

# 2024 Annual Grants

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## Stream: Arts

### ACG-041: **Abbotsford Convent Foundation**

#### *Art Place*

**Project Description:** Art Place will feature within the Abbotsford Convent Foundation’s (ACF) Convent Live program - a vibrant and high-quality curated program of arts and cultural events that engage with independent artists to inspire our diverse community. Art Place is a new curatorial pillar within Convent Live focusing on site specific and responsive practices to foster enriching community engagement.

Art Place will be developed and delivered through a collaboration with three leading and multi-award-winning independent artists, collectives and curators - Dr. Lisa Anderson, ButohOUT!, and Catlin Langford. Working across a diversity of forms, practices, cultural contexts and backgrounds, the dynamism of these artists will add a new and deeply engaging layer to the Convent’s (and Yarra’s) audience experience and community development.

Through Art Place, with our artist collaborators, we will utilise the Convent’s unique built and natural environment to interrogate and invite audiences to consider how place is connected to culture, community, and environment. Underpinned by a strong site-based development process, each artist will consider place through the lens of their interests, interrogating concepts such as community activism and collectivism, ritual, water sovereignty, and climate futures, expressed through a diversity of practices including photography, performance, textiles, sculpture, video, and gatherings.

Each artist will be connected to the Convent over a sustained period of between 6 to 12 months. They will each undertake research and development, creative development and testing, rehearsals, presentation, and evaluation. The community will engage with the artists’ public outcomes across 10 events that will include presentations of new work (through performance, exhibition, and installation) as well as various public engagements including talks, walks, and gatherings. All Art Place activities will be developed and presented within a growing and impactful Convent curated program that enables richer engagement with the diverse and large Convent community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$65010.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$20000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project strongly aligns with the stream and supports a broad range of activities. The application is well-detailed and has a proven record of successful outcomes.

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ACG-007: **Agency**

*UNTOLD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Talk Series*

**Project Description:** UNTOLD is an established series of talks by Agency featuring inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from diverse creative fields. Tailored for audiences who are interested in the process of ideas that shape our surroundings and experiences, UNTOLD brings people together to talk and listen, and to share their intangible capital: knowledge, experience, histories, culture and ideas.

In 2024, Agency will present four UNTOLD talks featuring leading local First Nations creative practitioners at Collingwood Yards. With a focus on showcasing artistic and cultural practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who live, work or exhibit in the City of Yarra, UNTOLD will serve the dual purpose of both celebrating and elevating Indigenous voices, and attracting and engaging new audiences.

The series will create new presentation opportunities for locally based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, providing a dedicated and culturally safe platform from which they can discuss, share and promote their work with diverse audiences from across the Collingwood Yards precinct and beyond.

Agency frequently participates in city-wide initiatives such as Melbourne Design Week, Melbourne Fashion Week and Craft Contemporary, in addition to partnering with Composite, Centre for Projection Art, This Mob and Westspace (all fellow Yards tenants) to align UNTOLD Talks with existing programs such as our NAIDOC Week First Nations Film screening at Composite and First Nations exhibitions at Westspace.

**Total Project Cost:** \$18168.00

**Amount Requested:** \$12000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The project strongly aligns with funding priorities. Also, this project has a proven track record of success in facilitating these events.

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ACG-057: **All The Queens Men (Auspiced by AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS INC)**

*LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club & Magnifica Splendido*

**Project Description:** Since 2017, ATQM has presented a dynamic body of work that has supported the health and well-being of LGBTIQ+ communities, specifically older people. In 2024, ATQM remain committed to presenting queer cultural events that strengthen intergenerational LGBTIQ+ communities and promotes their visibility throughout the City of Yarra.

This investment supports:

1. LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club - EDC (presentation); a free ongoing social dance event for LGBTIQ+ elders (55+) antidoting ageism and discrimination. Central to EDC is providing a regular space for creative expression for participants; especially potent for this demographic across a COVID landscape. EDC is understood in the context of creative ageing programs including an emergence of aligned health-based practice and research looking at the impact of dance on ageing, grief, and disease or engagement in community events to end loneliness and social isolation. The needs of the LGBTIQ+ community change as they age, and many are looking for social connection offered by dance. EDC considers the significant issue of social isolation and loneliness plaguing elderly populations; more acute for LGBTIQ+ people. Even after seven years of presenting this event, the demand continues to grow, demonstrating an urgent need within our ageing community.
2. Magnifica Splendido MS (development); a new joyful camp cabaret (infused with participation), combining a local talent quest with a whole lotta Italo Disco. This extravaganza connects leading queer performers in a participatory performance, made with the local community. Celebrating the bygone days of live variety television and powerful disco doyennes, MS is shameless, queer camp joy. This development allows artists to adapt their practice, creating a new event for queer and allied communities. MS is unapologetic created for

joy and inclusion (after years of societal contraction and confusion), it's intentionally a whirlwind of sparkle motion to foster unabashed participation for all ages and ability.

**Total Project Cost:** \$36016.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$18,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application displayed strong detail and had an effective connection to the stream. The applicant has a strong history in delivering this project.

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#### ACG-052: **Arts Project Australia**

*Celebrating 50 years of bold and brilliant art*

**Project Description:** In 2024 Arts Project Australia will reach a historic milestone – 50 years in operation as the leading studio and contemporary gallery promoting the work of Australian artists living with intellectual disability.

To celebrate we will present a dynamic program of exhibitions and inclusive events at our Collingwood Yards gallery and expand our international reach, showcasing exceptional work, contextualising it within contemporary arts practice and building the audience for art that is interesting, provocative and original.

Funding is sought from the City of Yarra to support the three most ambitious projects in our calendar including:

- Eden Menta (Leave us) Alone exhibition and talk for PHOTO 2024 International Festival of Photography. Menta is a multi-disciplinary artist who identifies as queer and as living with diffability (1). Menta's exhibition will investigate an imagined future for queer neurodiverse communities and speak to the experience of gender dysphoria (Collingwood Yards, 1-30 March 2024). Free public programs will include a 'meet the artist' talk and a creative workshop.
- Colour is enough exhibition and panel discussion. Curated by David Sequeira (artist, curator and Director of the University of Melbourne's Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery). This exhibition will highlight the ways colour radiates energy, without form or figuration, featuring Julian Martin, Kate Knight, Mikayla Dwyer, Winkie Napaljarri and Eugene Carchesio, among others. (Collingwood Yards, April 2024). The panel discussion will invite conversation with exhibiting artists in paid guest speaker roles.
- Arts Project GALA exhibition and community party (December 2024). We are renowned for our annual GALA exhibition and in our 50th year it will be bigger than ever – 160+ exhibiting artists, a community party for 200+ people, DJ Jordan Dymke in the Collingwood Yards courtyard.

(1) Eden prefers the term diffability, as it communicates that they merely do things in different ways.

**Total Project Cost:** \$99472.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application strongly meets stream priorities, displaying strong community benefits. The application also displays effective project and budget detail.

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#### ACG-002: **Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee (CHEAC) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

*Collingwood Harvest Festival*

**Project Description:** Collingwood Harvest Festival is a time to bring people together and strengthen community bonds and Building Community.

The 2024 Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee (CHEAC) Harvest Festival will be a collaborative effort between housing estate residents, local agencies, and partner organizations. The festival will provide paid

roles for locals to create and deliver events that celebrate the rich and diverse cultures represented across both Richmond and Collingwood public housing estates.

The festival will begin with opening speeches by a local estate resident, a dignitary from the local council, and an MP. The event will also feature an Aboriginal sacred fire and a Welcome to Country by a Wurundjeri Elder. Performances by local estate residents, including the 'Yuling Chinese Choir' and 'Race-Rage Rhymes,' will encourage crowd participation. PBS DJs will provide entertainment between performances, while a professional sound engineer and stage manager will ensure high production quality.

Partner agencies, including Drummond Street, Carringbush, RYMS, The Wellington, and Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House, will facilitate arts and crafts workshops, and stalls by local agencies and groups will provide information about their services. BANH Inc.'s Cultural Catering team will provide food stalls featuring Somali, Vietnamese, Chinese, and East-Timorese cuisine (food by donation). The festival will also feature a "Conversation Pit" community engagement space for anyone to connect and mingle with the community.

Local artists will contribute art installations, and stalls from local businesses in and around Collingwood, Abbotsford, and Fitzroy will sell second-hand clothing, jewelry, food, and tea. The festival will be a celebration of the public housing estate communities and a testament to the power of community partnerships.

**Total Project Cost:** \$30282.00

**Amount Requested:** \$17000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application displayed strength in having clear goals and clear outcomes that engaged the community with arts and culture.

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#### ACG-100: **Composite: Moving Image Agency**

##### *Composite 2024 Creative Program*

**Project Description:** Composite contributes to the local creative ecology by creating a space for creativity, convening, community and connection. The 2024 creative program will support over 40 artists and present 5 curatorial projects and program partnerships. This interrelated activity contributes to the visibility of Victorian artists working at the intersection of contemporary visual arts, media arts, and film sectors, the preeminent expressive form in contemporary visual culture.

In 2024 our program will feature exhibitions by early and mid career artists, including: Natasha Tontey, Roslyn Orlando, Diana Baker Smith, Ella Sowinska, EO Gill, Jimmy Nuttall, Andrea Illes, Ming Liew, Jahkarli Romanis, Jenn Tran, Aaron Christopher Rees, Melody Paloma, Camille Perry, and Rosa Spring Voss. We will also premiere a new film by artist Catherine Ryan with funding support from a University of Melbourne VCA Creative 50 Development Grant. Andy Butler has been selected as our artist-curator in residence for 2024. Andy will work with internationally renowned independent curator Zoe Butt, in the role of research mentor.

We will also present program partnerships to bring local audiences into contact with a wealth of national and international artwork, including:

- > 'Homing Instinct' with Circuit Artist Moving Image Aotearoa New Zealand, The Physics Room, and Storage Gallery featuring three new commissions from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and Thailand;
- > 'Art & Activism Screening Group' is a series of bimonthly film screenings curated by Dr Amy Spiers, companioned with talks by local and international guests including Sakdiyah Ma'ruf and Astra Taylor.
- > 'Staging Site' a program partnership with Griffith University's Moving Image and Sound Archive curated by Simone Hine;
- > 'APA Moving Image Program' featuring video works by Arts Project Australia's studio artists;
- > 'Legacies' with Circuit featuring films by Edith Amituanai, Martin Sagadin, Ukrit Sa-nguanhai, Pati Solomona-Tyrell, and Sriwhana Spong.

**Total Project Cost:** \$165500.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9500.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,500.00

**Panel Comments:** The application is strong and details an accurate alignment with the stream. The application also effectively displays its community and arts connections and community outcomes.

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**ACG-049: Contemporary Sculpture Association (CSA): Yarra Sculpture Gallery (YSG)**

*Yarra Sculpture Gallery and Arts Access Victoria: A Partnership in Supported Practice*

**Project Description:** Following a very successful 2022/23 program, Yarra Sculpture Gallery (YSG) in partnership with Arts Access Victoria (AAV), is excited to offer 6 Artists two month residencies for artists participating in AAV's mentorship program. AAV artists with a demonstrated commitment to developing their sculptural skills will be invited to apply. Along with traditional 3D media and practice, artists seeking to extend their practice to explore audio visual, digital projection and new technologies will also be encouraged to participate. Each residency will culminate in an exhibition of work produced throughout the residency with the exhibition providing artists with acknowledgement and credit for their creative practice while facilitating opportunities for the broader community to engage with the vision and stories of artists practicing with a lived experience of disability.

Central to the success of the program is the supported environment offered by YSG. In addition to space, facilities and equipment, YSG will utilise funding to support local artists to assist in the delivery of this project, with CSA members specialising in metal, timber, ceramics and digital practices providing technical advice for residents. Integral to the experience offered by YSG is the Residency Coordinator who in addition to administrative support, provides ongoing practical support for participants. As demonstrated in the attached Letters of Support, the Residency Coordinator is central to facilitating a rewarding and successful outcome for participants. Experienced in working with artists with disabilities, the Residency Coordinator meets a diverse range of needs from a diverse range of artists; ensuring that YSG offers an experience that is committed to the twin principles of access and inclusivity.

Aligning with the City of Yarra's Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 and the priorities of the Annual Grants 2024 for Arts and Culture, this initiative provides valuable outcomes for the City of Yarra community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$29124.00

**Amount Requested:** \$18000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$12536.00

**Recommendation:** \$12,536.00

**Panel Comments:** This application showed great strength in its outcome to stream. It was well-detailed and properly met each criterion of a competitive project.

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**ACG-028: Dancehouse**

*Dancehousing*

**Project Description:** Due to significant community demand, Dancehouse seeks support to continue our Dancehousing program for another year.

Since 2021, Dancehousing is a direct invitation for self-organising dance communities to find a safe and regular place to meet and practice at Dancehouse. Dancehousing has two primary activities:

1. LONGFORM RESIDENCY / PRACTICE // Every Monday evening the community groups below have free reign of Dancehouse spaces. The groups self-organise, convening and cultivating their culture and empowering their members.
2. COMMUNITY-CURATED EVENTS // as part of Dancehousing, each community is offered a budget to hold bi-annual events that showcase their work with the dance community and general public. Budgets and events are planned in negotiation with the Dancehousing Producer and showcase the goals of that community at that time - these events are outcomes of the longform residencies of each group. Events by community, for community.

Dancehousing currently includes six (6) groups of practice :

> BALLROOM COMMUNITY: a family of Queer, Trans and Non-binary youth who practice ballroom culture

through Vogue.

> CONTACT IMPROVISATION MELBOURNE: a staple in the City of Yarra community for over thirty years, contact improvisers hold 'contact jams weekly

> BURN CITY WAACK: young Waackers a street dance form with most young members from Asia and diaspora

> KWABO EVENTS: Afro-dance, Afro-house, Afro-Cuban and Togolese forms practice and choreographic development

> IN THE MOMENT: members mainly aged 55+, many from the former Cecil St Studios, a City of Yarra community staple for twenty years, which closed in 2017.

> ON THE TABLE: open space for choreographic ideas and research hosted by local artists

In 2024, Dancehouse welcomes TWO (2) new Street dance guest curator groups to run events who specialise in popping and locking, and breaking. Two previous curatorial groups are on hiatus.

**Total Project Cost:** \$62048.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$10000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Application has a strong connection to the community, well-detailed information and a proven record and connection to successful outcomes with/in Yarra. Panel noted the applicant's lack of communication of events for promotion and attendance from previous successful grants. Highly recommend that this is redressed.

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#### ACG-072: Flow Festival Australia (Auspiced by AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS INC)

*Creative Development: Flow Festival 2024/2025*

**Project Description:** Flow will build on prior experiences to deliver 2x Creative Development periods at Abbotsford Convent, and initiate a partnership seeding/skills exchange with Polyglot Theatre.

#### INCLUSIVE PROCESSES: OUR EXPERIENCES

In the lead-up to the 2023 Flow Festival, we introduced a bilingual EOI process for artists, including a plain English form and an Auslan video, catering to Deaf artists facing barriers in mainstream arts systems relying on English comprehension. The EOI received 50+ applications from Australia and abroad, We will repeat this approach for the Creative Development Program recruitment.

The 2023 festival also revealed the need for Deaf/Deaf First Nations artists to have in-situ exploration opportunities, scarce due to lengthy and inaccessible application processes relying on pre-existing arts industry knowledge. There is a need for culturally safe spaces, enabling artistic experimentation without the need to advocate for basic access needs.

#### CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT 2024

- Deaf Artists/Theatremakers (April) and Deaf First Nations Artists (September)

Selected artists via a nationwide EOI process will participate in one of 2 week long residencies to explore and develop ideas for presentation at the 2025 Flow Festival. Artists will be able to nominate mentors or be matched with mainstream industry professionals. A work-in-development showing will take place at the project's conclusion, well-documented to showcase the artists' progress.

#### PARTNERSHIP SEEDING/SKILLS EXCHANGE

We will engage in a skills exchange with Polyglot Theatre, a fellow resident at Abbotsford Convent. Both organisations share strong alignments in missions. Flow Festival's drive for arts engagement with the Deaf community including children and families, resonates with Polyglot's commitment to addressing barriers that children/families experience in engaging with the arts. The partnership will explore areas of mutual expertise, enhancing skills and capacity within both teams and increasing Polyglot's ability to work with and for the Deaf community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$58904.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$14000.00

**Recommendation:** \$14,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application strongly meets the stream criteria and accurately displays how it will achieve its engagement with the community.

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**ACG-033: Ms Frances Loriente**

*Myths Movement and Mark-Making*

**Project Description:** Myths Movement and Mark-Making is a series of workshops planned to be staged in collaboration with Yarra Libraries, which follows on from a previous project The Colour And Sound of our Totem. Though there was still interest in the previous project we found it hard to sync times with all the artists schedules so developed another similar project geared toward a collaboration with a host venue in order to access existing audiences to simplify marketing strategies and eliminate venue hire fees which took a good part of our previous project budget the project combines traditional indigenous myths exploring tales of how many of our native animals came to be in all the glory and individual peculiarities. The children are engaged in the storytelling in an intimate and engaging way similar to being told a story by the fireside. After taking in the story its concept premise in reflecting aspects of indigenous culture and care love and respect for the environment and its creatures the underlying moral messages children are invited to explore the narrative and its characters in other forms of artistic expression. They are invited to dance or take a small percussive instrument and move and create sounds that mirror the environment the atmosphere and the animals in the story line. Along with being talked through the story children will be encouraged to explore the various animals represented in each tale through movement gesture and visual representation. Differing stories and diverse art project will be designated for each workshop. Dependent on availability we are open to having a musician or singer guest at some of the workshops. The intention is to hold these workshops in the different libraries in the City of Yarra over Reconciliation and Harmony week.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12281.80

**Amount Requested:** \$7200.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6400.00

**Recommendation:** \$7,200.00

**Panel Comments:** The project application strongly meets the stream, has a proven track record for successful outcomes and very well-detailed budget.

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**ACG-061: Friends of the Earth Melbourne**

*Friends of the Earth Mural - growing community and creative resistance since 1973*

**Project Description:** To celebrate 50 years of Friends of the Earth (FoE) Melbourne as a vibrant community organisation in the City of Yarra, we will commission Collingwood-based Visual Artist, Illustrator, Curator & Workshop Facilitator TextaQueen to install a mural on the Perry Street facade of our home at 312 Smith Street.

The design and development stage will build on the design provided, with site visits, consultations with FoE staff, volunteers and members, and with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and local First Nations community members to develop the mural concept including imagery and text, which will draw on; FoE's history, values and community campaigns; it's position and history in Yálla-Birrung, Wurundjeri Country; and our vision of a ecologically stable and self-managed society where climate justice is centred, that is free from racism, sexism, ageism, economic exploitation and discrimination based on sexuality, gender or disability, and that supports the rights of women, First Nations people, people of colour, minority ethnic groups, the young and the aged, LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, the working class and the unemployed.

The mural installation will be supported by FoE volunteers and artists assistants and will take place over the course of 4 weeks, allowing a 5 day contingency for weather, rest etc. The mural will be installed using brushes and rollers using premium artist and eco mural paints, and be finished with Anti-Graffiti coating.

The mural installation will be documented, shared and promoted on the FoE Melbourne website, social

media and in email newsletters, incorporating the history of our campaigns, and our 50 years of history as a thriving community organisation in the City of Yarra, highlighting community collaborations and partnerships with the City of Yarra and other local organisations. A launch event will be held onsite at the completion of the mural installation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$29170.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$13000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** This mural is a wonderful celebration of 50 years of important work done in the community to campaign for climate justice and equity. Friends of the Earth and the intersectional nature of the campaigns they initiate around climate and social justice shines through in this project which is an important message to be shared with the Yarra community.

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#### ACG-032: **Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces Inc**

*Gertrude Glasshouse Exhibition and Audience Engagement Program 2024*

**Project Description:** This project will significantly increase artist fees and production budgets paid to each artist who exhibits a solo project at Glasshouse in 2024. Fees will be increased to reflect the growing challenges facing artists in the development of experimental work in the current financial climate. This is in line with Gertrude's central directive, which is to support artists to build sustainable careers.

Each studio artist is given support and financial resources to develop a new project for Glasshouse. This exhibition program provides an important opportunity for artists to present risk-taking projects in a non-commercial context, and is a core responsibility of our organisation, as well as a central outcome of the program that makes Gertrude unique in the sector. The 2024 program consists of seven artist-driven solo projects, along with the outcome of the Glasshouse Stonehouse Residency and Emerging Curator Program.

The project aims to provide significant, career-building support to artists; enhance opportunities for our community to connect with their work; and to deepen our programs' impact on audiences. This funding will enable Gertrude Glasshouse to build on its strong reputation of presenting culturally significant exhibitions and public programs and increase the level of support given to artists at a particularly financially challenging time.

In 2022, 2,984 visitors experienced the Glasshouse programs, and our broader impact expanded to over 55,000 digital followers. This program not only enriches Yarra's community, cultural offerings and creative reputation, but also supports a new generation of exceptional artists to present work to a wide public audience.

Each exhibition welcomes a diverse range of high school and tertiary student groups to study the works presented and meet the artists or curators, further contributing to the development of the next generation of artists and art workers.

Engagement is deepened through public programs accompanying each exhibition.

**Total Project Cost:** \$179388.00

**Amount Requested:** \$17500.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project has displayed effective detail, a proven record of well-managed funds and strongly applies to elements of the stream.

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#### ACG-014: **ILBIJERRI Theatre CO**

*SCAR TREES - social impact performance*

**Project Description:** SCAR TREES is a powerful First Peoples story that challenges and inspires old and new narratives around family violence awareness and prevention. This compelling theatre work provides



opportunities for healing and prevents transgenerational experiences of family violence.

SCAR TREES speaks to the complex layers but too often common experiences of family violence and the impact it has on our community and our children. It shows the relentless resilience, undying hope and ultimately the need to give and receive unconditional love. The production follows the heartfelt story of 16-year-old Garren who is in care, recovered alcoholic Uncle Lawrie, who now participates in the Aboriginal men programs. And Kira-Lee and Bryce, siblings, who are trying to get home for their father's funeral but are waylaid at an isolated petrol station. But when they get there, what stories will be told, and what will be left unspoken?

SCAR TREES was been commissioned by Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Creative Victoria, Vic Health and Fairer Victoria to address family violence and its impacts, and the experiences of young First Peoples living in care. The production toured across Victoria to huge acclaim aiming to break down shame, promote healing and get our community free from violence.

ILBIJERRI is remounting the production in 2024 and seeks support to present a free community performance of SCAR TREES to the residents of the City of Yarra. This production is supported by health service providers who provide wrap-around support, information on ongoing connection for audience members who may need support following the performance.

**Total Project Cost:** \$122420.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$18000.00

**Recommendation:** \$18,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was supported as it displayed an important and impressive project that addresses many of the Yarra arts and culture priorities.

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**ACG-056: Ms Jo Lloyd (Auspiced by AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS INC)**

*FM Air*

**Project Description:** This year Jo Lloyd premiered FM Air in Sydney, commissioned for The National 4: Australian Art Now 2023; a biennial survey showcasing contemporary artists of different generations and cultures. FM Air was performed in the Public Space of Carriageworks on three Saturday mornings throughout The National.

Jo and her collaborators will reimagine FM Air for a series of three performances at The Abbotsford Convent, in the City of Yarra. Jo will premiere this new iteration of the work in the Convent's glorious Mural Hall, with live piano, on three Saturdays, coinciding with the Convent's popular monthly Regional Farmers Markets.

FM Air continues Jo's fascination with the ephemeral and her quest to utilise dance to simultaneously disappear and remain permanent through the vehicle of live performance. Her choreography attempts to define the internal, grasp a sensation, like a perfume - ephemeral.

FM Air appears and disappears, the three performers move in a continuous bind, oscillating in a large transparent tulle bag. They navigate and traverse the space encased in the mesh bag, which highlights their physical proximity and personal histories. As the 40 minute work progresses the dancers shed the bag, becoming progressively clearer to the viewer.

FM Air is a palimpsest of earlier works, examining behaviour of gendered roles and movements that may have belonged to ancestors or ghosts past. Jo and the other two dancers seek to infiltrate the collusion of mind and motion, to conjure up configurations and a limitlessness, continuous loop, simultaneously appearing and disappearing at speed. The work questions the ephemeral and what remains when the dance is finished and what experience is captured by the gaze of the viewer.

'Like molecules dispersed from an aerosol pump'. FM Air, Sydney, Ocular Magazine

**Total Project Cost:** \$41017.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$10000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application displayed a strong connection to the stream and was well-detailed and supported.

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**ACG-096: Make It Up Club Inc.**

*Make It Up Club 2024 Concert Series*

**Project Description:** Make It Up Club (MIUC) is an avant-garde and experimental improvised music and sound art concert series. It is the only weekly event in Melbourne exclusively dedicated to presenting freely improvised music.

Now in its 25th year, it is the longest-running series of its kind in the southern hemisphere. The 2024 MIUC series will comprise 50 Tuesday-night concerts, including our 26th Birthday Festival in January 2024.

Each week comprises three to four sets of improvised, avant-garde, and experimental sound-making by soloists, small and large groups, existing and new collaborators, and local, interstate and international performers. The Birthday Festival will take place over four consecutive Tuesday nights in January, featuring 20 acts comprising 50+ local, regional and interstate performers collaborating to highlight the talent and innovation of contemporary avant-garde improvised sound practice in Melbourne.

MIUC's long-standing reputation, along with our curatorial philosophies for proactively embracing aesthetic and cultural diversity, will continue to form the core of our growth strategies, ensuring we remain at the cutting edge of the scene and cultivate the inclusion of newly emergent scenes and communities with avant-garde improvised sound.

Through the curatorial team's diverse networks, the MIUC can capitalise on unique programming opportunities from its association with other Melbourne-based organisations and festivals.

MIUC will actively work with our ongoing associations with organisations such as Liquid Architecture, Omniversal Hum, Dancehouse, radio station 3CR and MESS to present further events in 2024.

MIUC is also developing a seasonal program with James Hullick at Jolt Arts for 2024, presenting works with a focus on avant-garde creators across a range of contexts and abilities: artists of neuro-diversities, artists of youth, emerging artists and established artists. These events will take place in various all-access venues across the City of Yarra.

**Total Project Cost:** \$109600.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$20000.00

**Recommendation:** \$17,500.00

**Panel Comments:** The application responds strongly to criteria and is a well-detailed application. The applicant also has a strong presence and proof of capability in delivering outcomes.

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**ACG-040: Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio**

*Mobile MESS at Convent Kids*

**Project Description:** Funding sought will support the delivery of 4 inclusive and accessible Mobile MESS workshops in electronic music creation at Abbotsford Convent's The Oratory venue. MESS has designed outreach workshops specifically for children and families which were piloted at Abbotsford Convent in November 2021 and 2023 as part of the popular Convent Kids program which attracts over 7200+ children and families each year. These initial pilot workshops (partly supported by Yarra City Community Arts 2021 and 2023 grants) engaged children and young people of upper primary school age (8-12) and their parents and guardians in a hands-on exploration of electronic sound creation.

We saw sell-out and near-sell-out workshops in both 2021 and 2023, and both children and their parents relished the creativity and fun they had learning about the basic physical properties of sound and creating

electronic soundscapes. Abbotsford Convent is keen for MESS to return and hold 4 more workshops in 2024. In 2023, participant feedback led to the development of two workshop streams - 'Getting Started' for beginners with no experience, and 'Up and Running' for returning participants and/or those with some experience using electronic instruments. In 2024, we will continue to run both streams, delivering the opportunity for both new and returning/experienced participants to participate and develop their skills in electronic sound creation.

The workshops bring synthesisers, drum machines, DIY synth-building kits and audio equipment to young people (8-12) to become artist-music creators, supported by their parents and guardians.

Experienced MESS facilitators (practising artists) guide participants in a hands-on exploration of electronic sound creation, using electronic instruments and experiencing a direct link between electronic music, STEM and creativity. Abbotsford Convent is again offering the venue at a subsidised rate, with specialist support from producers and marketing teams, and subsidised venue, FOH rates, totalling over \$3000 in-kind.

**Total Project Cost:** \$18715.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5976.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5976.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,976.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project has a competitive scope and well-detailed application with a fair budget. It was approved alongside its strong connection to stream.

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#### ACG-077: **SEVENTH Gallery**

*Community Library and Reading Room*

**Project Description:** As an exciting extension of our Community Program throughout 2024, we are seeking support to develop a Community Library and Reading Room. Libraries are crucial places for knowledge and information access. Increasingly, they also offer other critical social and civic services. Throughout 2024 we are hoping to establish a new library in our flexible studio space, which will also act as a Reading Room open to all visitors.

The establishment of the Library and Reading Room fulfils an important part of our Community Engagement and Audience Development strategies. To ensure that the library reflects the needs and interests of our diverse community, we plan to involve our community members in its creation, ensuring a sense of ownership and representation. As part of this approach, we will invite various stakeholders, including exhibiting artists, residency artists, cinema artists, community program participants, board members, and volunteers, to nominate resources that they believe should be included in the Library's collection. By adopting this iterative and decentralised curation process, we will foster a diverse representation of materials that reflects our community's interests.

The Library and Reading Room will not be confined to conventional indoor spaces. We envision creating a unique experience for visitors by providing picnic mats and yard chairs, encouraging them to linger and engage with the Library both indoors and on the adjacent lawn. By doing so, we aim to promote the use of Citizens Park as a vernacular space for everyday participation and cultural value, complementing our upcoming Artist\* Cinema season.

We are seeking funds to establish the library, which includes building shelving, reading chairs and of course purchasing books and other materials. After its establishment, the library will grow, and be a low-cost, self-sustaining initiative that SEVENTH can continue to resource through its own funds.

**Total Project Cost:** \$16103.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8175.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6675.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,675.00

**Panel Comments:** The application has shown strong detail and is well-tailored to stream and community needs.

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#### ACG-055: **The Boite**

### *Portfolio Project 3.0*

**Project Description:** Portfolio 3.0 is a third iteration of a professional development program for emerging artists from First Nations and culturally diverse backgrounds. This is a project designed to engage and empower by offering creative and networking opportunities, resources, skills and assets to build capacity for artists of colour in the City of Yarra.

The first two iterations combined supported 24 acts totalling 90 musicians. This iteration aims to support 15 participants and ensembles.

The program consists of 4 areas of training:

**PASSPORT** (knowledge-building and asset creation): A series of intensive marketing material sessions and capacity building workshops, including the production of high-quality studio photo sets and video recordings. These sessions will include workshops to review current promotional materials and channels, and create an Electronic Press Kit (with professionally written bios).

**SUITCASE** (promotion and audience-building): A small concert series showcasing the artists and live interviews. This seeks to give the artists visibility on social media, pooling together the followers of the partner organisations.

**LOUNGE:** Networking events connecting artists and industry, including complimentary memberships.

**FLIGHT:** multi-artist ticketed showcase celebrating the achievements of the project, with targeted invitations to key industry players.

The first 2 iterations represented artists from multiple backgrounds (from Iranian to Japanese, from Burmese Chin to Zimbabwean, from Colombian to Macedonian and more). One of the acts Pal Mar is performing at Melbourne Recital Centre this September. Another artist Misagh Zamani, led a new collaboration, *The Music Between*, exploring how various musical traditions in Australia evolve and transform. Other artists were showcased at Cresfest, Leaps and Bounds festival etc.

Delivered in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic and Music Victoria in the past, next year we're also planning to partner with Multicultural Arts Victoria and The Channel at the Arts Centre to be able to offer more support to another groups of musicians.

**Total Project Cost:** \$105200.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project strongly applies to stream priorities; it is well-detailed, and it has clear demonstrated community outcomes.

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### **ACG-067: un Projects**

*un Projects: arts publishing, writing and public talks*

**Project Description:** In 2024, un Projects will be celebrating a major milestone with its twentieth anniversary, doing so with a range of publishing and public programs reflecting on un Project's legacy within the Australian arts sector, in addition to forward facing initiatives.

With a City of Yarra grant, un Projects plans to continue its successful un Extended Editor-in-Residence program which pays a Melbourne-based emerging editor to mentor and commission early to mid-career writers to produce critical conversations and online reviews with a particular focus on local arts production and galleries across Yarra. In addition to our Emerging Writers Program in partnership with KINGS which mentors young writers to review exhibitions across Melbourne.

'un Talks' is a public program series to be hosted in venues across the City of Yarra, such as at SEVENTH, West Space Gallery, Yarra Libraries, and is designed to complement our published works, engage community, and initiate meaningful conversations about local art making. un Talks includes panel discussions from local and interstate practitioners, writing or practice-based workshops, reading groups, and launch events. In addition, in 2024 to celebrate un's anniversary, un Projects is producing a celebratory exhibition of local artists and fundraising event to bring our community together to celebrate un project's

legacy and future.

In 2024 un Projects will continue as a sub-tenant at West Space in Collingwood Yards, allowing un to have a physical presence amongst local, diverse arts organisations and artists, and as a wheelchair accessible space for un Talks. un Magazine works with Collingwood-based Public Office to produce the printed magazine design. Being situated in Collingwood Yards allows the organisation to be part of this local ecology more fluidly, and have a physical presence in the sector.

**Total Project Cost:** \$184456.00

**Amount Requested:** \$17000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project has strong outcomes for the community with accurate detail in the application.

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#### AG24-017: **Midsumma Festival Inc**

##### *Bloodlines*

**Project Description:** Bloodlines is a multi-art form exhibition which honours and worships legendary artists lost to HIV/AIDS. The exhibition is a creative and community celebration in four parts: 'The Exhibition', 'The Party', 'Stitch and Bitch', 'Artist Tour'.

##### The Exhibition

Bloodlines is an ongoing series of photographic portraits which honour and worship legendary artists lost to HIV/AIDS. Utilising their skills of costume design, performance and photography The Huxleys' work is a joyous sparkling séance, celebrating queer excellence, which interprets each artists' influence and oeuvre in a uniquely Huxley fashion.

##### The Party

A live-art disco honouring icons and queer trailblazers. Igniting flames of the past and present in a joyful evocation of dance floors, storytelling and queer love. Celebrating the legacy of legendary artists lost over time to HIV/AIDS The Party will be a pulsing heartfelt love letter to queer community and history, featuring a line-up of some of Naarm's finest performance artists.

##### Artist Tour

The community are invited to join The Huxleys for an intimate journey through the exhibition. Community will hear stories about the legends portrayed, and the private stories behind the making of the work and The Huxleys' process of creating camp commentary and spectacle across the visual art, performance and entertainment sectors.

##### Stitch and Bitch

Designed as an evolving project, 'Stitch n Bitch' is an opportunity for community members to contribute panels to a new quilt creating a dialogue of queer storytelling and history never to be forgotten. Participants will also hear from an influential voice from the LGBTQIA+ community. Inspired by the historical quilts from the 1980's and 1990's, the Bloodlines Quilt honours those lost to HIV/AIDS.

**Total Project Cost:** \$70419.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project displays a strong connection to stream. The application is well detailed with proven outcomes and a well-known reputation.

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#### AG24-040: **St Martins Youth Arts Centre**

##### *The Word - Production*

**Project Description:** The Word will be a site-specific, immersive performance, fusing vocal, physical and video scores with text, inside the imposing architecture and symbology of the Abbotsford Convent. Once the site of heavy child labour, it sheds new light on the child within a system wrestling with control of the narrative. The collaboration between diverse young people and established artists climbs inside words - written, spoken and dreamt - as vessels for the human urge to know, name, possess, proclaim and control. Reaching across epochs, examining the emergence of spoken word, ink on paper, typeface and digital download through the eyes of young people, The Word is anchored by technologies through time, of sounds, languages, pen, printing press and digitisation. The young people will explore words: as vessels of power, magic, truth and lies, and the way they have been used and misused to invoke people to feel, think, believe and act.

The Word erupts from the seam between inner (personal) and outer (political) words and worlds, where young people have been quietly waiting behind masks, walls, and doonas.

Upending religions and political systems, prohibitions and inquisitions, love potions and mass hypnosis, the young people in The Word shake up hierarchies and old systems to recover multiplicity, their own power and future trajectories.

**Total Project Cost:** \$152185.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$14754.00

**Recommendation:** \$14,754.00

**Panel Comments:** The application showed strength in many fields; it was well-detailed, well-supported and displayed strong confidence that funding will lead to a successful outcome.

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AG24-095: **Mr Richard Monger (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

*ILMBG Contemporary Craft 2023*

**Project Description:** Host a free Ceramic hand building workshop that invites residential participation from the Yarra public housing estates as well as the broader municipality of ages 18 and above to interact and express a moment of personal self-healing, reflection, growth, and self-esteem. Using a Sun dry clay this workshop will be presented in conjunction with The Wellington, NJC, and BANH as part of Craft Victoria Contemporary Craft 2023.

Each participant will sculpt their own cup, decorate and take it home as a keepsake. Cups represent The 5 senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Pertaining to situations and events of an emotional nature – by capturing positive mindfulness, and creative natures, the physical is able to reflect and express.

All materials will be provided for each event. Consisting of 10 participants over a 4 hrs. per workshop, between 10 am and 2 pm. minimum of 30 participants. Consisting of sculptural hand-building with acrylic decoration. Along with an Artist talk, refreshments, and a collaborative sharing of those enlightened moments, their tools on how they found strength through their own personal hardships.

‘Process is to re-explore the individual diversity of self-expression through collective repossession’  
Richard Monger

**Total Project Cost:** \$4250.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$950.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was well detailed and realistic with its outcomes and budget.

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**Stream: Climate Action and Environment**

#### AG24-063: **Yarra Climate Action Now (YCAN)**

*Mural Promoting Climate Action at 134 Perry St, Collingwood - Facing Hoddle Street*

**Project Description:** We want to create a high-quality mural to raise awareness of the need for strong community action to address the climate emergency. The location is 134 Perry Street, Collingwood. The mural will be on a brick wall and two adjacent paling fences facing Hoddle Street. Dimensions: brick wall 7 metres high and 16 Metres long; paling fences: 2 metres high and 3.5 and 5.4 metres in length.

Images of the site and proposed mural are uploaded. The wall owner Nam Le, contact nam1234@gmail.com, is an active partner in the mural project and has approved the conceptual design. The project will also increase the amenity of the locality, as the wall is currently covered in graffiti.

The mural design was created by John Lawry, an experienced mural artist of international standing. <https://www.johnlawryart.com/murals> The design captures the need for action on climate without being confrontational. Two kangaroos peer anxiously from a forest where a bushfire burns. Their anxious expressions call for help, complementing the words "PROTECT OUR WORLD Climate Action Now". The emotional appeal of the kangaroos encourages repeated viewing that strengthens the call to action on climate. This fits well with the community building approach in the Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2020 - 2024 and Nature Strategy 2020 - 2024.

"Yarra Climate Action Alliance" members and other community members e.g from local housing estates will be invited to join in creating parts of the mural, under supervision from John Lawry and YCAN.

John Lawry's experience ensures the quality and durability of the mural. The materials will be exterior-quality acrylic paint, both spray-on and brush-on. When completed, the wall and fences will be coated with Dulux precision anti-graffiti coating to minimise spoilage. No infrastructural change to the property will be required, and the project complies with planning and traffic control permits.

**Total Project Cost:** \$19900.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A good project which promotes community awareness around climate change issues.

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#### AG24-091: **Community Pop Up Markets Ltd**

*Creating a local food supply network for equitable access at The Community Grocer Fitzroy*

**Project Description:** The Community Grocer Fitzroy currently runs a weekly fresh food market at the Atherton Public Housing Estate. This market seeks to reduce food insecurity by providing local affordable access to culturally appropriate fruit and vegetables. Currently, all produce sold at the market is procured via a wholesaler. While all produce is Australian, if not Victorian, we would like to further diversify our supply chain and increase local procurement to build the resilience of the local food system in Fitzroy, and our role in it.

We would use this funding to undertake a mapping activity to identify opportunities for procuring locally grown and affordable produce across the City of Yarra and within a 10km radius of the market.

We would then explore and establish procurement partnerships with these growers. We expect there would be a mix of producers including backyard growers, small urban plots and larger enterprises who might be able to grow and sell produce to The Community Grocer Fitzroy.

We expect we would purchase up to 5 different lines of produce from through these alternate channels, creating a small but potentially important local supply network for our market and within the City of Yarra.

We suspect this would have benefits and impacts for a broad number of stakeholders involved - including customers, growers and The Community Grocer. It would enable customers to access fresh and locally grown food produced in more agroecological ways which ultimately better supports their health and nutrition. It would potentially build the economic viability of small scale agriculture for local growers and

remove some well known challenges and expenses around logistics by being hyperlocal. It would benefit The Community Grocer through diversified and resilient supply chains and better quality produce.

**Total Project Cost:** \$198446.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8200.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6500.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,200.00

**Panel Comments:** The application is strongly aligned to Yarra's climate action plan and addresses a very real need in Yarra around food insecurity. It was well-detailed, properly budgeted and had relevant community outcomes.

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#### AG24-103: **Melbourne Community Television Consortium**

*Climate Action Chronicles (Yarra)*

**Project Description:** "Climate Action Chronicles: Empowering Diverse Communities for a Sustainable Future" aims to produce a series of three short videos focusing on climate action. With a specific focus on educating culturally diverse audiences. This project will incorporate community consultation within the City of Yarra to ensure the diverse communities within the municipality are engaged.

The primary objectives of this initiative are to raise awareness about climate change and its impact on diverse communities, engage culturally diverse audiences through relatable and inclusive content, educate viewers about sustainable practices, and promote community involvement in climate action initiatives. To achieve these goals, the project will entail the production of a series of visually appealing short videos, each addressing a specific climate action topic.

A key aspect of this video series is its emphasis on cultural relevance. The content will showcase diverse cultures and traditions, highlighting their connections to nature and demonstrating how climate change affects specific communities. By incorporating cultural practices that promote sustainability, the initiative will aim to resonate with culturally diverse audiences on a deeper level.

In addition to personal narratives, the video series will provide practical tips and solutions for reducing carbon footprints. These actionable steps will cover various areas such as transportation, energy use, and waste management, with a focus on low-cost and accessible solutions suitable for diverse audiences.

The distribution and outreach of the video series will be facilitated through Channel 31's broadcast platforms and online channels.

"Climate Action Chronicles" seeks to empower diverse communities for a sustainable future through a series of short videos. By focusing on cultural relevance, personal stories, practical tips, and community engagement, the initiative aims to inspire and mobilise culturally diverse audiences to take meaningful climate action.

**Total Project Cost:** \$28080.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8900.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,900.00

**Panel Comments:** The panel noted the viability of this project and its focus on specific issues which will deliver good community outcomes.

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#### AG24-106: **Friends of Merri Creek Labyrinth (Auspiced by Friends of Merri Creek Incorporated)**

*Labyrinth biodiversity restoration - rehabilitation of Fourth Garden Bed with indigenous planting*

**Project Description:** Our 2024 project represents the fourth stage of a comprehensive, multi-year endeavour to rehabilitate the Labyrinth surroundings as a showcase climate action project.

This project marks a significant milestone in our ongoing partnership to enhance the Merri Creek Labyrinth and its surrounding landscape. Building upon the successful restoration of "Bed 3" in June 2023, our project aims to continue the transformation of this urban natural oasis.



Located at Hewson's Hollow along the Merri Creek trail, the Labyrinth is nestled between the Quarries Park playground and the wetlands and rotunda. It rests on the creek corridor of Crown Land which is managed by the City of Yarra.

To date, we have made progress in weed removal, shaping, mulching, and planting indigenous flowering heath plants and grasses in Bed 1 (established in 2021), Bed 2 (established in 2022) and Bed 3 (established 2023). These efforts have marked the initial steps in re-establishing a biodiverse habitat in the area around the Labyrinth.

This grant application represents the fourth stage of our collaborative initiative, with a focus on expanding planting areas across the footpath opposite the Labyrinth. Our goal is to continue to enhance ecological diversity and create a thriving natural environment around the Labyrinth, creating a highly visible demonstration corridor that invites community interest and engagement.

With the support of this grant, we will engage in additional planting of indigenous species, rigorous weed management, and ongoing maintenance. Through these activities, we aim to transform the Merri Creek Labyrinth and environs into a biodiverse sanctuary, offering an increasingly rewarding experience for visitors, and exemplifying both our and Yarra Council's commitment to environmental stewardship.

**Total Project Cost:** \$17359.02

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The panel noted this application strongly engages the community and is clearly well-defined. The fact that the Council has funded aspects of this project over the years is testament to the success of this project in building community engagement with nature.

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#### **AG24-111: Richmond Community Garden Group (RCGG) (Auspiced by RICHMOND COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE INC)**

*Inner City Gardening-Supporting Food Production, Friendships and Community Resilience*

**Project Description:** A series of workshops and events will be run across the year, that support interest in urban food production. These will be open to any potential gardeners in Yarra, from apartment residents to people with backyards or nature strips. The workshops will be run by professionals in their area of expertise. They will be programmed to suit the relevant season and community interest as well as to coincide with any other gardening initiatives that are running at the same time, for example, City of Yarra's nature strip planter boxes initiative.

The intention is to inform, excite and educate people who are interested in growing food but may have limited knowledge, hesitancy around starting and/or limited access to space. Connecting these people via the workshops and events will strengthen social connections and build a sense of community. The workshops will be a mix of both hands on, practical activities as well as simple, informative sessions that support participants to get started and keep going.

A range of events promoting produce swaps, sharing of local knowledge and resources, to connect likeminded people will also be run.

Guest speakers, that have expertise and experience in setting up urban food production opportunities in public spaces will also be utilised.

The workshops and events will be run from Burnley Backyard and Studio 1. Burnley Backyard has both a community garden group (plot holders) as well as a volunteer led community garden group managed by RCLC. Studio 1 will also host workshops; its access to a large kitchen, and sited adjacent to the new Ardency over 55's complex and within the Studio Nine apartment complex, will draw in new apartment dwellers and residents from small units in the area.

**Total Project Cost:** \$10208.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4000.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,000.00

**Panel Comments:** This project was supported by the panel as it looks to create effective and positive community outcomes.

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**AG24-152: Railway Gardeners (Auspiced by North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House)**

*Let's Grow*

**Project Description:** We want to improve sustainable practices in the garden by establishing a propagation and a composting program and we want to involve individual members of the local community as well as local schools in these programs and, ultimately, the garden as a whole. .

**Propagation Program:**

We want to purchase two mini greenhouses and a larger greenhouse which will enable us to propagate seeds and help our garden to be financially viable as well as environmentally sustainable. We will run propagation workshops and develop an education program that will involve students from the local primary and secondary school. With this program we also hope to support a network of food gardens in Princes Hill, including at the local schools, the public housing estate, the retirement village and street planter boxes.

**Composting Program:**

We want to expand our composting activities. Currently only active gardeners are able to drop off their food waste. We want to expand this to the broader community so that less food waste ends up in landfill and more people engage with the garden. We will engage the schools, the public housing estate and the retirement village in the composting program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$28116.00

**Amount Requested:** \$7736.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5960.00

**Recommendation:** \$7,736.00

**Panel Comments:** The panel noted the application had fantastic outcomes for the local community. There will be an opportunity to connect with the local and adjacent schools and neighbourhood houses.

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**AG24-154: FareShare Australia Inc.**

*Improving the sustainability and productivity of the FareShare Abbotsford Kitchen Garden*

**Project Description:** For over 20 years FareShare has been rescuing surplus food and cooking it into free, nutritious meals for people doing it tough. In 2016, FareShare created a large kitchen garden in the heart of Melbourne on VicTrack land close to our kitchen in Abbotsford. With initial support from RACV and Gandel Philanthropy FareShare transformed a former disused site, between Victoria Park railway station and Victoria Park oval, into a productive urban vegetable patch. Since that time, the kitchen garden has produced around 5,000kg of vegetables and herbs each year on 60 beds, tended by volunteers, many of whom live in the City of Yarra.

After 7 years of operation on this site, we would like to use the experience we have gained to improve some issues with the garden resulting from the initial layout and design. These improvements will benefit the community through improving the volunteer experience and an increased contribution to food relief.

This project consists of 2 parts that, taken together, aim to improve the sustainability and productivity of the kitchen garden.

1. Reduce water use in the garden by:
  - a. Replacing the existing drip irrigation connections at the end of all of the garden beds to; eliminate wasteful leakage, enable the driplines to be removed for easier bed preparation and allow us to switch out the driplines for misters during seed germination.
  - b. Installing rain sensors on the existing automated controllers to ensure that the garden is not being watered unnecessarily after rain events.
2. Increase production by bringing in soil/compost to reinstate the bed width in 3 areas (12 beds) and maximise the growing space where the bed width has reduced over time from 120cm to around 90cm, and where the paths have correspondingly become particularly wide.

**Total Project Cost:** \$31108.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4900.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3900.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,900.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was well-detailed and properly budgeted. The panel strongly supported funding this project.

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#### AG24-191: **Yarra Riverkeeper Association (Auspiced by Yarra Riverkeeper Association)**

*Eco-inking by the Birrarung, senses of connecting*

**Project Description:** The activities proposed in this grant build on experience and learning from the 2022-23 project PillowTalk, that is:

- that eco-inking with natural pigments on to fabric and paper is a nurturing and refreshing inter-generational activity that is a natural partner with advocacy.
- that in the climate emergency a great many people value expression and regrouping in nature. and wish to have a say on problems associated with industry and government short-term-ism.

In this project I'd like to:

1. run place-based and indoor 'Eco-inking by the Birrarung' workshops (x4) at various sites in the City of Yarra that raise awareness of climate change, waste and the way the Yarra River is being enhanced and restored to create ecological connections.
2. invite possibilities for action using using eco-inking and paper folding techniques for advocacy messages, letters and cards
3. use waste materials, that is pillow fabric and paper from discarded books, exercise books and ephemera
4. hold an inter-generational forum/gathering on nature, waste and the city that highlights 'actions inspired by and supported by nature', specifically the Yarra River Corridor' (quoted in Mark Scott et al Nature based solutions of the contemporary city ... Planning Theory & Practice vol 17-2, 2016)

The stress of 'our times' on people continues to grow. In a recent Age article Sean Kelly highlights the reality that urgent action is needed on the climate emergency. Yet people are not taking up action. I notice that in embodied activity in nature people become receptors of its colours, textures and the day's conditions and are motivated towards action.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12229.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9849.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5328.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,849.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel was pleased with the scope, details and outcomes of this project.

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#### AG24-202: **MARINE MAMMAL FOUNDATION**

*Bin Not Bay - Connecting Catchment Communities*

**Project Description:** In 2021 an Australian fur seal affectionately known as 'Salvatore' made a splash on social media, sighted frolicking in the Yarra River. The excitement he generated showed how passionate City of Yarra locals and visitors alike are for the environment and the animals who share our watery backyard.

Despite this, litter in Yarra has become a serious problem.

Rubbish dropped on the streets of Yarra ends up in river and bay, placing our iconic native animals like Salvatore under threat. It is vital that action is taken to prevent litter from escaping into waterways.

Bin Not Bay - Connecting Catchment Communities gives City of Yarra locals the chance to engage in unique community-based education. It is part of our award-winning Marine Litter Project, a program designed to deepen the community's understanding of litter in the Port Phillip Catchment and its devastating impact on the local environment, and to equip individuals with the tools to make meaningful change.

Bin Not Bay is a series of tailored presentations and hands-on activities delivered by Marine Mammal

Foundation scientists to schools and community groups, in community spaces and at festivals and public events. We use what we learn from research on marine mammals, including Victoria's own critically-endangered Burrunan dolphin, to foster a strong sense of community connection with the local environment.

Participants will get hands-on with dolphin and seal skulls and view underwater footage of seals and dolphins. They explore how litter enters the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay and impacts the health of both river and marine environments, while learning simple and effective strategies to reduce litter and reliance on single-use plastic. They are also directly connected to opportunities to get involved in river cleanups and litter prevention actions.

Through this project, we will deliver 14 sessions within the Yarra community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$29993.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9940.00 **Minimum Required:** \$7470.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,940.00

**Panel Comments:** The applicant has a track record of successfully delivering this type of program. The panel was pleased with the application's detail, support and community outcomes.

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AG24-205: **CLIMARTE Inc**

*ART+CLIMATE=ACTION>*

**Project Description:** To produce and present powerful climate justice artwork on an ongoing basis, CLIMARTE is presenting *ART+CLIMATE=ACTION>* (*A+C=A>*) projects (free exhibitions, performance and associated forums) in the City of Yarra and beyond.

*A+C=A>* is directly modelled on CLIMARTE's highly collaborative and internationally recognised *ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE* (*A+C=C*) Biennial Festivals presented in 2015, 2017 and 2019. The *ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE* 2019 Festival involved 33 participating galleries and museums, and 174 artists. While the exhibitions collectively attracted an audience of 469,000 people, 153 public programs featured contributions from 205 presenters, including at the AILA award-winning Living Pavilion at the University of Melbourne.

*A+C=A>* aims to partner with trusted organisations and individuals focussed on art, science, culture and civil society to produce more creative work more often, starting with projects in the City of Yarra.

In examining what a better future looks like through a creative lens, *A+C=A>* will explore the nexus between money, politics, information and power in socially engaging ways. It will consider the ongoing devastating consequences of colonial violence, late-stage capitalism/wealth-hoarding through complex tax avoidance schemes and other forms of financial abuse as well as business models that limit access to life's basics (i.e., shelter, food, energy, knowledge, verifiable public interest information) to maximise private wealth and power.

*A+C=A>* will invite audiences to reflect on the power of art to inform, engage and mobilise communities to effectively respond to the Climate Emergency. It will question what genuine Climate Justice looks like, including 'climate reparations'. For instance, given zero emission alternatives were being developed in the 1970s, should massive legacy and ongoing fossil fuel profits be classified as 'ill-begotten gains' under the law?

Having operated the world's first known Climate Emergency focussed gallery for more than 18 months, CLIMARTE is exceptionally well placed to drive collaborative, community-focussed projects addressing the wicked climate issue.

**Total Project Cost:** \$158700.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was detailed and supported by the panel who noted it would bring great benefit to the community.

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## Stream: Community Development

### AG24-002: **Richmond Vietnamese Church of Christ (Auspiced by Churches of Christ Community Care)**

*Richmond Multicultural Community Hub*

**Project Description:** We host a gathering for Vietnamese overseas students and new migrant families on a monthly basis. Council demographic studies indicate 3.4% of locals are Vietnamese (<https://profile.id.com.au/yarra/ancestry>). In January-April 2023, 9,366 students have returned to Victorian higher learning facilities. 35% growth (ref: education.gov.au). We have 150 registered, of which 50 are participants with 100 on the waiting list. In this season of pandemic recovery, economic crisis, increase in living costs and housing shortages, we are experiencing a higher demand for connection and inclusivity. Our target audience experience financial hardship, isolation, loneliness and lack supportive relationships. We aim to provide activities that will encourage authentic community connection in a safe environment. Offering a great opportunity everyone looking to improve their English skills and to learn about the Australian culture, giving them confidence to obtain gainful employment. Group topics are varied with plenty of opportunity to share stories, experiences, and perspectives. It is a relaxed atmosphere providing everyone the ability to get to know one another. We offer playgroups, arts and crafts activities for the children, led by 3 trained childcare workers. Safe play equipment is available on site and is supervised, within easy reach and viewing of parents. Volunteers teach basic cooking skills to students and migrant families. There is group craft and indoor games. Meetings conclude with a shared meal. The networking occurring in the group alleviates the feelings of isolation. We provide barista training on a commercial coffee machine. Leadership skills amongst the students is encouraged. It is a place to bridge local cultural differences and language barriers. On a needs basis we are a referral point to support services (Vietnamese Women's Association and Overseas Student bodies) for vulnerable members of the community. We recently engaged a volunteer student Youth Coordinator who assists and supports local university students.

**Total Project Cost:** \$147735.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel was pleased with the scope of the project. (The panel noted it could have been stronger with detail in describing the need in the local community, the activities and development.)

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### AG24-006: **Clemente Fitzroy (Auspiced by Australian Catholic University)**

*Clemente Fitzroy*

**Project Description:** Clemente Fitzroy is a community-based program designed to empower marginalised or socially excluded members of society by re-engaging them with the community through an education in the humanities. Clemente Fitzroy sets itself apart from more traditional vocational or 'life-skills' courses that are offered to those suffering poverty or social exclusion in order to solely find work. Rather, Clemente Fitzroy offers a pathway to think reflectively rather than reactively and, by doing so, empowers and enlightens students to engage critically with the systemic causes behind their situation in an authentic, respectful, and transformative way. This is a unique and empowering program that moves beyond simple training and into the realm of self-empowerment and improvement with lasting and life-changing effects.

Clemente Fitzroy operates under the principle that, in the words of founder Earl Shorris, 'the poor are human and that the proper celebration of their humanity is in the public world, as citizens'. The program is more than simply a gateway into further education; it aims, through the study of humanities subjects such as

literature, history, philosophy, and art, to assist students in breaking out of their cycles of disadvantage and become fully participatory in the public world.

Clemente Fitzroy runs four units that run for 12 weeks each - a total of two years of study. The program is open to anyone over 18 who demonstrates a desire to learn, willingness to commit to the program, a literacy level sufficient to read a newspaper, and a degree of ongoing stability in their lives.

The program comes at no cost to the student. Each student will be allocated a volunteer Learning Partner to aid them in their journey. Graduates receive a Certificate in Liberal Studies which can be used, should the student choose, as a bridge into an Arts Bachelor at ACU.

**Total Project Cost:** \$75700.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4000.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was noted to have a positive community outcome with realistic scope. The panel noted that the applicant could have been more specific on its community benefits.

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#### AG24-010: **Fitted for Work**

##### *Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training*

**Project Description:** Fitted for Work are planning a professional development session of Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training for our staff and volunteers. During a 4-hour session, the Educator (a Wurundjeri Elder) will discuss the following themes with our team of staff and volunteers;

☐ Welcome to Country

☐ Welcome to Country meaning

☐ Wurundjeri Identity

☐ Aboriginal Cultural Diversity

☐ Terminology

☐ Wurundjeri Culture

☐ Modern Issues

☐ Wurundjeri Today

☐ Supporting Wurundjeri clients at Fitted for Work

☐ Question Time

Pre and post-training surveys will be sent to invited participants. Catering to be purchased through a First Nations owned and operated catering company.

**Total Project Cost:** \$17845.80

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2500.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought this application was strong, well written with strong community outcomes. The panel decided it deserved full funding support.

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#### AG24-028: **Cohealth**

##### *Cohealth Footwear and Aids Program for Vulnerable Communities*

**Project Description:** The program aims to provide suitable footwear, orthotics and aids to vulnerable cohealth clients living in the City of Yarra with the ultimate goal of reducing the need for lower limb amputation and improving quality of life.

The following people living within the City of Yarra will be eligible for participation in the program provided they have a foot concern and/or deformity, experience financial hardship and meet one of the following vulnerable classifications:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- Refugees and people who are seeking asylum

- People at risk of harm associated with drug and alcohol abuse
- People who identify as LGBTQIA+
- People with disabilities and carers
- People with serious mental illness
- Older people with complex needs
- People who have recently been released from prison
- People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- People who experience family violence

The program will enable eligible people access to any of the following support aids as determined by the treating podiatrist:

- Appropriately fitted footwear, including customised footwear when regular footwear is not suitable
- Orthotics and other podiatry prefabricated foot aids and materials, which would include heel raises, wedges, orthotic modifications, topcovers etc.
- Compression stockings to assist with lower limb vascular complications
- CAM boot/walker for acute foot and ankle injuries
- Other lower limb specialist mobility aids to improve the quality of life of people who struggle with mobility

These aids would normally not be accessible due to the cost required to provide this equipment.

**Total Project Cost:** \$10000.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6000.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought this application was well thought out and documented.

#### AG24-042: **Project Respect**

*Community Connectedness: From Garden to Table*

**Project Description:** The project will encourage a relaxed, healing and positive environment for women and gender diverse people with experience in the sex industry, and women and gender diverse people who have experienced sexual exploitation.

The space and activities will provide the opportunity for participants to connect with one another through safe, trauma-informed, and peer led activities. This provides the opportunity for participants to experience increased social inclusion, foster connections and build confidence. Participants will be able to meet one another, share their similar, or different, lived experiences, and form bonds that will last well beyond the allocated times of the activities. Where relevant, participants will be able to access an activity to support their healing from violence and trauma, regardless of their stage of healing.

Our current 'Garden to Table' activity funded through the City of Yarra is held with monthly lunches and fortnightly gardening, and has received positive feedback from our participants. We wish to continue delivering these activities by holding:

- A fortnightly therapeutic gardening session delivered by a skilled worker from Cultivating Community, our partner organisation;
- A monthly peer-led community lunch session which aims to provide a space in which participants can interact and connect with other community members, without fear of judgement.

These activities actively engage the participants by involving them in the process of growing and gathering the food for our community lunch and garden events; sharing in the process of cooking nutritious meals and creating a wholesome and healthy environment by which participants can learn and grow new skills in gardening, cooking and sustainability.

These relaxing, positive and therapeutic spaces will foster social inclusion, connection, and healing from trauma, while having a positive impact on the sustainability of our organisation, and the garden we have developed within the City of Yarra owned property.

**Total Project Cost:** \$20432.98

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8500.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,500.00

**Panel Comments:** This project has clearly defined aims and objectives with very good understanding of the desired outcomes of the grant program.

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#### AG24-049: **Free Massage Project Group (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

##### *Free Massage Projects*

**Project Description:** We want to provide free massages to those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community, particularly those living in public housing.

Since April 2022 we have developed partnerships with a number of programs to provide free haircuts and massage to those in need. We want to extend our services and increase the number of free massages we can provide. We see a strong need for this service for those disadvantaged in our community. We have excellent relationships with charities who work on the frontline in Yarra helping those in public housing and those experiencing disadvantage. We also work with organisations that run Yarra's free community events. We provide services to those experiencing homelessness, ill-health and mental illness, social isolation, drug addiction and the elderly amongst others - especially in public housing estates.

So far we have provided 234 free massages in Yarra alone. With this funding we would provide 648 free massages in Yarra in 2024 through the following organisations and events :

1. Orange Sky Program organised by St Marks. We offer our services for those experiencing homelessness, drug addiction and seniors 2 times per month.
2. Atherton Gardens Community Market by Yarra Libraries. We offer our services for residents including seniors, low-income groups, multicultural communities, and those experiencing homelessness. Once every quarter.
3. Twilight Markets organised by local communities in North Richmond estate. We offer our services for residents once per month.
4. Massage services for disadvantaged in Salvation Army. We offer our service weekly.
5. Participate community events to provide our services for multicultural community in Yarra.
6. Learning Bank organized by Yarra Libraries

**Total Project Cost:** \$20988.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted this project had very clear activities and goals; and has done good work to prove it will be a success. The panel has granted the full amount to this application.

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#### AG24-055: **CCH Melbourne FGC Incorporated**

##### *Venue Expansion To Accommodate Attendee Growth*

**Project Description:** We've been running fortnightly at the Collingwood Library since 2010.

Over the years our community has continued to grow and the size of the Collingwood Library meeting room has become a limiting factor to our growth and attendance. Our community consists of sub-communities who can't all attend every time due to the venue size. (For example the Tekken community which has grown immensely in the last few years.)

We use the Djerring Centre for our year end celebration event which has very positive feedback, due to the



increased size and next-door proximity to our traditional location in Collingwood. Djerring costs 3x the cost of the Library so we are financially limited to run it more than once a year. To use it more frequently, we'd have to increase our entry fee 2-3x which would go against our goal of being an inexpensive and self-sustaining meetup for our community.

We'd love to use the grant to book the Djerring Centre regularly in place of the Collingwood Library. We propose using the \$4000 grant to book Djerring for half of our 2024 yearly bookings. Subsequently, if our attendance grows enough to cover the venue financially we would love to shift our event permanently to Djerring for 2025 and onwards!

With the bigger venue we could run more social events like team tournaments, pot lucks, game lessons and beginner tournaments. Our community is very diverse racially and culturally, and tending towards the young side, so these Djerring Centre events with enough space to set up both gaming areas and social/eating areas are really enjoyed by our community.

We can train organizers, commentators, and stream specialists with this larger space. This is our first real chance to expand our venue capacity without abandoning our "charity-accessible space for community" model.

**Total Project Cost:** \$9340.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4000.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted the program is strong, well-detailed and properly supported with evidence. The panel decided its outcomes were worth approving for the full amount.

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#### AG24-067: Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Inc

*Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra - Breast Care Cushions*

**Project Description:** Since 2005, Zonta Melbourne on Yarra has produced breast care cushions and drainage bags to support patients recovering from breast cancer surgery. The cushion is shaped like a croissant, and fits under the arm to provide comfort in the area where the surgery has taken place. The bag is worn over the shoulder to cover the drainage bag post surgery.

Quote from recipient July 2022. "... one of the women in the group was telling me that she had breast cancer a while ago and was delighted when she was given a Zonta breast cushion because she could see the care and attention that had gone into it..... she actually cried because she thought it was so lovely that women she didn't know cared so much about what she was going through, the breast cushion was a physical and an emotional aid - very comfortable, useful and cheered her up. She has kept her cushion because she is very attached to it now!" See attached photos.

Cushions are sewn and assembled by Zonta members and friends in their homes. We have been relying on donated fabric, donations from members and friends, and club fundraising activities for many years. The need for cushions has increased over the years from 50 in 2005 to over 600 in 2022 with 376 delivered so far in 2023. This grant would provide a viable financial platform for cushion and bag production to meet this growing need. Each breast care cushion and bag costs \$8 - \$10 to produce with volunteer labour of club members. The need is 700+ cushions per year for 2023. Cushions are mainly distributed in the City of Yarra to the following hospitals: Epworth Richmond, and Epworth Freemason's hospitals, and a smaller number to Elaine Bevington (surgeon).

**Total Project Cost:** \$43100.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was to be important and well enough detailed to secure funding.

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#### AG24-070: The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc - Collingwood Branch

### *Collingwood - Farm to Fibre Workshops*

**Project Description:** Our project is multifaceted, but the main activities are to:

1. process the fleece of the sheep at the Collingwood Children's Farm (CCF) into yarn; and
2. run a series of workshops at the CCF in collaboration with the Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of Victoria (HWSG).

The CCF has donated another year of fleeces to our branch. We are excited to build on relationships forged this year with Sisterworks and Social Studio as well. Building on our learnings from previous years, we are keen to reach even more citizens of Yarra with our workshop series.

We have established our supply chain to support Victorian businesses. We will again partner with EP Robinsons, Cashmere Connections and Fibre Naturally in the processing of the wool. EP Robinsons is a family owned business that has been operating in Geelong since the 1800s and is the last wool scouring facility in Victoria. Cashmere Connections and Fibre Naturally are both small, female owned businesses who comb and spin our yarn in Bacchus Marsh and Macclesfield (respectively).

The yarn is being utilised in multiple ways. Our members knit items for sale at our markets. The yarn has also been sold to hand knitters. The funds made this year were directed to Safe Steps. We made donations of yarn to Social Studio to a weaver named Muhubo Sulieman who has work displayed at the NGV as well as to Sisterworks to support their in house work program which was producing beanies for care packages for homeless people. We have also distributed the yarn to participants and volunteers at our workshops which have been running through 2023. We have run indigo dyeing, hand spindling, crochet and have a knitting workshop in August this year.

We hope to obtain a further Community Support Grant to continue this work.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15848.00

**Amount Requested:** \$11000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$7000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel agreed this application was strong with well-developed community outcomes.

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### AG24-073: **Cultivating Community**

#### *Green Gatherings*

**Project Description:** Green Gatherings will be a collaborative project between Cultivating Community and the North Richmond Salvation Army.

It will be a fortnightly social connection gathering of multicultural groups over a 12-month duration. It will be for people aged 50+ but not exclude younger people if they wish to join. They will gather as a group to connect, learn, grow and enjoy the celebration of diversity via food.

The community kitchen at Salvos and the new 106 Kitchen will be the hub for cooking and food tasting activities whilst the group will also enjoy utilizing the wicking beds across the kitchen gardens and have the opportunity as a collective community group to become members and users of the Highett Street Community Garden - broadening its use for more people more often on the estate beyond individual space holders.

The sessions will be in partnership with Salvos and the expert team at Cultivating Community building on collective skills and concept that community group members have asked for and wanted.

Sessions will strengthen knowledge and practical ideas around circular economy, reducing food waste, composting and recycling that are culturally related but also broaden out towards other recognized foods and food-based herbs, fruits and vegetables. The key goal though will be the development of social connections and a sense of belonging.

An additional element will include the proposal that each participant invites a new friend, colleague or resident to a variety of sessions so that skills and purpose can be scaled and passed on wider.

**Total Project Cost:** \$44158.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8700.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6500.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,700.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was judged to be strong and detailed enough to secure funding at the full requested amount.

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#### AG24-082: **Melbourne Comhaltas**

##### *Comhaltas St Patrick's Day celebrations*

**Project Description:** The aim of the project is to celebrate St Patrick's Day, a day of special cultural significance for the Irish community. This is an Irish festival but is now known and celebrated all over the world, enjoyed by many cultures.

St Patrick's Day is always on 17th March. In 2024 this will be on a Sunday.

There is usually a big Irish Festival in Edinburgh Gardens on the Sunday so we will have ours on the Saturday night, start early to kick off the celebrations.

We will hire St Philip's Hall on Hoddle Street. We hope to start at 6 pm to make it easier for young families who need to go home early with children. We will finish at 10.30 so as not to interfere with the local communities' sleep time.

Our night will consist of Irish cultural activities, such as music, dancing, storytelling and poetry.

We will have activities and games for the children, prizes for the children dressed in green and prizes for children who wish to show their talents in music or dance.

We will have a nice supper and tea and coffee will be available all night. It will be a real family night, where grandparents will be partying with their grand-kids. It is a night when young and old come together to celebrate their culture and preserve the traditions.

It will be advertised widely, among many different communities who wish to share the day with the Irish.

This promotes cultural diversity and helps us to develop an enjoyment and appreciation of what different cultures have to offer. Many of the Collingwood communities join us and celebrate with us.

Sharing our culture, music and dance is always a big part of what we do.

**Total Project Cost:** \$6000.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1800.00 **Minimum Required:** \$500.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,800.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong and well detailed enough for panel to grant the full amount requested.

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#### AG24-084: **CHEAC (Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

##### *Yarra Gala Ball*

**Project Description:** The 2024 Gala Ball is an end-of-year celebration that provides an opportunity to celebrate and nurture the relationships that have been formed throughout the year between residents, community groups, and agencies within the City of Yarra.

The event is a time to reflect on the achievements and partnerships that have been formed and to strengthen these bonds through fun activities. Guests will enjoy live music performances by local arts groups, dance activities led by community members, and a delicious dinner prepared and served by a local enterprise catering group.

This affordable event provides a welcoming and inclusive space for residents from all backgrounds to come together and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and community spirit within the City of Yarra. Join us in

2024 to celebrate the relationships we've been forging and to look forward to continued growth and connection in the year ahead.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8830.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2800.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought this application was strong and well written; and deserved granting the full requested amount.

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#### AG24-086: **Cultivating Community**

*Highrise Community Bakery Richmond: Bread, Fire, Community*

**Project Description:** The funding will be used to deliver community baking sessions for our Highrise Community Bakery in Richmond. Each week community members come together in the Richmond Estate community garden to prepare focaccia and other baked goods which is then baked in our wood fired oven and sold for a gold coin donation at the neighbouring Caravan Cafe. The Caravan Cafe is run in partnership with Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House serving low cost meals and coffee with a variety of cuisines reflecting the cultural diversity of the community. Fresh vegetables and herbs are also available for a donation providing affordable access to fresh food as well as a social gathering space for the local community.

The funding will go towards the employment of a facilitator for the weekly baking sessions as well as help to cover the costs of ingredients and fire wood. The baking sessions are a chance for people from across the community to come together to learn new skills, contribute to a meaningful community enterprise, address issues of social isolation (especially post Covid restrictions), experience rich and diverse food cultures through the stories of bread as shared by neighbours and produce affordable, nutritious bread addressing issues of local food insecurity. All skill levels are welcome as the main focus is on participation designed for everyone to feel a sense of belonging and value and to have a chance to create nutritious bread for the community. During the baking sessions participants often bring along their own cultural recipes to share and create with the group or other offerings to contribute to a shared lunch.

**Total Project Cost:** \$22747.50

**Amount Requested:** \$9487.50 **Minimum Required:** \$8250.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,250.00

**Panel Comments:** The panel noted the application was well written and detailed enough to support with funding.

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#### AG24-092: **Oromo Community Women's Group in the City of Yarra Inc**

*Celebration of Eid Al Adha, Festival of Sacrifice*

**Project Description:** We plan to hold our annual Eid Al Adha celebration in the grounds of the Elizabeth Street public housing estate. It will be held on a Saturday near the actual Eid Al Adha festival dates (16 to 20 June 2024) and when the weather is fine. It will run from lunchtime until late afternoon. It will be open to all the residents of the estate plus other Yarra residents, members of the City of Yarra council, representatives from other local organisations as well as members of the Oromo community from other parts of Melbourne. It will include a BBQ lunch and a range of play activities for children, including face-painting and jumping castles.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12400.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$1,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel decided the application was well-supported and well-detailed enough to be approved.

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#### AG24-097: **Cohealth**

*Hand on Heart Carer Project*

**Project Description:** The Hand on Heart Carer Project will work strategically with carers from CALD backgrounds - specifically those within the Chinese, Vietnamese and East Timorese communities, 20 years and older, who live in the City of Yarra area.

The project will provide training and support for carers who face existing and emerging challenges while caring for their loved ones who experience dementia or autism spectrum disorder.

The focus will be on acknowledging the carer role, building resilience and self-care skills, and developing knowledge and confidence to navigate formal supports.

Through this funding, cohealth aims at engaging the isolated "hidden carers" in these CALD communities and connect them to a supportive community. The project will utilize the expertise of cohealth's bilingual workers who can speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka and Vietnamese to provide culturally sensitive support to this carer group.

The first stage of the project will deliver six information sessions to the community, focusing on self-care education and awareness to CALD carers. The second stage will focus on assessing individual carers needs, assisting participants to develop goal directed care plans and set up formal services.

The project aims to provide the following:

- 1) Community group education sessions to increase carer awareness run through City of Yarra and Melbourne areas through senior groups, play groups or the cohealth Collingwood and Kensington clinics.
- 2) Monthly group meetings with carers to provide sessions such as peer support groups, self-care activities and outings.
- 3) Guest speakers to attend the monthly group meetings with information on relevant services such as carer gateway, carer Victoria, Dementia Australia, or Autism Spectrum Australia to provide education for carers.
- 4) Individual support including assistance with setting up formal services assistance with employment and training, as well as social work counselling.
- 5) Monthly peer group support: outings, morning tea and lunch.

**Total Project Cost:** \$81078.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$15000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted the application was strong and well-detailed, deserving of funding in the full amount.

\$10k is the maximum grant amount possible under this stream.

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#### **AG24-110: Eritrean Australian Jeberty Council**

*Ramadan Fast Breaking Event*

**Project Description:** We started migrating to Australia in 1985 most of our kids are born in Australia. Most of our community members are almost fully integrated. They know now the benefit of a multicultural society. We respect all other cultures and religions available in Australia.

In this project of ours, we usually do it every year except if there is any pandemic like what we have seen with Covid-19. We break our fast together with our guests for a couple of hours and then we proceed with our prayers. During this meeting, Our sponsor, invited guests from the government like the police and community representative will be giving a speech about things they see as beneficial to our progress as compared with any other communities.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12444.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3600.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the team enjoyed the application and thought it was well-written and detailed; enough to secure funding.

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#### **AG24-114: Community Pop Up Markets Ltd**

*Grocer Gift Card Program - dignified food relief for Yarras' multicultural community*

**Project Description:** The Community Grocer runs a weekly affordable, culturally appropriate fruit and vegetable market every Tuesday at the Atherton Gardens public housing estate. Each week, we serve more than 50 customers, with approximately 70% of customers coming from multicultural backgrounds and living on the estate. With the increasing cost of living putting pressures on households living on a low income, anecdotally we are hearing about the challenges in purchasing enough food to ensure food security for both individuals and families. Sometimes this means people go without, or they come to rely on local emergency food relief programs. Often these programs are not able to provide high quality, fresh and culturally appropriate produce for the multicultural community on the estate.

Our Grocer Gift card program offers an alternative to relieve this financial pressure, but still enable people to 'purchase' the food they need, want and can use. Our Grocer Gift Card Program is an innovative, Australia first food voucher program. Grocer Gift Cards are QR coded vouchers funded by partner organisations, such as the City of Yarra, that enable people to come and shop at The Community Grocer. It is a dignified and choice-based alternative to traditional food relief programs.

The Community Grocer has built a web platform that can generate vouchers of any denomination, that can be redeemed multiple times. Vouchers can be digital or printed, and redeemed through our point of sale at any market. The web platform also enables utilisation data to be collected for organisations who fund Grocer Gift Cards.

We are seeking funding to support the expansion of the Grocer Gift Card program at The Community Grocer Fitzroy to provide 160 people from CALD communities within the estate with a \$50 voucher to enable their increased access to the market and their improved food security.

**Total Project Cost:** \$189000.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$7000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought the application was very strong and well-written; enough to be successful in receiving the full requested amount.

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#### AG24-117: **Melbourne Irish Festival Committee**

##### *St Patrick's Family Fun Day*

**Project Description:** We will organize a Sunday afternoon of Irish related activities in a city park. The Edinburgh Gardens has been used since 2006. This is an annual Festival on a Sunday afternoon near St Patrick's Day (17th March)

In 2023 this will be Sunday 26th March

Our Festival always attracts large numbers of people from all cultures. Everyone is happy to be Irish for St Patrick's Day.

The Festival will run from 12 noon to 5 pm. The activities will include a main stage where local talent in music

and dance will be displayed. The schools of Irish Dance will put on displays during the afternoon. Irish music groups such as Comhaltas will have a gig. Entry is free and families come from all over to picnic on the grass and enjoy catching up with friends and enjoying Irish culture. Activities will be organised for the children such as face painting, craft activities, music, theatre, sporting events such as team games and also fun type races. Vendors will be selling Irish type food (baked potatoes) also coffee, ice cream and cold drinks.

No alcohol will be sold. All the Irish groups will be invited to be present. Many will have their own tent or stall and will be promoting their activities, for example the Irish Families Group, Irish Language group, Irish History Circle, Irish Mothers' Group, the Home from Home Parents' Group and all the sporting clubs. The Celtic Club have a marquee and also the Irish Australian Support and Resource Bureau.

This day is especially valuable to new and smaller Irish community groups as a chance to promote themselves and build partnerships.

**Total Project Cost:** \$38200.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$1500.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted the application was well written and had strong enough community outcomes to support funding.

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#### AG24-119: Cohealth

*Eid and community celebration*

**Project Description:** • Celebrate and preserve cultural traditions in meaningful ways;

- Foster cross cultural exchanges that help to build intercultural relationships;
- Promote mutual respect, awareness and understanding of cultural diversity;
- Highlight the contribution to our State by multicultural communities.

The planned activities include inviting different speakers including religious and community leaders to talk about diversity, history and culture, organising the food, BBQ, children entertainment activities like jumping castle and face painting, and multiple activities such as African coffee celebration .

**Total Project Cost:** \$6816.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2900.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong and maintained well-developed community outcomes to secure funding.

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#### AG24-121: North Richmond Community Health

*NRCH Social Inclusion Program*

**Project Description:** The NRCH Social Inclusion Program was piloted from 2020-2022 following a grant from the City of Yarra to support residents who are experiencing isolation. Little did we know that Covid would coincide with this pilot, which introduced challenges to engaging with community members, and further increasing the need for the program.

The initial development of the program was in response to a gap in service delivery for residents experiencing social isolation who have limited contact with services and receive minimal or no support. This includes residents across the whole of Yarra, including those in public housing.

Reasons for social isolation are varied but include:

- language barriers
- poor self esteem/confidence
- survivor of family violence
- mental illness
- disability/health barriers and mobility limitations
- Impacts of Covid 19 restrictions and lockdowns

The program aims to improve health and wellbeing through social connectedness between a matched client and volunteer (similar to a buddy system), including weekly visits for a walk or activity, supporting them with appointments, visiting a café, etc, which builds the clients confidence to independently join social groups and activities in the community over time and reduce the health impacts of isolation in the long term.

The program also identified the need for animal companion support for residents who have limited mobility and may be at risk of giving up their best friends due to not being able to exercise them.

During the pilot period, the NRCH Volunteer Coordinator worked with outreach teams and community development programs to develop resources for referrals, home assessments, volunteer support, reporting and evaluation. The entire program was documented and several volunteers engaged. We now need funding for our Volunteers Coordinator to keep this amazing work going.

**Total Project Cost:** \$67207.22

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted this application was strong with great community outcomes.

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AG24-136: **Vicbears Inc**

*Active Bear*

**Project Description:** Active bear is a health and wellbeing program run by Vicbears inc. Its mission is to help provide physical activities for our members to increase their fitness and well being.

We currently provide a program called Aquabear where our members go to Richmond recreation center once a month and take part in a water aerobics class. Aquabear has been running for over 2 years now and our attendance numbers have been growing each and every month. We have recently reached capacity for this venue and need to find ways to ensure our members can enjoy this initiative without being turned away.

We wish to grow our Active bear program to include a dance program and other activities including hikes, sports carnivals and anything fun and physical to motivate typically larger men in a social setting. Our members have voiced that they would like more opportunities to increase their fitness and their mental health in the company of fellow members in a safe space and connections with their own and others cultures.

**Total Project Cost:** \$24096.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2256.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,256.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought this was a strong and well-written project, with good community outcomes and deserving of funding.

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AG24-145: **Friends of Baucau Inc**

*Celebrating Neighbourhood Connections*

**Project Description:** Friends of Baucau will sponsor and present an event at the Melbourne East Timorese Activity Centre (METAC) monthly community dinner in Richmond in the 2nd half of 2024, with follow up events in at least one City of Yarra NH to share news, culture and outcomes from the Friends of Baucau study tour to Baucau in May 2024.

The purpose of the event is to:

- 1) support the local Timorese community and neighbourhood houses that come together to attend the METAC monthly dinners
- 2) provide an opportunity for local Timorese residents and Yarra residents and other interested parties to share in a cultural and knowledge exchange. This exchange will be based on:
  - a) A participatory music and dance performance by Timor Oans, an inspirational initiative to connect young Australian Timorese with their cultural identity and preserve their rich tapestry of cultural arts practices for the present and for future generations. Timor Oans performances include audience participation in drumming and/or dancing, deepening appreciation and understanding of their unique culture.
  - b) Sharing stories, a short video and high-quality photos and banners from a recent study tour to Timor Leste, facilitated and led by Friends of Baucau, to consolidate links between members of the Yarra Neighbourhood House network to women's and other community initiatives in villages in the Baucau administrative sub-district that are supported by Friends of Baucau. Friends of Baucau are currently in the process of planning this visit scheduled for May 2024.

**Total Project Cost:** \$4422.00



**Amount Requested:** \$2550.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$2,550.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was very strong and proposed positive and well-written outcomes for the community.

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**AG24-158: Association of Oromo Women in Collingwood, City of Yarra**

*Recreational activities, information and social support for Oromo women and their families living in Collingwood*

**Project Description:** Planned activities are:

- Four information sessions. Previously these have been organised in co-operation with MiCare/New Hope Foundation and we will run similar sessions in 2024.
- Three community celebrations: Eid Al Fitri, Eid Al Adha and a New Year's Cultural Diversity Day. All our celebrations include other communities.
- A number of excursions or outdoor activities including BBQs and trips to children's adventure playgrounds.
- A day trip to Philip Island or similar location that members would usually not be able to visit.

**Total Project Cost:** \$22096.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project was seen to have strong positive outcomes to the community by the panel.

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**AG24-170: Positive Attitude Inc**

*Protect Positive Attitude Luncheons*

**Project Description:** It appears the COVID pandemic has been followed by a cost of living and inflation crisis which has seen food costs rise higher than expected, making the regular Positive Attitude Friday Luncheon cost as much as one third more than budget. There is a lag between rising costs and corresponding rises in donations, a grant will ensure this weekly service gets delivered until costs stabilise.

Being able to offer lunch with security every Friday is at the core of Positive Attitude. The stable, safe and inclusive space the group has worked so hard to establish is cherished, especially by our trans and non-binary participants, especially given the rise in presentations of the 'anti-trans' sentiment at local governments across Melbourne.

Our group is built around this promise, of food and a friendly and inclusive social environment. So far we have used our savings over the two years of the pandemic, with volunteers giving additional funds to cover costs as they increase. This puts us on the backfoot for the next 12 months at least while wages and inflation settle down, and without support at risk of intermittent, interrupted, or infrequent lunches.

Positive Attitude Inc receives gifts, donations and volunteer hours from the LGBTIQ+ communities to cover its costs and operations. In-person fundraising events have been impossible during Covid lockdowns along with the economic crisis and inflation people have had less disposable income to donate, leaving Positive Attitude in need of some assistance in the form of a Community Grant.

**Total Project Cost:** \$44996.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was strong and detailed with great community outcomes.

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**AG24-173: Open Table**

*Community Connections at an Open Table*

**Project Description:** Open Table has run pop-up community food programs in Yarra since 2013. Currently we operate weekly pop-up free community lunches, weekly pop-up fresh food bank, 24-hour accessible

community pantry at the North Fitzroy Library and a free food market at the Fitzroy public housing estate. We do this to provide reliable access to free fresh and nutritious food for local residents experiencing food insecurity and to improve wellbeing by reducing social isolation, providing welcoming space for connecting with others through a shared meal.

Our Community Connections project will centre on measuring the impact of our Yarra food activities. At present, Open Table already collects data on the appropriateness and efficiency of our operations, but we have limited visibility over the outcomes and impacts we create for the community. This proposed year-long project will allow us to conduct in-depth impact measurements of our Yarra-based food sharing activities. By expanding our data collection and analysis, we will be able to assess the appropriateness and efficiency of our operations better. As a result, we will gain valuable insights into the outcomes and impacts we create for the Yarra community. This improved ability to demonstrate our impact will both inform continuous improvement and provide the compelling evidence required to sustain our programs in Yarra for years to come.

**Total Project Cost:** \$24528.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$7900.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall this project was noted to have strong community outcomes, great detail and proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-177: Cohealth

##### *Circles of Community Collaboration*

**Project Description:** The 'Circles of Community Collaboration' project will strengthen the connection and collaboration among African-descent communities living in the city of Yarra to plan and organise social activities that build resilience, skills and confidence which enhances their sense of belonging and pride in their place of living in Yarra.

The project will provide opportunities for community members to articulate their needs and identify their local priority issues as well as share experiences, discuss issues and propose possible solutions. In addition, it will facilitate collaborations with local services and the council while building community knowledge and confidence to contribute to decisions that impact their lives.

The project aims to provide the following:

- Fortnightly group meetings in a culturally safe and supportive environments using local neighbourhood houses, public housing community facilities and other local services so (women, men and youth) can come together and share their experiences, concerns and discuss common issues that are important to them so they can formulate constructive solutions to deal with it.
- provide opportunity for capacity building to enhance the collaboration and collective action that underpin effective community participation.
- Provide opportunities for dialogue between youth and adults in a relaxed non formal interactions such as storytelling and traditional craft making to strengthen their relationship and facilitate understandings that promote community wellbeing. - Connect and collaborate with other City of Yarra local communities by organising cultural sharing events to create awareness and celebrate the diversity in City of Yarra communities and foster cross cultural understanding and collaboration.
- Facilitate connections between the community and their local service providers that impact their daily lives such as Council, Housing Office, Police, Neighbourhood Houses, Neighbourhood Justice Service and local health services to share their experiences, give feedback and build mutual trust and collaboration to achieve good community health and wellbeing.

**Total Project Cost:** \$25000.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9500.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted this as a strong and well-supported application. The community outcomes are great and it was granted deserving of funding.

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**AG24-180: Cohealth**

*Social participation via cafe meals for people transitioning to NDIS.*

**Project Description:** This project will provide meal vouchers for people to use at local cafes in the City of Yarra area, providing them with a nutritious meal, and enabling them to engage with the community in a safe local setting. Meal vouchers will be provided for people who are experiencing homelessness/insecure or temporary housing, who have been assessed as eligible for the NDIS, and who are unable to obtain meals through other alternatives. This includes people:

- waiting for NDIS plan approval/plan review, to include meal services/meal support
- have had meals declined by the NDIS and have nowhere else to access meals
- unable to use delivered meals due to the lack of facilities to store and heat them
- who have trouble cooking/unable to cook due to disability or housing
- who feel unsafe in group meal settings
  
- who are socially isolated and would benefit from social inclusion/participation in a café.

Providing a meal in participating cafes will facilitate access to nutritious meals AND engagement with the local community. Participants who experience significant social isolation and mental health challenges will benefit from the familiar and safe environment of the café and from the social interaction.

Vouchers will be created by cohealth dietitians, and distributed to eligible participants who then redeem them at participating cafes in the City of Yarra. The vouchers are for \$15 meals; each voucher pays for \$12 and the participant pays \$3. Participants will be provided with sufficient vouchers for them to purchase 3 – 5 meals per week for a period between 3 and 6 months. The specific number of vouchers will be dependent on the level of grant, the number of participants, and the time period taken to support participants to transition to NDIS funded meals/meal support.

**Total Project Cost:** \$90000.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project was seen to have strong community outcomes and was written with sufficient detail to grant funding.

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**AG24-184: Collingwood Basketball Association**

*Youth Development Program*

**Project Description:** BASKETBALL: We provide a structured program of Training and games to develop advanced basketball skills.

Weekly Training

Strength and Conditioning

Games

School Holidays (4 times per year) will include:

Basketball Camp Participant

Basketball Camp Coaching

The program provides a regular schedule, building commitment, teamwork, and work ethic skills.

**LIFE SKILLS:** To play Basketball, participants must attend life skills sessions. These are designed to give participants critical personal and academic skills to improve their prospects as they enter society as young adults. Participant obligations include:

Weekly Study Hall

Soft Skills and Career guidance

Work Experience and Employment pathways

Our Program includes a Study Hall who supervisor will oversee the study hall, work with our University Partner ACU to identify and support tutoring and specialist subject support and consults with schools to identify on focus areas for participants.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** We provide meals to participants 5 nights per week to support their overall nutrition and to give many members access to high-quality and healthy meals that they may not be able to access at home. This is supported by a Dietitian who develops the meals along with working with and running specific sessions with teams and individuals to help them understand the importance of meals and healthy food. This program is also combined with Mental Health awareness both at a team level and through one-on-one support and access to a qualified professional.

**COMMUNITY:** Combing the Basketball and Life Skills learnt throughout the program, participants will then give back to the community by participating in activities within the club, including:

assisting and running basketball clinics

refereeing

coaching

volunteering in the canteen

participating in nominated club community projects.

**Total Project Cost:** \$79063.00

**Amount Requested:** \$15000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$10000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The project is well thought out and described in the application. It has clearly identified community needs, aims and evaluation methods.

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#### AG24-185: **Fitzroy North Primary School**

*Fitzroy North Primary School Fete*

**Project Description:** The school holds an annual fete. We utilise the school grounds and also all of Fergie Street, Fitzroy North and have food and drinks, rides, stalls and entertainment.

We are excited again to partner with our local community to support this major fund raising initiative for our school. The funds raised through this event ensures we maintain our status as a leader in public education and a place of inspiration and enrichment for our students.

**Total Project Cost:** \$67900.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2000.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the project was seen as strong, well written with effective community outcomes.

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#### AG24-193: **The Kitchen Project (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

*Meet and Eat Kitchen Project*

**Project Description:** We want to host 15 Community Lunches and six Community Dinners during 2024.

The Community Lunches will be prepared and held at the Cultivating Communities kitchen at 125 Napier Street Fitzroy.

The lunches will be co-hosted with English Language classes from Fitzroy Learning Network with the Kitchen Project providing support and guidance and keeping things on track.

The lunches will be attended by the group preparing, other identified groups invited along and individuals and groups from the Atherton Gardens Estate.

The Community Dinners are a collaboration with Fitzroy Learning Network and hosted in their space at 198 Napier Street Fitzroy.

The dinners have become a feature at Fitzroy Learning and some people bring contributions. The dinners bring people from the Atherton Gardens Estate, other nearby estates such as Collingwood, and broader Fitzroy community.

These events invest in social capital and community wellbeing.

They provide a platform for cultural exchange, practising English and sharing culture through food.

Cultivating Community has been leading this project since 2016, it has become an important part of the local cultural calendar.

Participants practise English, develop the confidence to lead an activity, and make connections in new ways. The timing of the community dinners and lunches are programmed to play a role in community celebrations such as Eid, to celebrate our culturally and linguistically diverse community and are vital community strengthening activities.

The involvement of partner Co-Health offers encouragement to other agencies to attend these events as a way to spark a conversation, test the water on an idea, or impart information in an informal way.

These events, through this project funding, will support the employment of a group of women passionate about sharing their food and culture. Through this they will experience an Australian workplace, build CV experience and create future employment and training goals.

**Total Project Cost:** \$24216.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8020.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The was a strong application, very detailed and with sufficient support from the panel.

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#### AG24-195: **Russian House Melbourne Inc**

##### *Defibrillator Acquisition Project*

**Project Description:** Management has recognised the need to provide the various users of its facilities with emergency medical equipment, in this case, a defibrillator machine. There has been a significant increase in the number of people using the facilities, especially post-Covid. We estimate a minimum 150-175 regular weekly users, with an additional 150-200 people for monthly concerts/lectures/special events. A significant proportion of the patronage is elderly and fall into the "potential heart problem" category, although heart issues are not exclusive to the elderly.

We believe it is critical for us to provide access to a life-saving defibrillator on the premises, and have a number of people trained up in the use of it to ensure maximum success, if or when needed.

**Total Project Cost:** \$3930.00

**Amount Requested:** \$2650.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2000.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,650.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong, with direct community outcome and with sufficient supporting information.

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#### AG24-203: **The Pan-Macedonian Association of Melbourne and Victoria Inc.**

*Fostering social connection and inclusion and promoting health and wellbeing through social and cultural activities.*

**Project Description:** The project will address social connection, health and wellbeing in the community. It will reduce loneliness, by supporting social connectedness and positive mental health. It provides opportunities for healthy eating and a more active lifestyle.

The activities we plan to do are:

1. Dimitria Festival 2024 - one day event held outdoors and open to the public (usually thousands of people attend).
2. Formal functions to celebrate special occasions, such as Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day.
3. Formal functions for networking with other organizations, including government and council.
4. Informal lunches and afternoon teas for members and their families.
5. Weekly, traditional dance classes.
6. Lectures with invited speakers.
6. Movie nights.
7. Excursions (one or two per year during summer).

**Total Project Cost:** \$94400.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong with strong community outcomes and support.

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#### AG24-204: **Merri Creek Primary School**

*Traffic Management Plan - Controllers*

**Project Description:** The Merri Creek Primary fete is planned for 2024

The event planners will complete Yarra Council application for temporary road occupation and the necessary pre-requisites including "Residents and businesses approval of event; Residents and businesses notification of event".

We will booked traffic controllers to implement the Traffic Management Plan on the day.  
The planned company is: First Nations Traffic Management <https://fntm.com.au/>

This grant application is to assist in covering costs the traffic controllers to ensure a successful and positive community celebration while minimising the impact on the local neighbourhood

**Total Project Cost:** \$8040.00

**Amount Requested:** \$2500.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2500.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-216: **Cross Encounters(CE) (Auspiced by AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS INC)**

*Musical Dumplings Feast*

**Project Description:** As the most important traditional festival in China and wider Asia, the Spring Festival naturally influences Asian countries, making it an important celebration. Dumplings are considered a signature cultural symbol in these countries, and having dumplings during the Spring Festival is an essential part of the celebrations. CE propose this event to Yarra, providing an opportunity for the residents to exchange their Lunar New Year traditions with local residents. By using the connection of dumplings and making art, we can get to know and experience the rich culture and stories behind this humble food staple from Asia. With this event, we support, showcase, and celebrate Yarra's diverse Asian communities and their traditions.

The theme is “If music is the food of Love, play on!” We plan to host an event on February 24th, 2024. It is the last day of Chinese New Year. So the event could increase the sense of belonging of people with other cultural backgrounds. The event will feature an opening performance at 10 am, followed by music performances at 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, and the final performance at 6 pm. Each show will run for 30 minutes, and we are excited to showcase the talents of a total of 11 artists and crew members. The opening and closing performances will be delivered by two skilled performers, while we have 6 musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments, including pipa, erhu, flute, and guzheng. Our event will be expertly directed, with a director facilitating the opening and closing presentations. To add a touch of celebration and cultural significance, the performers will dress in traditional Chinese costumes qipao, adorned in vibrant colors that evoke a festive atmosphere. We are enthusiastic about the potential of this event to bring joy and appreciation for Chinese culture to the audience.

**Total Project Cost:** \$6451.95

**Amount Requested:** \$3300.00 **Minimum Required:** \$1500.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,500.00

**Panel Comments:** The application overall presented a strong, effective and positive community outcome in Yarra.

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#### AG24-221: X'mas ConneXtions (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)

##### *X'mas ConneXtions*

**Project Description:** The aim is to offer a program that addresses issues of mental health, low socio-economic challenges and disadvantages that can be all encompassing, including social barriers of isolation. This community is extremely vulnerable during the Christmas and New Year period. We would be looking at opening Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH) for regular sessions for the extended 5 week January 2024 break, allowing the local community access to resources and to connect with others in an encouraging and supportive environment. In Christmas 2024 we will also run a program, during the time BANH is closed. The sessions would include art workshops, access to computers, board games, music and the sharing of food.

There will also be the potential to do some outings, depending on group feedback, for example, picnic at Fitzroy Gardens, lunch in Victoria St, gardening or a BBQ by 139 Highett Street.

In addition to opening the neighbourhood house during the holidays twice a week, we will also open the Richmond Caravan Cafe weekly on a Friday. This is located by 139 Highett Street and attracts a mixture of the local community, including people who are experiencing homelessness or people who have health issues due to the impact of drug and alcohol use. Therefore, the caravan will provide lunch, refreshments, a supportive and non-judgemental welcoming atmosphere, with the ability to signpost to local services and resources.

**Total Project Cost:** \$9829.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3680.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3300.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,680.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-227: Community Free Haircuts (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)

##### *Community Free Haircuts*

**Project Description:** We want to provide free haircuts for those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community, particularly those living in public housing.

Since April 2022 we have developed partnerships with a number of programs to provide free haircuts to those in need. We want to continue our services and increase the number of free haircuts we can provide. We see a strong need for this service for those disadvantaged in our community. We have excellent

relationships with charities who work on the frontline in Yarra helping those in public housing and those experiencing disadvantage. We also work with organisations that run Yarra's free community events. We provide haircuts to those experiencing homelessness, ill-health and mental illness, social isolation, drug addiction and the elderly amongst others - especially in public housing estates.

There has been a very positive response to our haircuts program and a growing demand for free haircuts. We are now in need of an injection of funds to grow our program and reach more people.

So far we have provided 1171 free haircuts in Yarra alone. With this funding we would provide 526 free haircuts in Yarra in 2024 through the following organisations and events:

1. Orange Sky Program organised by St Marks. We offer our services for those experiencing homelessness, drug addiction and seniors 2 times per month.
2. Atherton Gardens Community Market by Yarra Libraries. We offer our services for residents including seniors, low-income groups, multicultural communities, and those experiencing homelessness. Once every quarter.
3. Twilight Markets organised by local communities in North Richmond estate. We offer our services for residents once per month.
4. Haircut services for disadvantaged in Salvation Army. We offer our service weekly.
5. Participate community events to provide our services for multicultural community in Yarra.
6. Learning Bank organized by Yarra Libraries

**Total Project Cost:** \$23902.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

The funding was reduced from the highest declared amount due to the grant round being highly competitive and funding needing to be spread across to ensure more projects are supported.

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**AG24-229: Kids Space in Yarra ( homework Club) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**  
*swimming program for kids*

**Project Description:** Due to the success of the last year 2023, funding of swimming programs from City of Yarra for (2-11 years), we are planning to run the swimming programs for these kids again as they requested. There will be about 30- 40 kids participating. The aim will be to have swimming lessons during school terms to these kids with a view of avoiding issues of limited places during school holidays. Since the kids themselves requested the continuity of the swimming lessons due to their great learning and their love of water and life-long skill of swimming, we are willing and glad to support them. what is more, these kids are getting more water familiarization and building more confidence around water. We are aiming to have 10 lessons/kid during the school terms.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8400.00

**Amount Requested:** \$7000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6500.00

**Recommendation:** \$7,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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**AG24-233: Language, culture and basic Islamic Studies program (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

*Somali Culture Learning Program*

**Project Description:** The Somali Language and Culture Enrichment Program is an engaging and inclusive initiative aimed at celebrating and preserving the rich heritage of Somali language, traditions, and customs.



This project, implemented in partnership with Sunrise Education and Australian African Community Development Inc., endeavours to provide students attending Islamic schools with a unique and immersive educational experience that not only helps them catch up with their studies but also fosters a profound connection to their Somali identity.

-Through interactive lessons and activities, the project aims to deepen students' understanding of Somali culture, history, and values, fostering a sense of pride in their cultural heritage.

-The program seeks to enhance students' proficiency in the Somali language, ensuring they can read, write, and communicate effectively in their native tongue.

-The program will supply essential teaching materials and resources, including textbooks, workbooks, and digital tools, to support comprehensive learning experiences.

-The project actively encourages parental involvement and community engagement. Regular meetings and events will be held to keep parents informed of their child's progress and to encourage their active participation in promoting Somali language and culture within the community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15408.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-235: **Australian Croatian Senior Citizens Club Clifton Hill Inc.**

*Support for CALD seniors living in the City of Yarra*

**Project Description:** The funding will help our club to organize different social and recreational activities to keep the members engaged and healthy, including info sessions that are important to elderly members, meals, playing games (such as cards, bocce etc.), organizing excursions, celebration of different holidays including International Women's day, Father's day, Mother's day, Elderly day, Christmas, Easter and Reconciliation Day. We help members to meet with their peers coming from the same and similar ethnic background, help to reduce their social isolation and make them feel at home. We promote and explain government initiatives and information of interest to the CALD communities including information on COVID-19, vaccination and other relevant information of interest to our seniors. We plan to purchase some social games to keep the members active.

**Total Project Cost:** \$13440.00

**Amount Requested:** \$4000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-248: **Food for All (Auspiced by Holden Street Neighbourhood House)**

*Nourishing Together*

**Project Description:** In response to the growing need for food assistance, Food for All is wanting to launch the project "Nourish Together". Our goal is to address the issue of food insecurity by empowering community members to make the most of limited resources through budget-friendly cooking classes. This project aims to instill culinary skills and creativity, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry. Food insecurity is an unfortunate reality faced by many individuals and families in our local area. Despite existing food relief programs, the demand for assistance continues to rise. We believe that access to adequate and nutritious food is a fundamental human right, and we are committed to taking proactive steps to combat hunger in our community.

"Nourish Together " offers a two-fold approach to tackle food insecurity. Firstly, we will conduct engaging

and interactive cooking classes designed to showcase how much can be achieved with minimal resources. These classes will be led by experienced chefs and nutritionists, who will guide participants in creating delicious, balanced meals on a tight budget. Participants will gain practical skills, recipe ideas, and a renewed sense of confidence in providing nourishing meals for themselves and their families.

The heart of this project lies in community support. Food prepared in classes will be shared amongst the group and distributed to at-risk community members through local food relief programs, extending help to those in need.

"Nourish Together" aims to create lasting change and foster a community where no one faces hunger.

Through regular cooking classes and ongoing food distribution, we envision a community that is better equipped to combat food insecurity collectively. Additionally, participants will be encouraged to share their newly acquired knowledge with friends and family, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond the project's scope.

**Total Project Cost:** \$18811.58

**Amount Requested:** \$9302.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4651.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall, the application was strong and well written, with proper supporting materials to grant funding.

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#### AG24-249: **Strata Community Association (Vic)**

*Strata Sustainability and Engagement Pilot*

**Project Description:** SCA (Vic) proposes a 6-month pilot (with monthly community engagement sessions) in conjunction with the City of Yarra to provide a mentor program for lot owners and Owners Corporation Managers to share knowledge and identify challenges with sustainability projects which are relevant to strata properties.

**Total Project Cost:** \$28500.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** This application aligns well with Council's work to support apartment owners and owners corporations to switch to renewable energy and undertake sustainability retrofits.

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## Stream: Community Housing

#### AG24-181: **Launch Housing**

*Yarra Zero Establishing and Sustaining Tenancies Pilot Project*

**Project Description:** This pilot project will employ a worker to oversee the transition of people on the Yarra By-Name List into social housing. It will act as a bridge into downstream supports, necessary because of waiting lists into programs like MS2H and Tenancy Plus and mindful of their limitations. For example, Tenancy Plus usually only meets the person once housing is allocated.

The role will do pre-housing preparation work with people still homeless, systematizing the process of housing preparation and planning. The worker will then oversee the transition into housing when an offer is made. In some cases, the worker will directly do this work, but they will also act as a support to any existing workers who have the relationship with the person on the BNL; for example Assertive Outreach, St Mary's House of Welcome, North Richmond Community Health, Ngwala Willumbong and so on. Importantly, the worker will also remain involved until the right medium and long-term support can be put in place for the person, which may be several months. This is a critical time in any new tenancy when people who are sleeping rough may continue to sleep out for some of the time and when the pull of their street community can be greatest.

It will be a pilot to see if it leads to better transition management, more sustained tenancies, and greater confidence among Housing Allocations and Assessment Team members in DFFH to allocate to people on the BNL.

**Total Project Cost:** \$180381.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$40000.00

**Recommendation:** \$50,000.00

**Panel Comments:** High quality project and application that meets service gap and address clear needs. The evidence base for structured wrap around supports for moving homeless to housing is compelling. A key priority project.

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## Stream: Family, Youth, Middle and Early Years

### AG24-015: North Richmond Community Health

#### *NRCH Homework Group*

**Project Description:** The Homework Group provides after-school homework support and learning opportunities to the residents of the Yarra Public Housing Estates (from prep to year 9) to improve student's capability and confidence at school.

Activities include:

- Group learning activities divided into grades, developed by a volunteer with a teaching background
- Support students with homework provided
- Group learning games to end the session to increase social engagement and cohesion
- Empowering parents to be involved in their child's education through information and support
- One on one support for school projects, especially for high school students

We see students from:

- Richmond West Primary
- Collingwood College
- East Preston Islamic College
- Abbotsford Primary School
- Trinity Primary School Richmond

And potentially others in smaller numbers.

The project will be delivered by an NRCH coordinator and volunteer tutors, most of whom are university students or graduates to assist/advise students with their homework tasks in a welcoming and safe environment.

The Group is held at NRCH and coordinated by an NRCH Health & Wellbeing Officer who is also a local mum and has a Health Promotion and Community Development background.

On average we have 18 students attending the NRCH Homework Group each week, ranging from 10-25. With an average of 8 volunteers supporting each session.

We anticipate these numbers to increase to an average of 25 students per week if we secure funding and promote the group.

Funding support will ensure we can continue to engage the coordinator, who is currently on a fixed term contract until the end of the year, and purchase essential supplies to sustain the program beyond the funding period.

**Total Project Cost:** \$32540.00

**Amount Requested:** \$8880.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4580.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,880.00

**Panel Comments:** A clear application that highlighted how it is currently meeting a community need with a realistic budget that is supported by community through volunteers.

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**AG24-025: Breath Circle (Auspiced by Sacred Heart School, Fitzroy)**

*Breath Circle Programs*

**Project Description:** Breath Circle 6-week School Programs:

**Children:** Breath Circle's 6 week programs involve working with young people for one session per week. During the 1hour sessions conducted by a trained and experienced facilitator, children engage in play-based group learning through movement, mindful breathing and singing, to create clear minds, regulate emotions, and build resilience. Children will be supported to develop greater self-awareness which can have positive impacts on their personal relationships, education and learning, and sense of wellbeing.

**Educators/Teachers:** Breath Circle's school programs include an educators training component which empowers educators to use breath awareness as a tool for self-regulation, allowing them to better handle stress and control impulses, resulting in calm, harmonious classrooms for educators and youth. We build capacity of educators to teach mindful breathing to youth, as a daily wellbeing practice.

**Parents/Carers:** Our programs include a 1 hour parent meeting/training session to create community connection, enhance community participation and empower individuals to be resourceful in relation to their own mental health and wellbeing, as well as the health and wellbeing of their young people and community. We offer parent participation throughout our program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12780.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9900.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9900.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,600.00

**Panel Comments:** It was a clear application, demonstrating a tangible program that meets a community need in a holistic manner. Funded for two sessions.

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**AG24-044: Australian African Community Development Inc.(AACD) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

*African youth curriculum support program*

**Project Description:** This project is a collaboration between the African Australian Community Development Association (AACDA), Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH) and local families. The project aims to support African young people from the ages of 6 - 15 with English and Math's curriculum assistance. The aims and objectives include:

- Assist primary and secondary students with their studies in a friendly and supportive environment
- To provide safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate learning environment outside of school hours
- To improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills
- To improve social connectedness and the emotional and mental development of participants
- Develop students positive attitude towards learning
- Improve students skills to become independent learners and critical thinkers

**Total Project Cost:** \$36760.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A great community program that is already meeting community needs, is accessible with multiple delivery points and has a clear budget.

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## AG24-048: **Operation Newstart Incorporated**

### *Operation Newstart Yarra*

**Project Description:** - Outdoor adventure activities of mountain bike riding, caving, canoeing, skiing, hiking, high ropes course to promote characters strengths and leadership

- Camps including an overnight hike camp and a three day expedition ski camp.
- Community engagement workshops with Headspace and REACH on mental health and wellbeing, YSAS workshop on drugs and alcohol , Yarra Youth Centre sessions to do a project in Street Art and Hip Hop writing , a volunteer session at Collingwood Children's Farm making kookaburra boxes to place in surrounding trees, Community Bike project teaching newly arrived primary school students from the Collingwood English Language School Bike safety and building a new bike to donate to them. Weekly Gym sessions with a trainer from Yarra Leisure Centres at Richmond, Fitzroy and Collingwood.
- Pathway exploration through TAFE visits/workshops of Floristry and Landscaping at Melbourne Polytechnic.
- Personal development skills through goal setting, character strength workshops and growth mindset work.
- First aid certificate through South Melbourne Life Saving Club

**Total Project Cost:** \$53265.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9500.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,500.00

**Panel Comments:** It is a good application that sounds like an intensive course that would provide really tangible support for participants.

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## AG24-053: **Fitzroy Scout Group (Auspiced by THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN BRANCH)**

### *Fitzroy Scouts Reducing Barriers and Increasing Access Project*

**Project Description:** Fitzroy Scouts Reducing Barriers and Increasing Access Project enables the development of disadvantaged (and predominantly migrant) youth through participation in the Scouting program (including outdoor adventure and camping), by reducing financial barriers. This project will support Fitzroy Scout Group's approach of heavily subsidising weekly activities, outdoor excursions and weekend camps for the participating youth to ensure as many children as possible can benefit regardless of their circumstances. These activities build resilience and interpersonal skills and provide participants with opportunities to engage with nature. The Scouting program provides non-formal education, which helps young people to develop and grow holistically, and is run by volunteer leaders.

Building on previous support from City of Yarra to establish a Scout-age section, this grant funding will be used to embed and further enhance this program delivery, which was restricted by the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions over the previous years.

This project requires financial support in three areas. Firstly, to subsidise the cost of outdoor and educational experiences, allowing participants to experience the proven benefits of the Scouting Development Program. This funding would allow us to run 40 weeknight programs, and at least six subsidised camps or weekend activities for our Scout section (11-14 year olds). These camps and activities build life skills, citizenship and connections with the broader Australian community.

Secondly, the funding will be used to cover the membership/insurance costs for Scout section members and volunteer leaders. These are costs that are 'normally' covered by parents and present a barrier to our families.

Finally, the funding will cover organisational costs, such as hall hire and equipment purchases. Regular equipment purchases, such as tents, rain jackets, shelters and sleeping bags, means the group has safe

equipment to take children camping in the outdoors and can support families who do not have equipment themselves.

**Total Project Cost:** \$166292.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6000.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A really clear application that demonstrates a program meeting a community need and strong diverse community participation.

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#### AG24-083: **Melbourne Victory FC Academy Ltd**

*Victory at Richmond's Home Ground*

**Project Description:** Melbourne Victory FC in partnership with Home Ground Hub and GR8M8S Foundation would like to deliver the 'Victory at Richmond's Home Ground' weekly football program. This program will provide free, weekly football sessions for young residents of the Richmond Housing Estate contributing to Yarra's middle years and youth objectives supporting health, wellbeing, community/social connection, positive role models, safety, inclusion and employment - through the highly popular and engaging vehicle that is football.

Melbourne Victory has proudly supported the weekly PACSEL program at Richmond estate for a number of years, delivered by GR8M8S. The introduction of a dedicated football pitch at the estate in combination with the wellbeing and isolation concerns faced by youth coming out of COVID-19 lockdowns, all project partners are determined to strengthen a weekly football program that is engaging, meaningful and accessible to young residents on the Richmond estate.

Victory at Richmond's Home Ground aims to support children and youth in undertaking semi-structured and regular physical activity, facilitate meaningful connections and relationships amongst participants and their local community, and creating an employment pathway for a couple of local youth leaders.

By delivering a place-based, weekly football program (32 weeks of the year, delivered in 4 x 8 week blocks aligned with the Victorian school calendar), local residents will connect over a common interest regardless of race, gender, socio-economic-status and develop skills that build resilience, self efficacy, respect - leading to greater physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Identified youth leaders will also be provided an opportunity to obtain a recognised coaching qualification, undertaking a quasi paid internship with support from an experienced Melbourne Victory community coach. This will not only introduce a potential employment opportunity post-project, but will establish a number of positive role models within the community that support the development of young program participants.

**Total Project Cost:** \$28504.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6688.00

**Recommendation:** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A good application for an inclusive and proactive program, with strong planning for participant capacity building.

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#### AG24-085: **Birth for Humankind**

*Cultivating connections: Place-based community doula support and training*

**Project Description:** This project will enhance the provision of culturally sensitive, trauma-informed doula support to people experiencing disadvantage, through the delivery of specialised postnatal doula training to people living and working in Yarra City Council (YCC).

In 2020, BFH established a comprehensive pregnancy and birth Doula Training Program for women from culturally diverse backgrounds, with participants supported to complete the course through fully-funded scholarships.

This project will enhance BFH's trauma-informed doula training offering by centring community voices – those with lived experiences relevant to BFH's client group – in the development of specialised postnatal doula training. The project will also pilot an intensive, place-based postnatal doula training course, with graduates able to join the BFH volunteer doula team to provide respectful, trauma-informed postnatal doula support to people living in the YCC catchment. The training will also support participants to set up their own postnatal doula businesses, if they choose.

The project activities include:

- 1 community consultation session held in YCC to support the development of postnatal doula training – to better understand and reflect cultural/social postnatal needs and practices of those with lived experience of BFH client group. All residents will be compensated for their time with a \$25 visa gift voucher for participating.
- 1 community information sessions held in YCC to promote the role of community-based doula support and BFH's doula training and volunteer team.
- Development of postnatal doula support training content.
- Facilitation of a postnatal doula training course in YCC, which meets and reflects community need; and increases BFH's volunteer doula pool and capacity to provide postnatal services in YCC.
- Information sharing with key service referrers within YCC (e.g. MCH nurses and relevant council officers).

**Total Project Cost:** \$11999.06

**Amount Requested:** \$9620.10 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A strong application demonstrating a really valuable program that supports vulnerable community members.

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#### AG24-120: **Dadfit (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

*Dadfit - supporting healthy families and gender equity in Yarra*

**Project Description:** Our goal is to support the health and wellbeing of 90 families with children aged 0-5 by delivering six, 5-week Dadfit programs between January and September 2024. We will deliver the programs in Fitzroy and Fitzroy North. Each program is expected to have 15 dad participants.

A Dadfit program includes five weekly two-hour sessions. Each session includes a 60-minute group workout followed by a 60-minute 'dad chat' - i.e. facilitated group discussions about issues that matter to dads. The sessions will be delivered by former professional athletes and Fitzroy dads, Ryan Carters (cricket) and Simon Hogan (AFL), who are experienced fitness instructors and group facilitators.

The workouts involve fun, functional bodyweight exercises that are suitable for all fitness levels and can be modified for dads with disabilities. The discussions use evidence-based approaches to create open and supportive conversations about parenting, respectful relationships, balancing career and family, and mental health and wellbeing. Between sessions, dads support one another to put new ideas into practice via weekly 'dad challenges' and digital connection.

The Dadfit program was co-designed and piloted from March to June 2023 at Edinburgh Gardens with 30 dads (two groups of 15). Feedback from the pilot has been exceptionally strong, with 100% of dads rating the program 4 or 5 out of 5, and 90% opting to continue meeting weekly after the initial 5-week program.

In 2024 we plan to run four programs in Fitzroy North and two in Fitzroy, based in Edinburgh Gardens and Atherton Reserve. To ensure we're reaching diverse families, we'll partner with Fitzroy Learning Network to

promote and tailor the Fitzroy-based program to the needs of CALD and low income families in Fitzroy. We'll also promote the initiative via local childcare centres, City of Yarra MCH Service, and online.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12104.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9878.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6585.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,585.00

**Panel Comments:** A good application that demonstrates a strong community program that creates a strong sense of connection and promotes valuable ethics.

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#### AG24-128: **GR8 M8S Foundation**

*Yarra Wild Beast Program to build confidence and leadership potential of children from migrant communities*

**Project Description:** Yarra Wild Beast' basketball program will have more or less 50 young participants to train on Sunday evenings and participate in 2 friendly tournaments. This community basketball program also allows the young locals to increase their skills and live out their basketball passion with others in their community. In 2024 we intend for the squads to participate in two tournaments, in July and December subject to available funding. There will also be a regular training program conducted in late 2023 and 2024 on the Collingwood College Basketball Courts.

The Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball Program (YWBBP) was developed in 2010 in relation to community consultation held in line with the Yarra Blue Light weekly sports and recreation programs evaluation process. An aspiration for a dedicated local African youth basketball team was evident. Being part of the Wild Beasts Basketball Team (WBBT) allows local young people (13-25 years) to connect with other friends whilst participating in the various tournaments each year (often providing opportunities to interstate events such as the Adelaide Easter Classic).

**Total Project Cost:** \$38660.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$8000.00

**Recommendation:** \$8,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A strong application demonstrating a really valuable program that is meeting a range of community needs.

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#### AG24-144: **Kids Space in Yarra ( homework Club) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

*Kids Space in Yarra (Homework club)*

**Project Description:** The homework club program will provide a twice weekly onsite opportunity throughout the school terms for primary and early high school children to access educational support in the form of homework and reading assistance. Furthermore, children will have good time of interacting with their parents to connect with each other along with culturally diverse volunteers. There will be holiday programs to engage these kids in fun & indirect education activities.

**Total Project Cost:** \$70100.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A good project that addresses an identified community need that also brings community together to support young people's education. The concept demonstrated a positive focus.

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#### AG24-150: **The Rotary Club of Richmond Inc**

*RC Richmond Next Step Program*

**Project Description:** To support disadvantaged young people in Year 10 who attend the Collingwood Secondary College within the City of Yarra, as selected by the School's Year Level Co-Ordinators.

The Career Advisor case manages and mentors the young people; helps them to identify short and long term career goals and develop plans to achieve their nominated goals; assists in obtaining relevant work experience positions; identifies and organises attendance at targeted workshops eg financial literacy, trade expos, etc.



**Total Project Cost:** \$23680.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$8,500.00

**Panel Comments:** A strong application for a valuable project that has preventative measures to support young people and their futures.

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#### AG24-174: **Collingwood Toy Library Inc**

*Community Fun Days for Abbotsford and Fitzroy Toy Libraries*

**Project Description:** Our organisation has experience hosting highly successful free community activities for Yarra families, including messy play days and our 30th Birthday Party in 2022, attended by Mayor Sophie Wade and approximately 300 community members. In 2024, we wish to leverage our profile and connection with the community to host two free family-friendly events, one at each of our branches.

Community Fun Day - Abbotsford: Adopting a similar format to our highly successful 30th birthday party, we will utilise the Bob Rose carpark at Victoria Park for a free community celebration of play. To engage families, we will have interactive performers, engaging facilitated activities and dedicated quiet and baby/toddler play spaces. The primary aims of this event are to strengthen our connection with and between our local community members, promote the benefits of play, and showcase our role in the community as being broader than just toy borrowing.

Community Fun Day - Fitzroy Play Discovery: We will host an event that reflects the relatively recent establishment of the library and is tailored to the needs of families in Atherton Gardens. We will use the foyer of Connie Benn to host a fun play discovery session including a facilitated activity (e.g. a baby sensory session hosted by an early education expert) and an immersive, exploratory play area with brand new soft foam shapes and toys to encourage families to explore open ended play. This activity has the endorsement of Connie Benn staff. The primary aims are to showcase the toy library and provide an opportunity for local families to connect in a fun, free, facilitated session designed for young children.

Food is a universal language so we will provide free snacks at both events to make everyone feel included and welcome.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15034.00

**Amount Requested:** \$7650.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6500.00

**Recommendation:** \$6,500.00

**Panel Comments:** A strong application for two community events that support families and connect them to supports and resources. A good clearly identified plan with a clear budget.

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#### AG24-192: **North Richmond Community Health**

*Early Childhood Developmental Screening and Education*

**Project Description:** The Child Health and Development (CHAD) Team currently offers a limited amount of developmental screenings in local early childhood education and care (ECEC) settings. To date, these have been done together by a speech pathologist and occupational therapist, and involved assessing the overall development of children in their ECEC setting, where the parent/carer and/or educator has raised any concerns about the child's development.

The CHAD Team is limited in how many centres it can currently provide this screening service to, and would like to open this up to a greater number of ECEC settings in 2024. The purpose of these developmental screenings is to identify children who would benefit from additional support in their development, particularly before they start school. We would target centres within the City of Yarra housing estates to maximise participation of children from a range of socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, particularly those who might require additional support to access early intervention services.

**Total Project Cost:** \$10750.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9750.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application details an important identified need with a sustainable project plan.

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**AG24-199: Drummond Street Services**

*WATER PROOFING OUR LIVEWIRES*

**Project Description:** A ten-week community strengthening swimming program specifically designed for children from the Collingwood public housing estate facing financial/social hardship within the COY. This transformative program aims to provide a safe/supportive environment for these 5-12 year olds, empowering them to overcome fears/challenges while building essential life skills. By providing free access to swimming lessons, cofacilitated by familiar peer leaders from their youth programs on their estate, the program seeks to create positive and lasting changes in the lives of these children, prevent drowning and increase child/parent participation and social confidence. The location will be the Collingwood Leisure Centre and families will be supported to catch the bus (Myki provided) and walk with our staff to increase fitness/social confidence. The swimming program will play a vital role in addressing the limitations faced by vulnerable families and empowering young people within the community. By providing accessible swimming education and fostering confidence in the water, the program unlocks social possibilities, transforming the way families engage in recreational activities and facilitating the confident social integration of young people and families. We recognize that the impact of this program extends far beyond swimming pools, nurturing a generation of more resilient, and empowered individuals within the COY.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12970.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9550.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$9,550.00

**Panel Comments:** A really clear and strong application that demonstrates a clear community need with a sustainable project plan.

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**AG24-230: Collingwood Children's Farm Inc.**

*Sowing Seeds in Yarra Schools*

**Project Description:** We are seeking funding in order to welcome local schools down to the Farm to participate in our School Excursion Program. Of the 152 school excursions booked in the last two years, only 17 have been by schools within the City of Yarra, and only one Yarra school booked in 2023. If we are successful in getting this funding we will be able to offer local schools a number of free school excursions which they are able to book to attend in 2024. Schools would be able to choose which classes they would like to send down, and choose from our three educational themes; Meet and Greet, Paddock to Plate and Farm a Better Future.

We have specifically targeted schools that have a high percentage of students living in Atherton Gardens Estate, Richmond Public Housing and Collingwood Housing Estate as these students are likely to not have had access to the Farm previously, and their schools face financial barriers to participating in our excursions. These students would benefit from visiting our farmland and green space which allows people to connect with the natural environment and learn about where their food comes from. We will offer Sacred Heart Primary in Fitzroy and Fitzroy Primary School three excursions each, and have another two available for other local schools (Richmond West Primary, St Joseph's Primary and Collingwood Alternative School are priorities). Built into this grant application is the cost of transport for classes, as the schools have identified this as their key financial barrier.

Key activities are:

Build on relationships with local schools with a high percentage of children living in social housing.

Provide eight excursions including transport costs for at least eight classes of students.

Increase the number of local children who have access to the Farm and our education program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$25602.00

**Amount Requested:** \$9888.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9888.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,885.00

**Panel Comments:** A really clear and thoughtful application that demonstrates an area of need in the community of children and young people to connect with the environment in Yarra with a supportive program to make it accessible.

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#### AG24-232: **Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club**

*FLSC Promoting inclusivity and excellence through soccer*

**Project Description:** Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club's (FLSC) ongoing commitment is to engage with young people from diverse backgrounds, with a particular focus on those residing in public housing. Our goal is to level the playing field and ensure that all youth, regardless of their socio-economic background, have access to mainstream soccer opportunities. We strive to create an inclusive and supportive community where culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth can thrive.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that soccer can be a powerful vehicle for positive change. With this grant we aim to provide opportunities for young people to be active, build confidence, forge meaningful connections, learn valuable skills, and cultivate a positive sense of identity.

Our club acknowledges the unique challenges faced by young people in the community, and we are dedicated to promoting their well-being on multiple levels. By fostering social cohesion and supporting mental and physical well-being, we aim to equip our participants with the tools to navigate life's challenges and opportunities successfully.

FLSC is determined to make a difference by breaking down barriers and providing equal opportunities to participate in sport and the community. We believe we can positively impact the lives of young people, offering them a chance to reach their full potential. We recognise that the challenges faced by CALD youth are significant, and we stand committed to supporting them on their journey to success.

As we continue to empower our youth through soccer, we envision a future where the club's impact ripples through generations, creating a stronger and more harmonious community. FLSC is more than just a soccer club; it is a force for positive change, promoting social integration and well-being. With this grant, we can shape a brighter future and inspire young people to dream big.

**Total Project Cost:** \$87600.00

**Amount Requested:** \$10000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$9000.00

**Recommendation:** \$9,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A good application that is clearly well supported by community members.

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## Stream: Major Projects

#### AG24-057: **ILBIJERRI Theatre CO**

*ILBIJERRI ENSEMBLE - Creating career pathways for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait people*

**Project Description:** The Ensemble is a professional development program open to First Peoples emerging and aspiring artists.

The program consists of open weekly workshops throughout the year, as well as opportunities to work intensively, alongside established professional First Peoples artists. Through these workshops Ensemble members build an essential tool kit of performance skills, experience, network connections and confidence. The program creates opportunities for participants to learn a range of performance and theatre skills whilst

connecting with their peers and building self-confidence. This program fosters the next generation of First Peoples theatre artists and facilitators.

ILBIJERRI Ensemble program includes:

- 4 Blocks of participatory theatre workshops open to young First Peoples
- Each block will be run by industry professionals, culminating in a public showing

Participants have the opportunity to be exposed to wide range of performing arts, both those with ILBIJERRI program and more broadly through industry partnerships. Each participants has the, opportunity to be seconded to a professional production member (Lighting/set/costume/sound designer, director, dramaturge, stage manager etc) on a main stage ILBIJERRI production in addition to skills development workshop. This provides a holistic understanding of the theatre making process and an introduction to a wealth of career pathways. It is vital that we develop skilled First Peoples professionals in these areas.

ILBIJERRI Youth Ensemble is the only ongoing Indigenous youth theatre program delivered in Melbourne. Through providing opportunities to participate in the performing arts we can encourage mob to explore professional training opportunities and pursue rewarding careers in our industry. For many, this will be their first professional work experience so it is a very significant program in the sector development space.

Ensemble is a highly effective program running since 2018. This funding would allow us to bring this program to the City of Yarra, providing opportunities for local first peoples.

**Total Project Cost:** \$143900.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$45000.00

**Recommendation:** \$25,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The program addresses a clear need in the community and is well supported. The application is solid.

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#### AG24-059: **3CR Community Radio**

##### *3CR Community Engagement Project*

**Project Description:** 3CR will undertake five key areas of activity as part of our Community Engagement Project.

##### 1. Beyond the Bars 2024

We seek a contribution to our long-standing prison radio series that gives voice to First Nations prisoners across six Victorian jails. Beyond the Bars is completely unique and delivered by First Nations broadcasters. It gives voice to over 100 First Nations prisoners, and is delivered by a team of over 10 First Nations broadcasters.

##### 2. Disability Day 2024

We seek a contribution to fund a coordinator and content producers to contribute to our annual Disability Day 12-hour broadcast that creates radio and podcast content by, for and about the disability community. The special day builds off our weekly disability focused radio content and provides additional opportunities for media content that is by, for and about the disability community.

##### 3. Climate Action podcast series

We will collaborate with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition to deliver podcast training to a group of young activists and the production of a podcast series for wide distribution and broadcast. Climate action remains an urgent issue, and this podcast series will enhance education and engagement.

##### 4. 3CR Open Days

We will run two free Open Days in 2024 - inviting the community to visit our unique and dynamic community radio station. As the neighbourhood changes, we want to invite engagement, participation and knowledge about our important community work and the opportunities for participation and listening.

### 5. 3CR Live series

We will stage two live events in the local area to showcase unsigned artists and under-represented voices, and to foster communities coming together and connecting.

**Total Project Cost:** \$110167.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$45000.00

**Recommendation:** \$25,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Clear project aligned to CoY priorities. Credible organisation with strong capacity to deliver. Detailed budget and good outcome measures.

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### AG24-078: MiCare

#### *Yarra Women Behind the Wheel*

**Project Description:** This program specifically targets women from refugee and migrant backgrounds who have

difficulty obtaining their driver's license. This is a continuing issue often raised in case work and community consultations. Yarra Women Behind the Wheel was developed in response to this growing need and has been successfully running for several years. We wish to continue this program and run it twice during 2024 with approximately 12 women in each round.

Program components include:

- Delivery of three x 3-hour sessions on road rules with an English language component run in collaboration with Carringbush Adult Education;
- Delivery of three 2-hour information sessions covering topics such as law and driving, road safety, fines, roles of the police, buying a car, loans, insurance, and child safety restraints. Sessions will run in partnership with Victoria Police, Victoria Legal Aid/Fitzroy Legal Service and financial counsellors from the Neighbourhood Justice Centre;
- A leadership/mentoring focus where two participants from each round will become the leaders of the program. They will be supported to create flyers, facilitate the sessions including opening and closing the sessions and introduce speakers. Also, they will be involved in devising and presenting an evaluation during the final session; and
- Five driving lesson vouchers per participant to assist with the development of practical driving skills

**Total Project Cost:** \$28847.40

**Amount Requested:** \$19454.00 **Minimum Required:** \$12550.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application was excellently organized, with direct and clearly articulated outcomes with measures of success.  
ity.

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### AG24-087: Vacro

#### *Second Chance Cycles*

**Project Description:** Since July 2009, Vacro has run a community bicycle workshop from the car park underneath the Collingwood Public Housing Estate (The Underground). The Second Cycles workshop takes discarded bicycles and unclaimed stolen bikes and restores them for community use.

Second Chance Cycles provides Yarra residents with:

- Hands-on training in a workshop environment (the employment element).
- A chance to give back to the community (the volunteer element).
- The opportunity to learn how to repair and maintain their own bikes (the skill development and mobility elements).
- An opportunity to socialise in a supported setting (the community building element).

The project was established with a dual purpose:

1. to establish a place based workshop where community participants gain experience in bicycle mechanics while also learning transferrable work readiness skills.
2. to provide an inclusive opportunity for justice involved adults and local volunteers.

Using the restoration and distribution of restored bicycles as a project tool. Second Chance Cycles aims to:

1. Connect participants with their local communities
2. Increase individual employability skills
3. Improve personal wellbeing
4. Promote healthy sustainable transport options

**Total Project Cost:** \$252200.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$40000.00

**Recommendation:** \$40,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong with a number of social and environmental benefits proven to be effective in Yarra.

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#### AG24-113: **Community Pop Up Markets Ltd**

*The Community Grocer - a marketplace for multicultural food enterprises*

**Project Description:** The Community Grocer currently runs a weekly affordable and culturally appropriate fresh food market at the Atherton Gardens Public Housing Estate. It runs every Tuesday from 9am - 1pm, and currently supports food security and social connection for up to 50 local residents from 17 different nationalities - some from public housing and some from the broader City of Yarra community. Alongside the fruit and vegetable market, we currently have 2 social and micro enterprises operating from the same marketplace - High Rise Community Bakery and Cultural Catering who provide access to culturally appropriate bakery goods and prepared foods.

We would like to expand the current marketplace, strengthening the offering of existing enterprises and providing the opportunity for up to 3 new multicultural food enterprises to join (supported by Fitzroy Learning Network and Cultivating Community). This will provide employment and income generation activities for local multicultural residents and businesses, and provide greater food access and social connection opportunities for local multicultural residents.

Alongside the additional enterprises, we want to build community engagement opportunities at the market by:

- inviting community organisations such as Yarra Libraries and CoHealth to share information/run activities
- incorporating the sharing of food at the market, through providing tea/coffee and snacks
- coordinating quarterly community events to celebrate significant cultural days and/or the seasons
- running additional activities during the school holidays to provide local family friendly activities
- relocating the market outside (it's current location is in the community hall at 90 Brunswick Street Fitzroy)
- providing pop up seating and table infrastructure to encourage community to sit and connect
- establishing a community reference group to help codesign and inform ongoing activities

**Total Project Cost:** \$225916.00

**Amount Requested:** \$48500.00 **Minimum Required:** \$40000.00

**Recommendation:** \$30,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted this application was clear and credible and were happy to secure funding for the project.

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#### AG24-115: **Abbotsford Convent Foundation**

*Convent Kids*

**Project Description:** Abbotsford Convent Foundation's (ACF) Convent Kids program is an annual program of free/low-cost arts and cultural experiences for children and families to explore, learn and participate together through excellent arts and cultural experiences. Launched in 2018, we have delivered 40 programs

for more than 20,000 child and family audiences. Research conducted with Convent Kids audiences always results in high satisfaction. Across the 2022/2023 fiscal year we generated a 96% satisfaction rating from Convent Kids audiences.

From this foundation, and for this project, the Convent Kids 2024 program adds depth by curating activities that are not only created for and with children, but are also co-created by children. The program activities will provide richer and more diverse engagements with our loyal and growing child and family audiences.

The Convent Kids 2024 curatorial pillars and associated activities include:

- Children as co-creators of events with arts leaders through a new exhibition curated by Kate Golding, featuring work by children for Photo Festival; The Other Guise Theatre Company in association with Theatre SKAM creating Fashion Machine, featuring child performers refashioning the outfits of audience members; and Slow Art Collective Festival with a diverse array of featured artists centring children in the creation of installations.
- Children as active creators through workshops with Dandrogeny and Betty Grumble, Mobile MESS, and Peek-a-Butoh.
- Children as creators and appreciators of the arts through collaborations with Polyglot and St Martin's Youth Arts Centre.

The Convent Kids 2024 program will:

- Introduce more events created by children in our high-calibre contemporary arts and cultural program.
- Foster meaningful social connection and a positive sense of identity, belonging and social cohesion.
- Provide children with a rare agency in a public institution, inviting their active participation and celebrating their citizenship.

**Total Project Cost:** \$405055.31

**Amount Requested:** \$49840.00 **Minimum Required:** \$38000.00

**Recommendation:** \$35,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was credibly detailed, with strong funneling of budget and outcomes for communities in Yarra.

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## AG24-132: **Carringbush Adult Education**

### *African Women's Group*

**Project Description:** This project will support African women in the City of Yarra through the African Women's Group (AWG). The AWG is a long-standing community group of vulnerable women from African background who are predominantly refugees and migrants. The AWG was led by MiCare who due to their limited capacity of settlement timeframe support can no longer lead the AWG. Carringbush was nominated from the community and Yarra organisations to take over as lead of the AWG.

This project will support the AWG to host monthly meetings and workshops that deep-dive into a requested topic such as, but not limited to, parenting, citizenship, financial education, health information sessions, education, increased skills, or practical skills such as swimming lessons. Each meeting, where needed, has; child-minding, interpreters, and food to ensure accessibility.

The project aims to assist the women with connection to community and celebrate culture and religion. All our meetings are culturally safe, additionally, we meet to celebrate Eid and any other important dates suggested by the women.

The project aims to reduce social isolation and increase community participation by providing participants with a safe space to socialize, share, learn and develop skills, while supporting other women with shared experiences. This project also aims to support women with participating in the wider community of Yarra and feeling confident with contributing back to the wider community. The project operates by building the women's capacity and empowering them to lead, by sharing their voices in the group and leading the direction of the group.

The project will also provide employment for a woman from an African background as a pivotal part of the project team.

**Total Project Cost:** \$63297.50

**Amount Requested:** \$40477.00 **Minimum Required:** \$25000.00

**Recommendation:** \$25,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was deemed credible with a strong ability to deliver outcomes.

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**AG24-134: MZURI DANCE ARTISTREE FUND INC.**

*Culture Club Community Cook-up*

**Project Description:** The Culture Club Community Cook-up is co-led and co-designed with the African Australian residents of Atherton Gardens Estates, Fitzroy, Victoria. It was piloted in 2023 with very successful outcomes, as demonstrated by evaluation results and partner's acknowledgement. The program revolves around hosting 30 sessions of African communities cook-ups, with a primary focus on addressing food insecurity, nurturing intergenerational connections, and encouraging intercultural exchange among families. Each Saturday, we unite participants to showcase their culinary skills and rejoice in their diverse cultural heritage through shared meals.

In addition to the cook-ups, our program provides a safe and inclusive space for young kids to engage in arts and crafts and ball gaming activities. This enriching environment allows kids to express their creativity, develop new skills, and enjoy recreational activities, keeping them away from the streets and providing constructive outlets for their energy.

Empowering the African Australian residents of Atherton Gardens Estates, especially women and young people, is at the core of our mission. To achieve this, we actively engage local African women as program facilitators, providing them with leadership roles and promoting their catering businesses, fostering economic growth and financial independence.

The program also addresses food insecurity among the community, particularly those from refugee backgrounds. We equip participants with skills to create nutritious meals even with limited resources by sharing culinary traditions and knowledge.

Culture Club's activities offer a space for families and young kids to bond, learn, and celebrate together. By providing these opportunities, we contribute to a vibrant and inclusive environment that enriches the lives of all participants involved and the wider community. Our project has a far-reaching positive impact, fostering a sense of belonging, promoting cultural heritage, challenging gender norms, and empowering Yarra's social housing community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$78380.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$35000.00

**Recommendation:** \$30,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application is well explained with clear outcomes and metrics, and sufficient evidence for the panel to grant funding.

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**AG24-143: Australian Catholic University**

*Yarra Community Middle Years Sport, Health and Wellbeing Programs*

**Project Description:** The project is a community led sport, health and wellbeing program targeted to benefit youth delivered in collaboration with two charities based and/or working in the Yarra neighbourhoods, GR8M8S and Home Ground Hub and with involvement from Victoria Police. Using sport and game-based physical activity as a vehicle for positive social and individual change, the programs aim to break down barriers between youth and the wider community in a safe environment and prevent adverse health events among individuals participating in the programs. Led by the needs of, and developed in conjunction with, the community the program aims to increase capacity of the local youth in areas such as self-esteem, resilience, openness, flexibility, self-worth and future education and employment prospects. All programs would be offered at no cost.



Individualized yearlong programs will be implemented in the Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond housing estates.

1. Collingwood Estate - soccer program delivered one afternoon a week.
2. Fitzroy Estate - AusKick in Term 1, Soccer Term 2, Cricket Term 3 and Tennis Term 4 delivered in conjunction with local sporting clubs.
3. Richmond Estate - Soccer program one day a week for young males and females delivered in conjunction with Melbourne Victory.
4. At all estates - Non-sport physical activity programs focussing on game-based non-competitive, fun and respectful fundamental motor skill, physical fitness and teamwork development.
5. Special occasion excursion opportunities with community partners (e.g. Melbourne Victory Football Club)
6. Sports equipment library on all three estates available while other programs are running for residents outside of target age range of structured programs (e.g. young adults)

**Total Project Cost:** \$169040.00

**Amount Requested:** \$50000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$38000.00

**Recommendation:** \$25,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel noted this was a strong and impactful program, which brings in-kind support to Yarra.

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#### AG24-215: Australian Vietnamese Women's Association

*Strive*

**Project Description:** Thrive Mental Health Literacy and Inclusion Program is aimed at supporting vulnerable young people from Australia's Vietnamese Community using Peer to Peer Educators who will be recruited from Vulnerable Australian Vietnamese youth populations including LGBTIQ youth and those who live in public housing estates. P2Ps will be delivered by qualified and experienced professionals in three areas: mental health awareness, basic community development work focusing on empowering on young people to take part in activities that will improve their mental health and wellbeing outcomes, and AVWA Mental Health Literacy an Inclusion web-based application. This component of the training will also be delivered by Legal Tech Helper (LTH)

Legal Tech Helper will:

- research and consult with AVWA staff (including Peer to Peer Workers) to co-design the content for a training program to be delivered to the recruited Peer to Peer Educators
- facilitate three training sessions for the Peer to Peer Workers (including debriefing/refining content after the first training session) in Q1/2024
- facilitate two evaluation sessions towards the end of the life of the project to find out whether or not the target group have used digital platforms to access place-based services including mental health services. and write an evaluation report for AVWA in Q4/2024.

The training will comprise information on how to find the new AVWA web application on a mobile or tablet, how to use the web application to find place-based support (mental health and legal) services and mental health law rights, and how to find other services (e.g., through Ask Izzy, LGBTQI youth services/websites, Mental Health Legal Centre's Online Help, youth-based mental health services, and relevant services in other areas of need).

**Total Project Cost:** \$67057.44

**Amount Requested:** \$45000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$39264.00

**Recommendation:** \$25,000.00

**Panel Comments:** This is a good project with strong alignment to CoY priorities. Youth mental health is a significant ongoing issue post the pandemic. Success measures and outcomes are well articulated

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**AG24-223: Elizabeth Trewhella**

*Conscious Stock*

**Project Description:** FFW is seeking funding to recruit and train a team of volunteers to support the development and implementation of a Stock Management System in FFW's Donations Hub.

The number of clothing donations FFW receives every year is rising and in FY22 FFW processed over 20,000 kilos of donations.

For this reason, we need to create a Stock Management System to better sort, process, control and store our donations and will require a team of volunteers to implement this system.

Activities we will undertake include:

Creating Position Descriptions for the volunteer roles, including a Lead Stock Control Role.

Advertising volunteer opportunities and recruiting a minimum of 4 volunteers

Training of the volunteer team and ongoing management of this team.

Development and implementation of a Stock Management System for the Donations Hub that supplies a pipeline of suitable stock to FFW's Dressing Room and retail social enterprise, The Conscious Closet.

**Total Project Cost:** \$625985.00

**Amount Requested:** \$20000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$10000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Strong application by a credible local community org. Multiple groups to benefit from project including volunteers and disadvantaged women. Budget is reasonable, and outcome measures clear.

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## Stream: Social Enterprise

**AG24-029: North Richmond Community Health**

*Cultural Catering Business Support*

**Project Description:** Cultural Catering is a social enterprise catering business, originally started 20 years ago by local public housing residents in partnership with Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH), to provide employment and culturally-relevant catering opportunities on the estates and for local events. Today, NRCH has partnered with BANH to grow the enterprise, which now employs 7 community cooks (public housing residents from a refugee background) and has supported 4 other residents into local jobs in hospitality through training courses.

This first year of expansion was made possible through a DJPR grant to renovate the NRCH kitchen, train local community members in hospitality and provide wages for the first year of business. Now that seed funding is coming to its completion, we need to grow the business and ensure that Cultural Catering can continue to employ existing and new cooks.

Current orders are covering the cost of food and community cook wages, but does not cover the costs of administration, marketing, new equipment and other overheads that allow the business to grow.

NRCH is providing in-kind support for program coordination in-kind and all corporate overheads including electricity, rent, accounting, etc.

However, NRCH does not have the resources for additional in-house marketing and business support to develop and execute a marketing plan and empower the community cooks to run the program sustainably and eventually go on to run their own businesses, allowing other Yarra residents the opportunity to take their first steps in catering via Cultural Catering.

This is what we require additional funding for to ensure the enterprise is sustainable and can provide employment opportunities to more people experiencing barriers to employment in hospitality.

**Total Project Cost:** \$176458.00

**Amount Requested:** \$15000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$12000.00

**Recommendation:** \$15,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Investing in a business strategy sounds like a sensible next step for this emerging enterprise.

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#### AG24-211: **SisterWorks Inc.**

*Crafted Culture WISE Capacity Building*

**Project Description:** WORK-INTEGRATED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (WISE) MODEL

SisterWorks provides hospitality training and employment opportunities for migrant, refugee and asylum seeker women (Sisters) to gain industry specific skills, develop their confidence, economic empowerment and build a better life in Australia.

Training is provided on a 10 week-term basis (to accommodate women with caring responsibilities) and ongoing support after training is completed including employment at our Crafted Culture to increase confidence and skills. Crafted Culture is a job creation cafe; a safe and welcoming space where Sisters can further develop their hospitality skills. Since opening in November 2022, we have employed 11 Sisters who have been able to:

- Gain paid training and Australian work experience
- Increase their confidence and English skills
- Increase their familiarity with working in a Cafe environment

#### AREA FOR GROWTH - CRAFTED CULTURE CATERING

SisterWorks started to run catering services from Crafted Culture when we opened the cafe in November. Since this date we have been able to grow our catering services but see the opportunity for growth which will lead to more employment opportunities for Sisters.

From 1 January - 30 June 2023, our catering sales have become 41% of the revenue at Crafted Culture. Throughout this period, we have seen a steady growth rate as catering went from 30% of Crafted Culture income in January - March to 48% in June. Not only is the percentage of Crafted Culture income increasing but the overall revenue for the cafe growing - 61.7% (from April - June compared with January - March) - mainly driven by catering. This increase in revenue has allowed us to employ more Sisters and become more sustainable.

**Total Project Cost:** \$368115.00

**Amount Requested:** \$12315.00 **Minimum Required:** \$7315.00

**Recommendation:** \$12,315.00

**Panel Comments:** SisterWorks submitted a remarkable application in terms of cultural measurement; it includes the internal skills to measure the outcomes and impact of this project. The social issue (gender inequality) is well identified and the need of the project is well explained (inclusive employment).

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#### AG24-226: **Jigsaw Australia**

*A large plan scanner to diversify Jigsaw's business services, creating employment for people with disability*

**Project Description:** We are requesting support to purchase a second large plan scanner for Jigsaw's social enterprise business. The scanner will be used by employees and trainees with disability to digitise historical records for corporate and government clients, including magazines and property floor plans - document types that cannot be processed with our standard scanners. The scanner requested will a) facilitate 3 FTE jobs and 6-9 traineeships for people with disability, b) diversify the services we can offer to business clients and c) enable Jigsaw trainees to experience new processes and develop their skills, contributing to Jigsaw's

employment pathway and leading to employment outcomes for people with disability.

Thanks to Yarra City Council for your incredible support since Jigsaw opened in 2021, both in terms of grants and business partnerships with Yarra Libraries. Your grant support for scanning and computing equipment has been a huge enabler for our growth: compared to this time last year, we are supporting an additional 16 people to gain core soft skills and work experience through Jigsaw Academy (86 up from 70), employing an additional six people with disability at award wage (22 up from 16) and our first Jigsaw graduate has worked their way fully through the Jigsaw pathway to a mainstream job. Our Jigsaw Connect team is now supporting Luke and his new manager at Victoria Department of Transportation and Planning! We have five new business clients (AN1 Media, Darebin Council, Whitehorse Council, Air Services Australia and Uniting), and have grown our average monthly revenue from \$37,500 to \$65,000.

A second large plan scanner will facilitate continued growth in the number of traineeships and award-wage jobs we can create for people with disability, and drive continued revenue growth for Jigsaw. Jigsaw reinvests this revenue in promoting more people into paid traineeships and paying their wages.

**Total Project Cost:** \$12876.60

**Amount Requested:** \$12877.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6500.00

**Recommendation:** \$12,877.00

**Panel Comments:** This is an excellent application. The funding request is specific, and clearly aligned to the generation of additional employment hours and diversification of skills for your target group.

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## Stream: Sports and Recreation

### AG24-033: Yarra Pub Cricket Association

#### *Women in Pub Cricket*

**Project Description:** The YPCA is seeking to improve the diversity of the Association by encouraging more women to take part in Pub Cricket activities. Data from the Victorian Government indicates that the number of women participating in sport drops off sharply by the age of 18. We want to undertake some activities which will encourage adult women who otherwise might not participate in sport to participate in Pub Cricket.

To do this, we propose to:

- produce flyers to specifically promote awareness amongst women in the Yarra LGA of the existence of Pub Cricket and its benefits; these flyers will be posted and distributed in hospitality and other venues (eg gyms) across the Yarra LGA;

- to run radio advertisements on community radio along similar lines to the above; and

- to hold a pre-season 'Women in Pub Cricket' function at one of the currently participating hotels where prospective female players could meet other women currently involved in the Association as well as the captains and managers of the existing Pub cricket teams; this could be linked to a 'come and try' pre-season training evening at the Edinburgh Gardens cricket nets.

**Total Project Cost:** \$7680.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3500.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the application was strong and granted deserving of funding by the panel. However it could have been stronger with more detail in budgeting items.

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#### AG24-102: **Fitzroy Junior Football Club**

*FJFC pre & post season sports & conditioning program for kids and coaches*

**Project Description:** We are proposing to use our grant funding on running specialised pre and post season sports and conditioning workshops and 'train the trainer' fitness programs. We hope these workshops will help target several key areas of support and inclusivity for our young players and even new players who are looking for a club to join. We have chosen sports and conditioning as our key focus as we see this area is the most likely to be a key area of interest for the FJFC community. We want to assist them in building their strength, confidence, and ultimately provide great mental health support under the pretence of ongoing fitness objectives that are outside of their normal playing season. We also know that by keeping our players fit and strong we will assist to reduce the chance of injury and keep players active (almost) all year round. We also know that by offering a dedicated and bespoke sports and conditioning workshop we can assist our FJFC community to be more confident when tackling and to be stronger kickers and overall players of the game. By offering a specialist coach workshop run by committed professionals we will also be able to ensure that our coaches feel supported, safe and feel inclusive which aligns with our overall objectives as a junior AFL football club.

**Total Project Cost:** \$17212.00

**Amount Requested:** \$6000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$6000.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,000.00

**Panel Comments:** An important initiative by the applicant to support the health and wellbeing of our young players, especially in the offseason.

However, funding was decreased significantly due to a number of issues with the application. The max grant amount is 5k (the applicant has applied for 6k). The application should have applied for 2 separate grants (as they have 2 separate projects that hit different stream requirements). A portion of the grant is not appropriate as it is under a different allocated stream requirement. Only the 1k amount 'train the trainer' element was seen to be applied properly.

Consultation with Yarra's recreation team before applying would have made this application stronger for more funding.

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#### AG24-104: **GR8 M8S Foundation**

*Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps (TASC) 2024*

**Project Description:** We would like to request funding to run the Toolangi Adventure Sports Camp (TASC) for 2024, a four-day camp run during the school holidays to bring together teenagers from around the Yarra City High Rise Housing Estates to broaden their experiences and help them integrate better in the Yarra City community.

In the idyllic bush setting of Toolangi, participants will engage in a range of team-based activities - fostering soft skills development, soccer and/or basketball skills and enabling deeper social learning without the regular distractions of home / city life. We will engage youth from Blue Light Victoria's Yarra after school program, many of whom come from recently arrived immigrant or refugee backgrounds, to come together and build strong connections with other youth in their community. Our program will also provide ongoing mentorship to the participants and reduce their risk of criminal involvement.

TASC seeks funding under the Participation Category to contribute to costs of the 4 camps we are planning for 2024 during school holidays.

TASC attendees are assorted into teams according to mutual needs and are encouraged to build teamwork skills throughout the camp in a series of mock competitions over the course of the program. The team-based activities are centered on outdoor activities such as basketball, soccer and an Outdoors Inc adventure-based activity, whilst also incorporating the crucial life skills such as cooking, cleaning, activity planning and working in a team environment.

Other sessions hosted by our implementing partners include: a Melbourne Victory soccer clinic, AM/PM Basketball and leadership and teamwork session by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation. TASC planning and implementing partners include Yarra Youth Services and Victorian Police. Camp facilities in Toolangi provided by Anglicare Victoria.

To see our program in action, you can watch us on ABC's 'Sideliners' via the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt818DbBXqE>

**Total Project Cost:** \$104088.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A very good application, which shows extensive consultation with contributing partners and targets a significant community need. The applicant has a proven track record of delivering such programs.

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#### AG24-108: Yarra Pub Cricket Association

*Provision of Women's Cricket Equipment*

**Project Description:** The YPCA would like to purchase cricket equipment, specifically cricket bats, which are more suitable for women players. The cricket bats used at YPCA training sessions and in club kits are all currently men's bats, which are often too heavy to be easily used by female players. We would like to progressively purchase over time enough light weight but full sized bats to ensure all women taking part in YPCA games have access to equipment which will maximise their performance and hence their enjoyment of the game. The maximum grant of \$1000 would allow us to purchase 3 to 4 bats this year, for use from the second half of the 2023/24 season.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1252.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$700.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall this is a clear application with necessary outcomes and sufficient evidence for funding.

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#### AG24-122: Melbourne Swimming Club

*Development program for Melbourne Swimming Club Coaches*

**Project Description:** The project involves having our new and established coaches undergo training and certifications to increase the skills, knowledge and understanding around general club operations and governance to better cater to the needs of swimming participants, especially as we prepare the launch of our new program catering for children with specific learning needs and autism. We will conduct a workshop on inclusive coaching techniques to strengthen their understanding of coaching children and those with specific learning needs and autism.

This workshop should cover topics like adapting coaching methods, communication strategies, and creating inclusive environments to accommodate children with diverse learning needs. There will also be a coaching workshop and seminars on diverse aspects of coaching, including effective communication, leadership, group dynamics, and sports psychology.

With a large focus on mental health, this aims to provide coaches with practical tools and strategies to enhance their coaching skills and ability to motivate and support athletes.

**Total Project Cost:** \$3590.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Seems a good plan as people qualified in the coaching of special needs participants is imperative to the success of the venture.

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#### AG24-123: Melbourne Swimming Club

*Purchase of portable ramp to cater for our swimmers with a disability/disabilities*

**Project Description:** This project involves the purchase of a portable ramp (per quote attached), which is an important equipment item in making our venue accessible for people with mobility issues and other disabilities. We are constantly growing, particularly meeting demand in programs for people with disabilities, and these ramps are essential to boosting our capacity and enabling new programs in these areas. It is our intention to make the experience of everyone attending our venue inclusive and enjoyable, regardless of their abilities.

Portable ramps provide access for many participants with disabilities to participate in the sport more comfortably, which provides an enhanced experience for all and in turn will improve the vibrancy / overall viability of our club, enabling us to keep fees to a minimum, so that we can maximise community participation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$18851.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Strong application, addresses the stream priorities through the purchase of specific equipment to enable or enhance the participation of swimmers with a disability or those who may otherwise have difficulties accessing the swimming pool.

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#### AG24-124: Melbourne Swimming Club

*Learn to Swim Program to help children with specific learning needs, autism, and other disabilities*

**Project Description:** We are planning to develop a swim program addressing the learning needs of those struggling with conventional swimming lessons, by adding specific teaching and communication strategies and an understanding of autism, sensory processing difficulties and specific learning requirements.

Below are the planned activities for our "Learn to Swim" program:

- Individualised Swim Plans: Develop individualised swim plans for each child, taking into account their specific learning needs, strengths, and areas for improvement. The plan contains achievable goals and personalised teaching strategies to support each swimmers' progress.
- Partner Swimming Buddies: Pair each child with a trained swim buddy. This partnership can create a supportive and inclusive environment, where children with specific learning needs receive encouragement and assistance, while their buddies learn about empathy and inclusivity.
- Sensory focused Swim Sessions: Design sensory integration-focused swim sessions that cater to the sensory needs of children with autism. Include activities that stimulate various sensory systems, such as water play with different textures, floating and diving exercises, and games that involve specific sensory experiences like water splashing or gentle waves. Sensory integration activities can help regulate sensory input, support self-regulation, and improve overall sensory processing for children with autism.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15500.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$4000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A good application in line with stream priorities for improving inclusion and access for a disadvantaged section of the community.

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#### AG24-129: Northcote United Cricket Club

*2024 Family Day*

**Project Description:** To launch the cricket season, NUCC has successfully held a Family Day for the last 2 years, opening its doors and inviting the local community to join us at Alphington Park. The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of the Club's programs & facilities amongst the local community, promote the Club's cricket programs, attract and retain families and players, increase our social connection with the local community (and in particular Yarra Bend and local schools), use and promote local businesses including our

sponsors and bring Club members, friends, families and community together for the launch of the upcoming cricket season.

Similar to previous Family Days, we will provide a range of free, healthy, fun filled activities and entertainment, a free BBQ, coffee, drinks, prizes, giveaways, special guests/mascots and various cricket activities across our Woolworths Blast program and Junior program. With a womens program now in place, we will expand the range of activities in 2023 and 2024 to include a Womens Social Sixes format. For our 2024 Family Open Day, we propose offering the following activities (or similar):

- Cricket programs - Blast, Junior and Social Sixes (all equipment provided)
- Face painting
- Musician/DJ
- Activities sourced through Cricket Victoria (eg., Stars Bus or inflatables) subject to availability
- Mini-petting zoo/pony rides
- Mini-golf
- Soccer activities provided by co-tenant Alphington Football Club
- Free BBQ, coffee, water, juice, fruit, icypoles
- NUCC branded balloons &/or water bottles
- Special guests/mascots
- Prizes/giveaways (donated by Cricket Victoria, sponsors, local businesses)
- Other games & activities to engage children of all ages, abilities and interests

Typically, we hold our Family Day on the last Saturday morning of the school holidays which coincides with our Seniors playing in the afternoon, another opportunity to showcase the Club and its program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8843.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3500.00 **Minimum Required:** \$2700.00

**Recommendation:** \$2,700.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought the application was strong though wanted to recommend a more sustainable outcome (Yarra has taken a stance against single-use plastics which do not align with funding streams. - e.g balloons, waterbottles).

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#### AG24-130: GR8 M8S Foundation

##### *2024 Yarra Challenge Cups*

**Project Description:** We are planning to hold the 'Challenge Cup', which is an eight a side soccer program, whereby approximately 100 children and youths (5-18yrs) from Fitzroy, Richmond and Collingwood public high rises train and compete 4 times per year in a friendly tournament. This will offer children the opportunity to participate in teams made up of various demographics from their local community. The Cups are assisted by other services in Yarra and feature a Showcase Exhibition Game at each cup. This game is made up of local service providers, volunteers and local young people. Their chosen sport will be what brings them together to enjoy the opportunities to play and establish new social connections, while also benefiting their physical and mental health.

We have been very fortunate to have been funded by the grant last year to conduct the 2023 Cups. For 2024, although we are doing our very best to raise the required funding through other fundraising means, we are once again seeking the help of Council as all help will be beneficial for us to achieve our aims for the program.

**Total Project Cost:** \$25502.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3800.00

**Recommendation:** \$4,600.00

**Panel Comments:** A well-targeted application from an organisation with a track record of successful program delivery, and which shows extensive consultation with partners.

There may have been a type in the budget/funding application section which is why the panel has chosen to fund this amount.

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## AG24-140: COLLINGWOOD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB (CCFC)

### *COLLINGWOOD EAGLES INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL*

**Project Description:** The Collingwood Eagles program is a soccer skills training program for children and young people aged 6 to 28 years with an intellectual or physical disability. The aims of the program include; to provide children and young people with an opportunity to learn soccer skills in a safe and welcoming environment where the players' abilities and progress is valued, to improve player physical fitness, to prepare children for integration with other teams as appropriate, supporting players who wish to compete in the FV All Abilities competition, and contributing to the further development of the the FV All Abilities competition. The program also supports families of children with special needs by providing recreational/ sporting opportunities for their children and inclusion in a community club, being the Collingwood City Football Club.

The program includes players in 3 age groups: Juniors (7-12 years); Youth (13-18 years), Seniors (from 19 years). About two thirds of the players participate in games, and 1 third attend training but do not participate in games.

Since the introduction of the Football Victoria All Abilities competition, the Junior Competition has had a very broad age range from 6 years to 14 years due to low numbers of players. Additionally, at 15 years of age, players had to make the transition to playing against adults which is not ideal. The inclusion of a competition for the Youth Group will allow for further development of adolescent players before transitioning into the adult league. The Junior competition will also be improved due to the narrower age range allowing potential for more evenly balanced Junior games.

In 2024 we are aiming to boost the number of players in both the Junior and Youth groups so that we will have enough players in each group to have the 2 viable teams.

**Total Project Cost:** \$17442.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5962.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5962.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Strong application with opportunity for significant impact on health and wellbeing outcomes for priority groups within the Yarra community.

Please note the maximum grant amount in this stream is 5k.

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## AG24-162: North Richmond Community Health

### *Chair Based Exercise*

**Project Description:** Funding is sought to continue the successful operation of a chair-based exercise program that runs at North Richmond Community Health Centre. The program targets older (over 65 years) members of the community who reside in the Richmond Housing Estate who are frail and experience mobility issues, many of whom are also socially isolated. The majority of the current participants are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, particularly East Timor, Vietnam and China. The program provides weekly 1 hour chair based gentle exercise sessions aiming to maintain and increase their strength, coordination and fitness as well as providing opportunities for social connection to members of the community who would otherwise be inactive and isolated. The exercises are delivered by a qualified fitness instructor who is experienced in older people's fitness training. Interpreters are used as required and the facilitator has a community language. Participants are encouraged to stay back after the sessions to have a cup of tea and socialize with one another to increase social connectedness.

**Total Project Cost:** \$19080.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$5000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A strong application targeting a priority group from an organisation with an established track record of successful program delivery.

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## AG24-167: North Richmond Community Health

### *Tai Chi and QiGong for Gentle exercise.*

**Project Description:** Gentle Exercise for Tai Chi is a gentle, movement-based program. Tai Chi is effective in reducing the risk of falls (Monash University Research Institute 2013) and supports people with chronic complex health conditions such as: Diabetes, Arthritis, Osteoporosis and back Pain. Tai Chi not only improves balance and reduces falls risk by teaching people to move forwards, backwards and sideways safely, it shows positive benefits in relaxation, fitness and overall health for people in a group environment (Sherrington et al. 2011).

Tai Chi exercise is a powerful system of healing and energy, an integration of physical postures breathing techniques and focus. The slow gentle movements of most Qigong forms can be easily adapted, even for the physically challenged and can be practiced by all age groups which makes it easily adaptable to the client group with more challenged balance. This project will provide participants with 1-hour weekly group exercise at the Community Hub at the bottom of 110 Elizabeth Street Richmond. It will enhance social connectedness for elderly, frail aged who experience a chronic disability living in the City of Yarra with particular scope for public residents. It will look to focus on clients of Culturally Linguistically and Diverse backgrounds who may experience limited opportunity for exercise and participation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$20740.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Another strong application with an opportunity for significant impact on health and wellbeing outcomes for priority groups within the Yarra community.

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#### AG24-207: Northcote United Cricket Club

*Cricket Coaching - Level 2/Representative coaching accreditation*

**Project Description:** Provide an opportunity for some of our Level 1 accredited coaches to undertake Level 2 accreditation training via Cricket Victoria's programs. Currently & at the time of drafting this application, Cricket Victoria are reviewing coaching programs and offerings. We propose to participate in a Level 2 accreditation program or similar, depending on future offerings of Cricket Victoria.

Refer to attached link for status of Cricket Victoria coaching accreditation:

<https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/accreditation-courses/>

Given the current review being undertaken by Cricket Victoria & lack of information on future programs, we have completed the application to the best of our ability and would be happy to provide more details once released by Cricket Victoria.

**Total Project Cost:** \$8560.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$800.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall the panel thought this application was strong with well detailed outcomes and sufficient evidence to grant funding.

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#### AG24-236: EDINBURGH CRICKET CLUB INC

*Special Olympics All Abilities Program*

**Project Description:** We have partnered with Special Olympics Melbourne Inner East to pilot a cricket program, which we would like to expand and integrate into a broader All Abilities cricket program. This would include:

- creating targeted coaching streams for participants with varying skill or communication levels
- provide and encourage integrated training opportunities at age and ability appropriate general training sessions
- where appropriate, provide subsidised membership and supported participation in general cricket programs (transport, uniforms etc)

**Total Project Cost:** \$4544.00

**Amount Requested:** \$3000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$1000.00

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Overall panel thought this was an interesting initiative that partners with SOMIE to target disadvantaged individuals with varying skill or communication levels.

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**AG24-237: Clifton Hill Cricket Club**

*CHCC Schools Program 2024*

**Project Description:** A core part of CHCC's strategy and role in our community is to introduce and encourage young children of all ages and backgrounds to play cricket. We believe cricket is a game that should have no barriers to entry and be available for all. Based on our existing relationships with the schools in our community, CHCC have developed the CHCC Schools Program 2024 to run introductory cricket sessions for children from grades 2-5. This program will be split between 2 phases in 2024 as follows;

Phase 1 Summer Season (Term 1 Feb-Mar)

Phase 2 Pre-season (Term 3 Aug-Sept)

The purpose of phase 1 will be to attract newcomers to the game of cricket while phase 2 will do the same and encourage keen children to play cricket for the 24/25 season.

The sessions lasting approx 45-60 minutes will be run by 2 qualified club coaches, typically at PE lesson times. Sessions will be energetic and fun-filled, the core purpose being for the children to have a fun and enjoyable time, while learning the basic skills of throwing, catching and batting.

The club will work with the schools to ensure that the program is promoted and enjoys the highest possible attendance to ensure that children of all backgrounds, and especially from those less likely to consider playing cricket, are able to participate in the sessions.

**Total Project Cost:** \$6900.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3000.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Very strong application addressing stream priorities through the inclusion of children and younger people in community sports. Well supported through the expression of interest letters from local schools.

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**AG24-238: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club**

*FLSC Young leaders*

**Project Description:** The FLSC young leaders project aims to empower young females and males to become role models and leaders in the community. By using soccer as a platform, we will provide coaching and leadership opportunities to young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program will enhance their skills, confidence, and sense of self-worth, fostering a strong support network for their personal and professional growth. We envision creating positive futures for these aspiring coaches and leaders while promoting healthy, active lifestyles among them.

**Total Project Cost:** \$39500.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$

**Recommendation:** \$3,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A very comprehensive application. However, a more realistic approach to the viability of the project without the maximum grant would have improved the application, as would a clearer explanation of what the 'Young Leader program deliveries' are.

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**AG24-239: Clifton Hill Cricket Club**

*First Aid Training*

**Project Description:** Arrange for First Aid training for Club volunteers

**Total Project Cost:** \$3084.00

**Amount Requested:** \$1000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$500.00

**Recommendation:** \$1,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Strongly addresses stream priorities by increasing the skills, knowledge and understanding of club volunteers regarding first aid provision and therefore having a positive impact on community safety.

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AG24-242: **Clifton Hill Cricket Club**

*PRIDE MATCHES/s - Celebrating Inclusion*

**Project Description:** As a community cricket club since 1967, Clifton Hill has long prided ourselves as a welcoming and inclusive place to enjoy cricket and in recent years we have seen further growth with the development of two successful Women's teams.

We are proud of the diversity of our squad and as a testament of that, we recognize and celebrate our LGBTQIA+ teammates and acknowledge the unique challenges they may face participating in community sport by hosting a Pride Match each year.

We would like to build on our efforts and include our Men's team/s in what would become a Pride Weekend.

We are hoping to schedule our matches to coincide with next year's Midsumma events in Melbourne, (4th Feb. 2024 ) or the world famous Mardi Gras event in Sydney - 16th Feb to 3rd March - fixture dependent - and create a festive inclusive weekend of cricket, that will hopefully offer an opportunity to begin/continue important conversations.

We hope to encourage greater LGBTQIA+ participation in community sport by offering a safe and welcoming environment, it is also our intention to better educate our broader community with such an event.

**Total Project Cost:** \$14290.00

**Amount Requested:** \$5000.00 **Minimum Required:** \$3500.00

**Recommendation:** \$5,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A welcome initiative to increase diversity and inclusiveness within the Clifton Hill CC. The project strongly addresses stream priorities and has the potential to greatly contribute to the community.

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