to further promote our club as a leader in this area.

With a Men's Under 19's team as well, we want to minimize their financial outlay - leaving school, starting a job/university, and driving etc can be confronting for these 17- and 18-year olds. We acknowledge the importance of providing an environment that is safe and comforting to them can help as they transition into adulthood.

Oakleigh Little Athletics Centre (2324SCG024) - \$500.00

We will use the funding to purchase new shot put and discus. Most of our shot put and discus are old and rusty. This means our athletes are missing out from learning this event properly and pursuing it at competition level. This equipment will ensure more events can be run simultaneously and reduce the time athletes wait between events. This will greatly increase the enjoyment of these events by the athletes – especially our younger athletes and ensure that our athletes that compete in regional and State Championships remain competitive. This equipment will encourage greater participation from all members in our diverse club.

Please note that our club already adheres to the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy.

Waverley Night Netball Association (2324SCG025) - \$2,500.00

PART 1: Uniforms for new participants to the Waverley All Abilities Program, removing the barrier of cost and making everyone feel included and looking the same. 10 x \$150. T-shirt, shorts and hoodie.

PART 2: TV for the foyer of the centre and associated equipment to put a rolling display of images that promote programs and events at the centre.

Waverley Little Athletics Centre (2324SCG029) - \$2,500.00

We intend to use the funding to purchase quality training tops for our athletes, including having specially designed ones for our female athletes to encourage greater female participation at our Little Athletics Centre. This is a part of our campaign to attract more girls to our centre. Our preseason publicity this year contained images of our current female athletes having a go, and we emphasised how Little Athletics can be beneficial for other sports like netball and AFLW. Little Athletics is an inclusive sport which can cater for both girls and boys of all abilities. Our centre is currently very boy dominant, for both registered and trial athletes (approx. 75% boys: 25% girls).

We do have some lovely friendly groups of girls in some age groups but wish this was the case for all our age groups. By increasing our female participation, we hope to give more girls opportunities to stay in sport for longer, increasing their health and wellbeing, and therefore less likely to become addicted to gambling or other self-destructive behaviours in teenage and adult years. The funding will enable us to give out the subsidised training tops to our female athletes and by them wearing the tops both at the track and outside of Little Athletics, may encourage their friends to have a go and join our club, and also receive their own cheap training top!! Our goal over the next couple of years is to achieve a 1:1 ratio of girls to boys across all age groups.

Monash Croquet Club (2324SCG030) - \$2,500.00

New Club shirts and jackets - Monash Croquet members wear their uniforms whether they play socially or competitively. Uniforms give members a sense of pride and community and encourages them to get out there and lead a healthy lifestyle. The current uniform is no longer available and a new shirt is being phased in. The Club wants all members to have access to the new uniform without financial stress.

Mallets (2) - Monash Croquet Club supplies mallets to new members until they can buy their own. We also need at least 20 mallets in stock for promotional events such as 'Come and Try'. Some of the current stock is no longer fit for purpose and needs replacing.

St Pauls Cricket Club Glen Waverley (2324SCG032) - \$2,500.00

St Pauls Cricket Club, Glen Waverley Incorporated has been trying over the last 12 months to add junior boys' and girls' and women's teams but have found it difficult to create awareness. This funding would allow us to invest in more promotion and advertising to attract players, and to provide equipment and uniforms at no cost to encourage people to play cricket. By encouraging people to play a healthy sport, we believe it offers a better alternative to possible Gambling habits.

Waverley Park Hawks Junior Football Club (2324SCG033) - \$2,500.00

The club requires new jumpers for all age groups, in particular, the girls' teams. We are looking at a totally reversible design with our away strip on the inside. We would be able to include our jumper sponsors on both strips. We are also looking at updating the design of the jumper to a more appealing and modern design.

Mount Waverley Tennis Club (2324SCG035) - \$2,500.00

This money will be used towards purchasing of new updated uniform club shirts and caps with club logo on it. These will then be given to all members of our tennis club who play competition tennis. This promotion of our club and incentive to play competition tennis will encourage more players of all ages to be more active and participate in an outdoor fitness activity, therefore less time to be involved in gambling.

Mount Waverley Bowling Club (2324SCG037) - \$1,500.00

We currently have 5 schools using our club and greens for bowls activities and primary age children really need small size bowls if they are to benefit from the activity. We currently are short three sets of small bowls needed to cater for a class of school students. The equipment we need to purchase will be used for these children and will be used in the future as more schools have already contacted the Club wanting time for their students to be introduced to the sport of bowls.

As part of our introduction package to attract people to become members of our club, a uniform is given to each new member. This is advertised and is seen as a way to interest possible members from the community to reduce the significant upfront cost of commencing playing competitive bowls.

Glen Waverley Bowls Club (2324SCG038) - \$2,500.00

We intend to use the funding to purchase Tournament Uniforms which will be used by our members who play in Tournaments and also play Night Pennant. We are encouraging our members to actively participate in bowling tournaments, both at our Club and to also play events at other bowling clubs. Our Night Pennant Bowling team do not have a uniform and we will use the same shirt for Tournaments and Night Pennant.

Mazenod Old Collegians Cricket Club (2324SCG040) - \$2,500.00

The Club is continuing to broaden and diversify its Cricket offering to ensure the game is accessible to all. We are looking to continue to strengthen and subsidise its Women's Program (where there is currently 1 team, but the vision is to grow this with a second and in the future introduce a girls junior program) and also the All-Abilities Program (where there is currently 1 team but the vision is to grow this also). In addition to growing these sectors and ensuring they are affordable, the Club is looking to grow the junior club, also ensuring its affordability and quality. Uniforms and equipment are essential to this program. In addition, the Club recognises the harm that gambling can cause some individuals in the community. As such, the Club is also conscious to utilise Council's initiatives to provide greater resources and education to all Club members. The Club sees itself as offering a safe environment that uses sport as the foundation for connecting a diverse range of people and creating a strong community.

Ashwood Football Club (2324SCG042) - \$2,500.00

Currently our playing jumpers have a sponsor who is involved in gaming. We wish to obtain new playing jumpers to issue to all players without this sponsor, perhaps a new sponsor (non-gaming). Players have paid for their jumpers so club should replace. Club jumper has been visible to all who attend our matches and training.

Ashwood Cricket Club (2324SCG043) - \$1,800.00

Ashwood CC has done a lot of work over the past 10 years to grow numbers within our senior and junior programs and we have seen good numbers develop in both programs. What we have found is that there is an ever-increasing number of people who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse living in and around our club, representing all genders. We will use this funding to promote our programs to welcome these diverse cultures and backgrounds and ensure that we provide safe and welcoming environments that cater to all.

Through the use of signage with a more universal message, education to our committees and coaches and having the equipment to cater for extra teams, we hope to provide this response and see further growth and richness within our club.

Warriors Gridiron Club (2324SCG044) - \$2,500.00

This money will be used towards purchasing of new updated uniform club shirts and caps with club logo on it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants program is funded from the existing 2023/24 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Monash Sports Club Grants program has an allocation of \$97,406.55, of which \$67,882 has been allocated.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants have been implemented with the intention of supporting clubs to align with the Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-2025. In addition, they also support the Council Plan 2021-25, Monash Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-25, Active Monash Sports Club Framework and other relevant strategic documents.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash community sector has a rich history of innovation in promoting community participation and civic engagement. These Sports Club Grants will enable many of Monash's local sports clubs to advocate and support the Public Health Approach to Gambling Harm Policy 2021-25, benefitting a healthy and engaged Monash community, with a focus on prevention of harm from gambling.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Sports Club Grants addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As the Monash Sports Club Grants is focused on having a direct and significant impact on the Monash community, a gender impact assessment was undertaken as part of the work. This was included in the report that was tabled to approve the guidelines at the August Council meeting.

As per the previous GIA we collected data on how projects address gender inequality, how inclusive/accessible they are and the anticipated reach of the projects by gender.

CONCLUSION

The Sports Club Grants successful recipients for 2023/24 are presented to Council within the available budget.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil