

7.3 **MONASH NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING GRANTS**

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to fund one project that has applied to the Neighbourhood Matching Grants program, for an allocation of funding from the 2018/19 grants budget.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants support community driven projects that are planned, delivered and managed by and for a local community. The Neighbourhood Matching Grants are for small groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants program aims to support new projects that make a positive impact on our neighbourhoods and local communities by:

- improving the appearance or use of shared / neighbourhood spaces;
- building social connections;
- sharing resources and ideas;
- supporting neighbourhoods to undertake environmental projects; and
- facilitating opportunities for neighbours to share their different cultures.

The Monash Community Grant Evaluation Panel, comprising of Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and Zographos have reviewed the application and provided a recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total allocation recommended for this application is \$2,000, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council supports this project as it strengthens community capacity and benefits the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel's recommendation to provide \$2,000 as a one-off cash grant allocation through the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant program to the following application:

- *Online Community and Street Christmas Party*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek support from Council to fund one project via the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program (MNMG).

BACKGROUND

The Monash Community Grants Program allocates approximately \$2.53M annually to a range of incorporated groups community organisations and groups. These allocations support seniors groups, emerging communities, arts groups and community organisations to deliver services and activities that benefit Monash residents. The nature of the program requires that these organisations be incorporated and have appropriate public liability insurance.

Consequently, informal neighbourhood groups who want to undertake a small local one-off project that could benefit their local area are ineligible to apply to the Monash Community Grants Program.

As a means to addressing this barrier, Council has designed a small, grass roots grant program that encourages applications from groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood. Many of these projects would not go ahead without some form of financial assistance; therefore this grant program allows these projects to come to fruition.

Grant Recommendations

An application has been submitted to Council for consideration under the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program. This application is seeking funding to support the delivery of a street Christmas party, which will be partly organised through a community Facebook group.

The application has been considered by the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel, consisting of Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and Zographos. This application is recommended to receive a full cash allocation;

Project Title	Project Summary	Location of Neighbourhood Group	Recommended Allocation
Online community and street Christmas party	A group of residents in Ashwood Drive are committed to creating a community, both online and in person, and would like to co-create a Christmas event to bring the neighbourhood together and turn on the Christmas lights - something that Ashwood Drive is renowned for. The group will use social media and face to face conversations to encourage residents to engage in participatory budgeting and vote on the specific plans for the Christmas event, but the general plan is to close the street between the reserve on the corner and Kanouka Ave and host a community BBQ.	Ashwood	\$2,000
TOTAL			\$2,000

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants policy has been implemented so that it supports the Council Plan and other strategic Council documents. It supports community connectivity and participation as well as targeting those whom are socially isolated.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program has the potential to generate a greater sense of community. This will be achieved by encouraging greater participation in civic life by residents in a local area.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching 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 total allocation recommended for this application is \$2,000, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program assists local residents to connect with their neighbours, come together and share ideas, foster a sense of belonging and increase community participation. This grant program builds on Council's commitment to create a greater sense of community in the City of Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant Guidelines