

## 2.1 2020/21 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Acting Director: Tony Oulton

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### ***PURPOSE***

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

#### ***KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES***

Monash Council is committed to supporting the community to adapt positively to the challenges of COVID-19. The Quick Response Grants were designed to support the adaptation and continuation of local community groups and individual creative efforts to help build community resilience, cohesion and connectedness during and after the pandemic.

Four applications were assessed between the period of 12 – 26 May 2021 and funding of \$1,000.00 has been awarded to one successful application.

#### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2020/21 Monash Community Grants Program budget. The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$135,000, of which \$1,000.00 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$67,866.59, with a remaining budget for the program of \$67,133.41.

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

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 12 – 26 May 2021 are presented to Council within the available budget, recognising the implications on future Council budgets given the impact of COVID-19 and the social distancing measures currently in place.

These projects have demonstrated how resilient, adaptive and caring the Monash community is during this challenging time.

## 2.1 2020/21 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Acting Director: Tony Oulton

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 12 – 26 May 2021 to a total of \$1,000.00.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **BACKGROUND**

Monash Council is committed to supporting the community to adapt positively to the challenges of COVID-19. The Quick Response Grants were designed to support the adaptation and continuation of local community groups and individual creative efforts to help build community resilience, cohesion and connectedness during and after the pandemic.

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. The establishment of a Quick Response Grant Program has enabled Council to continue to support the local community groups and artists to remain agile and innovative as they respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

As per the Guidelines that were endorsed at Council on 9 June 2020 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 July 2020 until the allocation has been exhausted
- Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel
- Applicants will receive a response from Council within four weeks of the application being received
- Once receiving notification of a successful application, applicants must commence the project within four weeks and complete by 30 June 2021
- All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the next applicable Council meeting

### **DISCUSSION**

The current COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for Council and community alike, both from an operational and economic perspective. Council is acutely aware of the importance of many of our community groups and the role that they play in combating social isolation and loneliness amongst our community members.

The establishment of a Quick Response Grant Program (QRG) has enabled our community to apply for a once-off grant of up to \$5,000 for a project that demonstrates innovation in response to the impact of COVID-19 on their group and our local community.

It is important to note that Quick Response Grants were developed for the community to provide innovative ways to respond to the issues that have arisen as a result of COVID-19 and are not to be a duplicate of an existing program, whether funded through MCGP or other avenues.

The Quick Response Grants 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
- Sustainability e-newsletter

Four applications were received via the SmartyGrants portal for the assessment period 12 – 26 May 2021. Applications were assessed by an internal officer assessment panel.

The assessment criteria consisted of the following:

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need or opportunity
2. Demonstrated response to the impacts of COVID-19 on an organisation/community
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, ensuring the applications were considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. This provided the assessment process with rigour and consistency.

A total of **\$1,000.00** has been awarded to one successful application, outlined in the table below. These amounts were determined by the project, amount and specific items requested in the application budget.

Recipient	Project Name	Amount Awarded
Notting Hill Neighbourhood House	NHNNH Community Hopper's Night – Food Event	\$1,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

Details of this project is as follows:

*Notting Hill Neighbourhood House (2021QRG0040) – \$1,000.00*

An evening filled with yummy traditional Sri Lankan food - Hoppers being the highlight - for the entire neighbourhood to join.

After the success of the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year on the 18th of April 2021, the Notting Hill Neighbourhood would like to come together once again to celebrate the end of term and welcome winter as a community. In the last year, we have seen that staying connected is very healing to individuals and makes us more resilient as a community - and good food always boosts the neighbourhood morale.

***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 A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan and other relevant strategic documents.

The Program encourages community connectivity and participation, as well as focusing Council's support on the groups most in need. The MCGP Policy will be 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 establishment of a Quick Response Grant will enable many community groups to respond effectively and innovatively to the impact that COVID-19 has had on their members and local community.

***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

The 2020/21 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***

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$135,000, of which \$1,000.00 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$67,866.59 with a remaining budget for the program of \$67,133.41.

***CONCLUSION***

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 12 – 26 May 2021 are presented to Council within the available budget, recognising the implications on future Council budgets given the impact of COVID-19 and the social distancing measures currently in place.

These projects have demonstrated how resilient, adaptive and caring the Monash community is during this challenging time.