

## 2.2 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.

Four applications were assessed between the period of 2-25 August. Funding of \$2,367.00 has been awarded to one successful application.

#### ***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 \$2,367.00 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$12,914.93, with a remaining budget for the program of \$98,672.73.

#### ***CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION***

The Quick Response Grants successful recipient for the period 2-25 August 2022 is presented to Council within the available budget.

**2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the successful application that has been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 2-25 August 2022 to a total of **\$2,367.00**.*

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of successful applications to the Quick Response Grant program (QRG).

**BACKGROUND**

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

At its meeting in June 2020 Council endorsed the establishment of a Quick Response Grant program (QRG). The basis for this grant program was to enable the Monash community and Council to remain adaptive and agile in response to COVID and ensure that groups could continue to meet and bring the community together. This program was proven to be extremely successful.

Council, at its meeting in May 2021, endorsed the QRG as a permanent open grant program, utilising the allocated funds each year.

The continuation of the Quick Response Grant Program has enabled Council to continue to support the local community groups and artists to remain agile and innovative.

As per the Guidelines that were endorsed at Council on 31 May 2022 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 July 2022 until 12 May 2023, or until the allocation has been exhausted
- Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel
- Applicants will receive a response from Council within six weeks of the application being received
- After receiving notification of a successful application, applicants must commence the project within four weeks and complete by 30 June 2023
- All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the next available Council meeting

**DISCUSSION**

The QRG provides an opportunity for groups or individual artists whose idea, program, or issue falls outside of the normal grant round and previously had no opportunity to apply for funding through Council. By providing this source of funding it ensures that Council is continuing to

remain adaptive and agile to community needs. Community groups and artists can apply for up to \$5,000 in cash and/or in-kind hall hire, with the total budget allocation of \$111,587.66.

It is important to note that Quick Response Grants were developed for the community to provide innovative projects and are not to be a duplicate of an existing program, whether funded through MCGP or other avenues.

The QRG have been promoted through multiple Monash platforms, including:

- Monash Bulletin
- Monash social media – Facebook, Instagram and twitter
- As part of a mail out to current grant recipients
- Art & About e-newsletter

The grants opened on 1 July 2022 and will remain open until 12 May 2023 or until the allocations are exhausted.

Four applications were assessed between the period of 2-25 August 2022.

The assessment criteria consists of the following:

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need or opportunity
2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
3. The number of Monash residents that will benefit
4. The capacity of the organisation/community/individual to undertake the project
5. Budget expenditure

An evaluation matrix was developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, to ensure the applications were considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. The matrix provides the assessment process with rigour and consistency.

A total of **\$2,367.00** has been awarded to one successful application, 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
<b>Mackie Road Neighbourhood House</b>	Mooncake Festival Event	\$2,367.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,367.00</b>

Details of the project as provided by the applicant are as follows:

*Mackie Road Neighbourhood House (2223QRG0017) - \$2,367.00*

We will be hosting a free Mooncake Festival event for the community. We have a large CALD community in Mulgrave, which is primarily Chinese, and this festival is one of the most important in the Chinese calendar. We aim to encourage participation amongst community members through activities such as mooncake making demonstrations, and lantern making sessions for children.

We also aim to use this event as a way to promote and educate the wider community about this cultural celebration, and Chinese culture more generally.

***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***

The Quick Response Grants successful recipient for the period 2-25 August 2022 is presented to Council within the available budget.