7.1 MONASH COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - 2011 ALLOCATIONS
(FIN9, COM1, COM105, YTH1, CHI1, ETH1, AGED 1, ARTS19: JP)

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Committee

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopts the recommended Monash Community Grants Program allocations for the 2011 calendar year as per Attachment A to this report totalling $2,150,879 in cash and in kind support.

2. Allocates an additional $7,729 of ‘in kind’ support to fund hall hire for community and arts groups.

3. In recognition of the number of growing requests placed on this program and subsequent increasing salary costs for agencies funded by Council, considers a 3% increase to the 2010/11 program allocation of $2,150,879 to the Monash Community Grants Program in the 2011/2012 year to increase the total program budget to $2,215,405.

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to formally recommend the funding allocations for the Monash Community Grants Program for 2011. The 2011 Monash Community Grants Program is now in the second year of bringing together the former Community Support Program and the former Community Arts Grants Program under one administrative process.

**BACKGROUND**

Council encourages and supports the work of local groups and organisations involved in community and cultural development and service provision through its Monash Community Grants Program. The aim of the Monash Community Grants Program is to assist these organisations to deliver a broad range of services and projects throughout all areas of the municipality.

On 25 May 2010, Council formally adopted the Policy Guidelines and endorsed the priority areas for the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program. It also resolved “that Council assesses applications received in the context of its service priorities and budget allocations”. Council additionally resolved to adopt a set of terms of reference to provide greater support and guidance to the Councillors on the evaluation panel thereby further strengthening the governance arrangements of the evaluation process.
Application process

Promotion and Advertising

In early June of 2010, applications were opened for financial and ‘in kind’ support provided through the Monash Community Grants Program for the period 1 January 2011 - 31 December 2011. Applications opened on Tuesday 15 June and closed on Monday 26 July 2010. This offered members of the community a six week application window.

The 2011 Monash Community Grants Program was formally advertised in the three local papers (Oakleigh Leader, Waverley Leader and Monash Journal) in the week beginning 7 June, and again in the week beginning 14 June 2010. Additionally, the program was promoted in Il Globo, Neos Kosmos, 21st Century Chinese News and The Koori Mail.

These advertisements invited applications from formally constituted, non-profit, community based groups (and local emerging artists) in the City of Monash, for funding for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011. Letters were also posted to previous applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) advising them that the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program was open to receive applications.

Information Sessions and Application Writing Workshops

Two information sessions and grants writing workshops were held to enable the program to be explained and any questions answered. Grant writing workshops were held at the same time to maximise the benefits for attendees. Sessions were held on:

- 16 June 2010 during the day at the Monash Seminar & Training Centre (Oakleigh) in the evening; and
- 21 June 2010 at the Civic Centre from 1.00pm to 2.30pm

This scheduling ensured coverage of the municipality and provided groups options for people if they required alternative times. All sessions were well attended.

Evaluation Panel

The 2011 Monash Community Grants Program Evaluation Panel was established in January 2010 comprising the following representatives:

- Cr Charlotte Baines;
- Cr Joy Banerji;
- Cr Stefanie Perri
- Cr Micaela Drieberg;
- Cr Jieh-Yung Lo; and
- Cr Stephen Dimopoulos.

Council officers assisted the Panel.

The primary role of the Evaluation Panel was to evaluate applications in accordance with evaluation criteria and associated documentation i.e.. 2011 Monash
Community Grants Program Policy and Procedures, the Council Plan, and the terms of reference for the Evaluation Panel.

**Service Improvements**
The 2011 Monash Community Grants Program trialled a service improvement over and above the information sessions and grant writing workshops. This service improvement was a “grants clinic”. Applicants were invited to a grants clinic with their completed (or nearly completed application forms) on 19 July 2010 between 10.00am and 7.00pm (one week before applications closed). While no appointment was necessary on this day, Council Officers were available to spend as much time as was required to review applications and provide advice to strengthen applications.

The grants clinic proved quite successful with 23 people attending throughout the day. This new initiative will now be a regular feature of future funding rounds and will be actively promoted.

**ANALYSIS**
Applications were received from 218 individual organisations (or individuals in the case of Local Emerging Artists), lodging 298 separate applications requesting a total of almost $2.3M for the provision of Monash Community Grants Programs. All organisations recommended for funding and their funding details in 2011 are listed in the attachment to this report. They are grouped in service area with sub-totals and final totals.

**Community Partnership Funding**
This category provides up to three years recurrent funding for services that might otherwise be provided by Council, subject to additional Council approval through the annual budget process. Funding details for each Community Partnership Funded Agency will be documented in this report.

- No. of Organisations with 2 or 3 year funding as previously adopted by Council on 7 October 2008 or 27 October 2009: 8
- Amount of Direct funding already committed: $474,516
- No. of applications received (including recurrently funded numbered above): 29
- Total value of these applications: $838,069
- No. of total organisations funded: 13
- **Total Direct amount allocated**: $602,812

**Wavecare Counselling Service**
Wavecare is the significant counselling agency servicing residents in the City of Monash. In 2010, they received $138,289 to deliver counselling services as part of the first year of a three year funding agreement. This organisation has been recommended to receive:
- $147,000 in 2011; and
- $152,000 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)

**Power Neighbourhood House**

Power Neighbourhood House is one of nine neighbourhood houses operating in the City of Monash. In 2010 they received $14,608 as the first year of three year funding to deliver the “Connecting Teens” project. This project provides social and independent living skills for local young people (12 to 16 years) with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Whilst learning these skills in a safe and supportive environment they make new friends and develop new networks. There is no other program like this in the municipality. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $15,000 in 2011
- $15,000 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)

**Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC)**

SEAAC has previously received triennial funding for the delivery of a range of counselling and support services to young people and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including specific programs for the South Sudanese community and local schools. In 2010 they received $59,883 as part of their final year of a three year funding agreement. For 2011, the evaluation panel requested that Council Officers review this grant to SEAAC so as to ascertain future funding priorities. This organisation has been recommended to receive one year funding so that the review could take place in time for next year’s grants round without disrupting their program:

- $59,177 in 2011

**Monash Volunteer Resource Centre**

The Monash Volunteer Resource Centre has been a significant resource to the Monash community for the last 22 years. The work they do by way of recruiting and training volunteers, and community capacity building is exemplary. In 2010 they received $137,167 as part of their second year of their triennial funding. Consequently, this organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $143,339 in 2011

**Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care (WEAC) - Youth Outreach Worker**

WEAC have been providing outreach counselling to young people in the City of Monash for a number of years. In 2010 they received $58,578 to deliver counselling services as part of their first year of a three year funding agreement. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $62,145 in 2011
- $64,009 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)
Connections – Monash Chinese Family Services Project

Connections have been delivering parenting, counselling and support services to the Monash community (in particular Chinese speaking residents) for a number of years. In 2010, they received $63,039 for the above activities including delivering Chinese playgroup services as the first year of a three year funding agreement. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $66,672 in 2011
- $68,671 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)

Monash-Oakleigh Community Information & Support

Monash-Oakleigh Community Information & Support deliver a range of information, material aid and tax help services to the Oakleigh and surrounding community. In 2010 they received $8,764 with the view that they produce a business plan. In this funding round they have applied for three year recurrent funding which was supported by a business plan. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $7,860 in 2011
- $7,860 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)
- $7,860 in 2013 (subject to adoption of 2012/13 Council budget)

Monash-Waverley Community Information & Support

As with Monash-Oakleigh Community Information & Support, Monash-Waverley Community Information & Support deliver a range of information, material aid and tax help services to the Mt Waverley and surrounding community. In 2010 they received $7,790. In this instance they have applied for one year funding. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $7,860 in 2011

BEST CHANCE

In 2010, BEST CHANCE received $21,218 to deliver the Helping Hand Program for their second year of three year recurrent funding. This early intervention program utilises properly trained volunteers to visit families where the mothers are experiencing postnatal depression and other issues. The program aims to assist parents before these problems escalate. Council’s Maternal and Child Health staff have been making referrals to the program and report that the service is delivering many positive outcomes for the families supported. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $21,855 in 2011

New Hope Migrant & Refugee Centre

In 2010, the New Hope Migrant and Refugee Centre received $19,477 to deliver a range of programs and activities to CALD groups and individuals in the Monash
region out of the Oakleigh Courthouse. This funding was for one year only. In their current application for three year funding, New Hope is seeking resources to expand these programs and activities from the Oakleigh Courthouse. With the success of their programs in 2010 from the Oakleigh Courthouse, this organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $27,510 in 2011
- $29,400 in 2012 (subject to adoption of 2011/12 Council budget)
- $30,870 in 2013 (subject to adoption of 2012/13 Council budget)

**Waverley Adult Training & Support Service (WATCH)**

In 2010, as the second year of a three year recurrent grant, WATCH received $5,000 to deliver a recreation/leisure program targeting residents in the Monash area with disabilities. This program aimed to provide opportunities for participants to experience fun, social activities in and around Melbourne at night time. This organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $5,000 in 2011

**Waverley Community Learning Centre**

This agency is recommended to be allocated funding for a range of projects in 2011 in addition to its regular allocation for operational expenses. These additional projects and the funding amounts include:

- $12,825 – Monash Men’s Shed: Operational support & volunteer coordination
- $3,000 – Supporting & mentoring Notting Hill Neighbourhood House
- $2,947 – Awareness raising of issues faced by grandparents
- $12,772 - Marketing of Monash Neighbourhood Houses

**Project Respect**

In 2010 Project Respect received $13,112 for their second year of triennial funding to deliver an outreach support service to sex workers in legal brothels located in the City of Monash. Consequently, this organisation has been recommended to receive:

- $13,505 in 2011

**New Initiative Funding**

This category provides one year funding and seeks applications exceeding $3,000. This funding supports costs associated with the provision of new and innovative services consistent with Council’s priorities for the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program and the Council Plan.

- No. of applications received

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Monash Community Grants Program - 2011 Allocations
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Monash Community Grants Program - 2011 Allocations

- Total value of these applications $88,878
- No. of organisations funded 4
- Total Direct amount allocated $27,610

This category of application has a history of attracting interesting proposals. If they prove successful, they have the potential to be provided with recurrent funding in future years through partnership funding.

Examples of recommended applications under this category for the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program include:

- **Australian Greek Welfare** has been recommended for funding of $12,329 to pilot a service from the Clayton Community Centre one day per week targeting Greek Seniors Clubs promoting physical activity, health education and emotional wellbeing.
- **Melbourne Social Forum** has been recommended for funding of $3,291 to deliver 10 workshops for renters in Monash that will cover sustainable living strategies that will assist renters to save on expenses. The workshops are designed to additionally facilitate social engagement and connectedness.
- **Creativity Australia** runs a choir program in the Neighbourhood Renewal region of Ashburton, Ashwood and Chadstone. Creativity Australia has been recommended for funding of $9,825 to fund a part time Community Advocate & Liaison Officer to assist residents to participate in the choir, participate in mainstream society, improve their communication skills, build their confidence, and improve their chances of obtaining employment if so desired.

**General Monash Community Grants Funding**

- No. of Community applications received 123
- Total value of these applications $249,240
- No. of Community applications funded 106
- Value of Community applications funded $170,297

- No. of Arts applications received 63
- Total value of these applications $158,345
- No. of Arts applications funded 58
- Value of Arts applications funded $113,276

- No. of total organisations funded 164
- Total Direct amount allocated $283,573

**Community Grants**
This category provides funding up to $3,000 to either support operational costs or small equipment grants for small community groups, or for the provision of seeding funding for small innovative projects, or to fund hall hire when a suitable Council facility cannot be found for non-profit community groups. For Senior Citizens 2011 will be the second year of their three year recurrent funding. Examples of other projects include:

- **Wheelchair Sports Victoria** has been recommended for funding of $2,456 to facilitate the participation of people in wheelchairs in undertaking fencing with the Fioretto Fencing Club.
- **Africa Women Support Group** has been recommended for funding of $2,947. This is a new group, and this funding will assist them in establishing themselves such that they can focus on supporting African women to reduce social isolation and provide mutual support.
- **Cook Island Community Services of Victoria** has been recommended for funding of $2,947. They will focus on providing the Cook Island community with social and cultural connections, build relationships with other CALD communities and improve opportunities for young people to participate in positive community activities.
- **Monash Stroke Support Group** has been recommended for funding of $2,947. This group intends to provide education and socialisation programs for elderly, disabled stroke survivors, including their families and carers.

**Arts Grants**

Council encourages arts and cultural activity throughout the municipality and supports local community groups and emerging artists in delivering such activities through the arts priority areas of the Monash Community Grants Program. The arts priority areas include Arts and Cultural Events and Projects; Local Emerging Artists and Arts Groups. The aim of these priority areas is to support arts and cultural activity and increase participation in the municipality through encouraging community leadership, partnerships, creativity and innovation.

Examples of recommendations under Arts & Cultural Events and Projects include:

- **Bharathakalanjali Dance School** has been recommended $3,000 to deliver a cultural event titled “Jeevanan” – The Boat people. This aims to embrace diversity and increase the tolerance among different ethnic, community and cultural groups on the issues of people migrating to Australia.
- **The Hatwell Players Inc** has been recommended funding of $2,000 to deliver a Summer Youth Show which will provide an opportunity for children and young people from the local community to work with experienced community actors to develop their acting skills.
- **Waverley Arts Society** has been recommended funding of $1,500 to create a Community Mosaic Mural at the Highway Gallery. The project will involve various local community groups, schools, neighbourhood houses and any other members of the community who would like to participate.
The Local Emerging Artists category provides funding up to $1,000 for professional development and training of emerging artists that can benefit the Monash Community. Examples of recommendations under this category include:

- **Carol Larke** has been recommended funding of $1,000 to attend a Mandala Art, Train the Trainer program which will develop her skills as an emerging artist. As a result Ms Larke will be able to pass these skills in the healing practise of Mandala Art to the Monash Community.

- **Elliot Katz** has been recommended funding of $1,000 to develop a photographic exhibition titled “What the architectural tourist saw” to be exhibited at the MGA. It will include works of art deco and modernist design and architecture from the first half of the 20th century.

‘In Kind’ Support Funding

- No. of applications ‘in kind’ received: 142
- Total value of these applications: $909,280
- Total ‘in kind’ hall rent allocated: $661,289
- Total ‘in kind’ Council buildings (imputed rental): $481,694
- Total ‘in kind’ printing allocated: $93,900
- **Total ‘in kind’ amount allocated:** $1,236,883

Hall Hire Allocations

This category provides assistance to community groups for the subsidised and/or free use of Council’s network of halls, Council buildings and printing. This is considered absolutely critical support for many community and arts groups. Senior citizens groups depend on this support to hold their regular meetings and Neighbourhood Watch rely on it to fund their printing requirements, thereby facilitating their monthly newsletters.

The demand for hall space and time from different groups is always very high. This year, the Kingston Chinese Senior Citizens Club, applying on behalf of the Clayton Chinese Senior Citizens Club (this club was launched this year) were seeking meeting room space in the Clayton area. This new group are very active and are requesting the use of a facility one day per week. They have a regular attendance of approximately 70 members. A review of appropriate facilities in the Clayton area indicates that the Clayton Senior Citizens Centre could be utilised. Currently, the Clayton Senior Citizens Cub has use of the centre six days per week (including Saturdays).

The evaluation panel were of the view that in the interests of fairness and equity, one day could be allocated to the Clayton Chinese Senior Citizens Club. Consequently, Council Officers will negotiate with the Clayton Senior Citizens Club and the Clayton Chinese Senior Citizens Club regarding which day of the week will be allocated to the Clayton Chinese Senior Citizens Club. Additionally, Council Officers will be made available to the Clayton Senior Citizens Club to assist with the re-programming of their activities.
Recommendations for hall hire have generated an over expenditure of $7,729. The evaluation panel felt that despite this over expenditure, the community groups that utilise these facilities benefit from the opportunities of getting together, thus facilitating a more connected community.

**Overall Summary**

Over $2.2 million was requested for cash and ‘in kind’ assistance through the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program. The recommended allocations of the direct financial and ‘in kind’ support and its value are illustrated in the Attachment to this report. The Evaluation Panel has recommended that 209 (this number includes 6 individuals under the Local Emerging Artists category) community organisations receive funding for the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Evaluation Panel has recommended a total of $2,150,879 towards the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program. The 2010/11 budget for direct financial assistance is $914,359 and the recommendations are valued at $913,996. This amounts to an under expenditure of $363.

Council’s total ‘in kind’ contribution is valued at $1,236,883 which includes imputed rental on Council owned facilities, printing and hall usage costs. The Evaluation Panel has recommended that an over expenditure of $7,729 for hall hire be funded by Council.

Finally, in recognition of the number of growing requests placed on this program and increasing service delivery costs, it is recommended that a 3% increase to the 2010/11 program allocation of $2,150,879 be considered for the Monash Community Grants Program in the 2011/2012 year which will increase the total program budget to $2,215,405.

**HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT**


**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Evaluation Panel has assessed applications for the 2011 Monash Community Grants Program in line with Council’s “2011 Monash Community Grants Program Policy and Procedures” document. The allocation of Monash Community Grants is consistent with the Council Plan, community need and recognises the diversity of the community.
IMPLEMENTATION

Council’s determination of the allocation of 2011 Monash Community Grants Program funding will be conveyed to organisations in October 2010, which will include the relevant accountability requirements and funding agreements. There will also be a presentation ceremony to all successful applicants in early December 2010.

CONCLUSION

For the 2011 Calendar Year, Council has allocated grants of $2,150,879 for the delivery of community and arts projects consistent with the 2011 Monash Community Grants Policy and Procedures.