

2025 Annual Grants

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Stream: Arts and Culture

ACG25-001: **Agency**

UNTOLD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Talk Series

Project Description: A dedicated First Nations talk series in the City of Yarra 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.

Grant amount: \$16,900.00

Panel Comments: The application clearly outlines the intentions of the applicant's 2025 Untold program. Relevant support material. This is an iteration of a proven event series with measurable outcomes and aligns well with Yarra's funding priorities.

ACG25-002: **Mr Timothy Loveday**

'[e]state[ment]' development, workshop and reading night

Project Description: Over this funding period (6/1/25 – 5/6/25), I will develop my poetry collection '[e]state[ment]' – a searing examination of home & welfare under capital during the climate collapse. Work on this collection will culminate in a pay-what-you-can poetry workshop and a week later a public showcase event titled 'The People's Poetry' at the Good Shepard Chapel, Abbotsford, on the 5/6/25.

Grant amount: \$9,000.00

Panel Comments: The applicant explores some critical issues, aligning with Yarra's priorities and demonstrates a clear connection within the writing community and broader networks.

ACG25-011: **Ms Pamela Bain**

Astral Botanical: a multi-sensory voyage into nature

Project Description: Astral Botanical: a multi-sensory voyage into nature, will develop and exhibit creative reconfigurations of the Convent's natural environment into a Universe of deep space phenomena – commenting on the precinct's beauty and transformability, plus recycling as a natural process. Haptic interactions, sound, and illumination with didactic enlargements will involve all audiences in feeling, hearing, and seeing the local environment anew.

Grant amount: \$7,000.00

Panel Comments: A project well founded in access and community development. The location ensures broad access by a wide range of community. The ecological dimension of the show aligns it closely with Yarra's strategic priorities. Supporting artists are from diverse backgrounds with opportunities to connect with new audiences and to have meaningful individual and social outcomes.

ACG25-014: ButohOUT! (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)

ButohBAR 番狂わせOUT of ORDER II

Project Description: Revising the 70's/80's era where Butoh thrived in nightclubs and strip joints, the work is summoning the spirit of those raw times, transforming the Abbotsford Convent into a contemporary Sake bar, where audiences are immersed in a surreal, macabre, absurd yet euphoric world. The work is confirmed to be presented at AsiaTOPA festival in March 2025.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The project works with its connection to the community and long-term collaborative partnerships. It identifies experienced performers and collaborators as well as strong support from other organisations, such as Asia Topa and Dancehouse.

The application demonstrates high artistic merit and community support.

ACG25-028: Ms Amelia Jean O'Leary (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)

CODED: A NIGHT OF QUEER STORYTELLING

Project Description: CODED invites the audience into the new First Nations femme queer contemporary dance work that explores the embedding of queerness within landscapes in fear of personification of physicalized queerness with two guest performances throughout the night.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The project has capacity to offer significant support to the artist and connect work to a wider audience/ community. The project is well supported and has a very high probability of success. As the research and development is in Yarra, there are many opportunities to activate the residency at the Abbotsford Convent. Support material is strong

ACG25-035: Mx Jessi Ryan

QRAVE: an agitation, scratching at the surface of ephemeral queer histories- presentation

Project Description: QRAVE: an agitation, scratching at the surface of ephemeral queer histories. QRAVE is a crucial cultural experience disrupting binary and colonial power structures, re-awakening experiences of struggle and pride. A performance within an exhibition, QRAVE blurs the boundaries between embodied performance and graphic installation.

Grant amount: \$6,875.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this project to be a well-considered and connected project with a high likelihood of success, that aligned well to grant program priorities. The project will support a number of diverse artists to tell stories specific to Yarra, activating spaces and attracting audiences.

ACG25-039: un Projects

un Projects: un Talks

Project Description: un Talks - elevating local arts discourse through independent arts publishing, public programs, and editor-in-residency. Working with un Magazine 2025 guest editors, and an un Extended Editor-in-Residence (determined via open call) to platform critical, independent, local, artistic practice and discourse through writing and talks.

Grant amount: \$18,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this an ambitious project and a major milestone for this Yarra based organisation. The funding prioritises independent writers, artists and community members and aligns well with Yarra's grant priorities.

ACG25-040: Trustee for the Cosmos Factory Business Trust (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)

LuliePalooza 2025

Project Description: LuliePalooza is a one day, inner suburban music and arts festival celebrating local, interstate and international musicians along with local food, drinks and entertainment.

Grant amount: \$15,000.00

Panel Comments: Local music venue Lulie Tavern has successfully grown this event providing substantial performance and employment opportunities for artists and attracting excellent audience numbers. During a time when live music venues face growing challenges (e.g insurance costs, changes in audience behaviour), LuliePalooza is an opportunity for this local live music venue to develop its audience and create a sustainable model for itself.

ACG25-044: Schizy Inc (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)

SiDAS 2025

Project Description: Schizy Inc's SiDAS 2025 project will offer studio space, arts development workshops and engaging exhibitions and spoken word events in the City of Yarra for artists and writers with complex mental health realities.

Grant amount: \$19,800.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this an important project that has direct engagement and support of a broad community. The proposed studio spaces, workshops and exhibitions are a great offering to the Yarra community particularly those with mental health complexities. Applicant has demonstrated experience of successfully delivering in this space.

ACG25-045: Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces Inc

Gertrude Glasshouse Program 2025: 10 Years of Glasshouse

Project Description: The 2025 Gertrude Glasshouse program will feature seven new projects by studio artists, and the Glasshouse Stonehouse exhibition. Celebrating Gertrude's 40 years of impact on Australian contemporary art by providing dedicated support to artists to develop ambitious exhibitions, creating opportunities for the local community to connect with this work, and deepening our programs' impact through high-quality programming and presentation.

Grant amount: \$12,000.00

Panel Comments: This proposal outlines an ambitious project with impact that supports both community and artists. As a celebration of an anniversary, and recognition of the significance of this organisation, this project has the capacity to draw greater audiences than in previous years, benefiting artists, organisations and community. The proposal aligns well with Council's key priorities of artists are essential to a thriving Yarra

ACG25-047: Bakehouse Studios

The Bakehouse Art Project Reboot

Project Description: The Bakehouse project is a permanent immersive installation within the rooms and corridors of Bakehouse Music Studios. A collaborative project for local Visual Artists to create art that inspires and informs the musicians who are the patrons and beneficiaries of these works, in turn they respond through their own music practice and creations.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this a detailed application that meets Yarra priorities of artists as essential to a thriving Yarra, by supporting many creatives. This project connects a new generation of artists to

a significant part of Yarra's cultural history and offers opportunities for reinterpretation, and responsiveness from studio users. Bakehouse's position as a valued and respected part of the Yarra music scene will ensure great interest in the project.

The applicant demonstrates a commitment to accessibility and ecological practice. Multiple funding sources have been secured.

ACG25-048: **Dancehouse**

Dancehousing 2025

Project Description: Dancehousing invites 8 self-organising dance communities including: street dancers, voguers, krumpers, and contact improvisers to practice, share, and build community every Monday night at Dancehouse.

Each group is allocated studio time and self-determine how they want to use the space through 'Housekeeping' meetings. Communities also curate and hold annual events that showcase their practices and works with the public.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this proposal outlined the long-term impact and community engagement embedded in the model. Substantial in-kind and other funding streams - not solely reliant on Yarra funds, strengthens the project. Multifaceted events targeting multiple groups with benefits to the community over a 12-month period.

ACG25-050: **The Consort of Melbourne**

Moonlite

Project Description: Australian Premiere of "Moonlite", a 90 minute oratorio by Wally Gunn and Maria Zajkowski based on the real letters of Andrew George Scott (Otherwise known as Captain Moonlite) to his lover James Nesbitt. Performed by The Consort of Melbourne and Homophonic!, produced and directed by Homophonic!'s Artistic Director Miranda Hill. Fitzroy Town Hall, July 2025.

Grant amount: \$17,041.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this application which focusses on local queer history aligned well to Yarra's key priorities of celebrating and supporting our creative and diverse community. The budget and plan for delivery is clear with solid letters of support.

ACG25-062: **Urban Campfire Program Group (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

Urban Campfire 2025

Project Description: Urban Campfire (UC) 2025 is a bi-annual exhibition held in April and October at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre. UC will facilitate 3 drop-in workshops in Yarra with local artists. It will also host an outreach exhibition on the local housing estate that reflects the community, i.e. in 2023 the outreach exhibition program was at the Richmond Housing Estate.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The Urban Campfire Program is an important piece of the arts ecology in Yarra, continuing to grow and offer significant opportunities throughout Collingwood and now Richmond. This project reaches and offers deep positive impact to diverse communities and marginalised individuals while connecting with audiences in vulnerable situations. This is a well-planned and detailed application, supporting a long-running project working with the local community via the NJC.

ACG25-066: **Contemporary Sculpture Association (CSA): Yarra Sculpture Gallery (YSG)**

Yarra Sculpture Gallery and Arts Access Victoria: Summer Residency Program 2025

Project Description: Yarra Sculpture Gallery (YSG) in partnership with Arts Access Victoria (AAV), will offer 6 Artists participating in AAV's mentorship program a two month residency opportunity. Along with traditional 3D

media practice, artists seeking to extend their practice to explore audio visual, digital projection and new technologies will be encouraged to participate. Residencies will culminate in an exciting YSG exhibition.

Grant amount: \$15,922.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this tight and detailed proposal with realistic outcomes for both artists, organisations and audiences. Strong Letters of support from previous residency artists outlining the ways in which the program helped to develop their artistic practice gave meaningful insight into the potential of the project.

ACG25-068: **Mr Pol McMahon**

Little Book of Fitzroy

Project Description: Pol has created a large body of artwork of streets, people and buildings within Fitzroy. His art preserves the building heritage, but his skill captures the unique Fitzroy vibe and cosmopolitan feel. This art needs to be preserved for the future and other art from other local artists will be added to capture the kaleidoscope of the beauty of the city through multiple eyes. It is targeted to create no less than 50- 100 copies which can be held in schools, council offices, medical facilities, library etc etc It is NOT intended for commercial sale but rather preservation.

Grant amount: \$7,500.00

Panel Comments: The panel found the proposal and artist has genuine community connections and saw the book an opportunity to document a body of artwork defined by its place in Yarra and celebrate a local community artist.

ACG25-072: **Liquid Architecture Sound Inc**

NEW WORKS: FIRST NATIONS PRESENTATIONS

Project Description: Liquid Architecture will support four (4) First Nations artists to present new works or develop existing works by invitation. This will be a dedicated opportunity to showcase sound pieces in a live concert setting and give space for sound experimentation and the opportunity to test out new works in front of an audience.

Grant amount: \$17,000.00

Panel Comments: The focus on First Nations voices and the considerations around consultation and access are well described and align well with Yarra's key priority of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are at the heart of Yarra. Positive to see a mix of funding streams/partnerships supporting this project.

ACG25-078: **Rawcus Theatre Company Inc**

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Project Description: supercalifragilisticexpialidocious is an exciting collaboration between Lead Artist Jorlene Lim (Deaf Artist) and the award winning Rawcus Ensemble that will be exhibited at Flow Fest 2025 – A national festival which celebrates Deaf culture and the work of Deaf and Disabled artists. supercalifragilisticexpialidocious explores the human impulse to create, and how every individual finds creative inspiration in different places.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The community engagement in this proposal closely aligns with Yarra's priorities. The budget directly supports deaf artists and community participants with robust wrap-arounds and the multi-stage approach allows multiple opportunities participation by a broad cross-section of community.

ACG25-081: **Ms Dina Bassile**

Groove Tunes 2025: The Future of Music is Accessible

Project Description: The 2025 Groove Tunes music festival, run by Tibi Access in partnership with the iconic Corner Hotel, aims educate and inform on accessibility best practices in the music industry. Scheduled for

Saturday, 29 March 2025, this event showcases how simple decisions can transform venues into accessible spaces, celebrating the City of Yarra as a Victorian leader in inclusive music initiatives.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this application had rigorous attention to detail. A high level of commitment was also demonstrated by the applicant and partners with in-kind support and financial contributions. This proposal closely aligns with funding priorities and has ongoing impact providing accessibility in live music.

ACG25-082: Dr Jo Scicluna

Where The River Take Us

Project Description: 'Where The River Takes Us' proposes a co-authored limited-edition photo-sculptural publication and affiliated cultural forum, involving project participants at a Yarra library. Building upon established collaborative working relationships with Wurundjeri Elders, collaged explorations will interpret specific sites along Birrarung that have altered the river course. Text derived from on-Country conversations conducted with Elders will be visually interwoven throughout the publication.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought the strength of this application was the artistic merit to produce a distinctive outcome in conversation with community and place. The artist has built a strong and respectful connection with Wurundjeri Land Council and elders in the development of this work. Self-funding and in-kind contributions compliment funding from Yarra and closely aligns with Council's key priorities.

ACG25-085: Seventh Gallery

Seventh's 2025 Exhibition Program

Project Description: Our project will elevate Richmond's cultural vibrancy and strengthen community bonds through a free, accessible exhibition program at our site in Citizens Park. By extending exhibition lengths to six-weeks and collaborating with organisations like Women's Art Register, Arts Access Victoria, and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, we provide paid opportunities and comprehensive support to a diverse range of artists.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: Seventh Gallery are an important part of the Yarra scene. A good range of activity is included in the application, creating opportunities for a diverse mix of artists. This proposal speaks to the continuity and expansion of a vital artist run initiative in Yarra's arts ecology. The proposed activity draws on the strengths of existing partnerships and is well planned.

ACG25-087: Centre For Projection Art Inc

Centre for Projection Art Residency

Project Description: We provide opportunities, technology, mentorship and practical ways for selected participants to develop their artistic practice helping artists renew and adapt their practices to the changing conditions of digital, AI and lens-based work.

Grant amount: \$15,000.00

Panel Comments: The program providing the opportunity of up to 10 emerging artists is a great initiative and closely aligns with Yarra's key funding priorities of artists being essential to a thriving Yarra Good community benefit. CPA have demonstrated success with their past residency program. The opportunity for artists to be mentored by established artists is a worthwhile initiative training the next generation of multimedia artists.

ACG25-088: Mr Will Huxley

Bad Sports

Project Description: A visual art exhibition looking at the way a sports dominated country impacts on queer people at odds with the athletic mania that grips the nation. anyone who's ever felt excluded from sport because of gender, sexuality, culture or disability– will get to live out epic sport fantasies, as part of a series of unique photographs staged by The Huxleys.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The proposal to develop a stage of work that has public art, participation and community engagement elements meets Yarra's funding priorities of celebrating and supporting our creative and diverse community, by extending their platform to diverse POC and First-Nations Yarra based artists.

ACG25-091: **Mrs Candice Lorrae Lloyd**

Candy Suite : First Nations Women in Music production mentoring program

Project Description: Empowering our Naarm First Nations female and non-binary community voices with access to a culturally safe and respectful recording and writing space in the City of Yarra.

This project will support our First Nations women's stories and songs and provide professional and capacity building skills for the future of our music and led by an all First Nations Naarm team.

Grant amount: \$17,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this proposal offered a well considered program, ensuring the growth of a Yarra-based organisation and artist alongside it, with direct impact delivered to First Nations women and non-binary artists in a considered and culturally supportive space. The project brings together support from various contributors to ensure that the project can be delivered to a high standard and with the benefit of the participants at the forefront.

ACG25-094: **Ms Karlia Cook**

TOGETHER - A new intercultural dance work co-led between four indigenous artist.

Project Description: Together is a project dedicated to the embodied practice of deep listening and deep observation as we journey together through processes of reclaiming, recovering and honouring the ever-evolving relationality between our body, our ancestry and the lands and waters that we come from, grew up on and travel between.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought the inter-cultural collaboration and opportunity for artistic development within priority communities aligned closely with Yarra's key priorities. The further development of this work across two Yarra spaces offers opportunities for greater impact.

ACG25-099: **Ms Christine McFetridge**

Two editions of Co-Unfolded and a "working group for artist-parents"

Project Description: This project will result in the production of two online issues of Co- Unfolded: 'Anti-manifesto for Hospitality' by Haneen Martin & 'Failure' by Samara Hersch; and the facilitation of a "working group for artist-parents"—a public program to offer creative space for Yarra artists who are parents, hosted at Seventh Gallery.

Grant amount: \$3,797.00

Panel Comments: A clearly articulated proposal which aligns closely to Yarra's funding priorities, with benefits for artists, organisations and broader communities. The budget is well designed to achieve maximum output at minimum cost. The artists named have impressive track records, as do the applicants.

ACG25-104: **Mx Teneille Clerke**

House of Fast Fashun

Project Description: Fast Fashun presents House of Fast Fashun, an interactive and durational installation and performance that engages the community in climate action in a fun and accessible way.

Participants are invited to make haute couture looks out of clothing waste. They are then encouraged to present their work in a runway show, which happens every hour on the hour.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: A strong proposal with clear evidence of support and capacity to deliver this project. This project closely connects with the community engagement and ecological priorities, and directly supports local creatives. A great level of potential community benefit with a nice mix of events targeting different demographic groups.

ACG25-106: OFFICE AU limited

Aqua nullius: A publication about water rights for First Nations people in Australia

Project Description: Aqua nullius is a book of interviews with First Nations experts, alongside researchers and academics about Indigenous water rights in Australia.

Grant amount: \$15,000.00

Panel Comments: An organisation with a strong project that aligns well with Yarra's key priorities. The outcomes clearly focus on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in Yarra and the broad audience outreach will contribute significant knowledge and awareness more generally within the Yarra community.

ACG25-107: The Boite Vic Inc

Portfolio

Project Description: The Portfolio Project gives diverse, emerging, underrepresented musicians opportunities and assistance to equip themselves with skills, resources, assets and connections to successfully navigate the music industry. The Boite provides photo opportunities, assistance in producing bios, and EPKs, and produces performances for the participating musicians. We offer a final event in Yarra's Leaps and Bounds, for significant exposure.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The Boite's Portfolio Project presents meaningful and tactical opportunities for emerging artists from diverse backgrounds to gain essential skills for their music careers. The budget is relatively modest for the breadth of outcomes, and it's clear from the participant feedback that the program has been a huge benefit to emerging artists.

ACG25-109: Indigenous Sports Network (Auspiced by Sports Health Check Australia)

Healing Ceremony - A Tribute to Black Deaths in Custody

Project Description: ISN will host a Healing Ceremony at Vic Park in 2025, honouring Black Deaths in Custody. This culturally significant event will feature traditional dance, music by Indigenous artists, healing markets, and community activities. The ceremony aims to foster healing, raise awareness, and promote cultural resilience and unity within the community.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel found this to be a vital project that meets all of City of Yarra's funding priorities. This follows on from the Nicky Winmar tribute held at Victoria Park in April 2023.

ACG25-111: Ms Chelsea Byrne (Auspiced by Auspicious Arts Projects Inc)

Conduit Workshop Series by Youth Dance Makers Initiative

Project Description: Three choreographic workshop events for artists aged 14-25 at Dancehouse. Each immersive two-day event features workshops led by acclaimed contemporary choreographers, a session for collaborative creation, and an informal showing of choreographic experiments. Participants will enhance their choreographic skills, connect with established artists and peers and deepen their engagement with contemporary artistic practices in a supportive and accessible environment.

Grant amount: \$7,600.00

Panel Comments: The proposal to bring young people and established diverse choreographers together for a series of workshops was a key strength of this proposal. The applicant demonstrates that they have put in the effort to develop this space and it was great to see the video testimonial from workshop participants.

ACG25-114: Women's Art Register

Women's Art Register 50th Anniversary Exhibition Programme

Project Description: A programme of 5 exhibitions and associated events to acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Art Register, which includes an exhibition of works by 50 artists at ACU Gallery, a collaborative exhibition at George Paton Gallery, a zine workshop at the Australian Queer Archives, an archival installation at Richmond library and an Artist-In-Residence collaboration with Seventh Gallery.

Grant amount: \$19,620.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this to be a significant contribution to Yarra's cultural and historical landscape, which celebrates the important work in the 50th year of this seminal Yarra-based arts organisation. Aligns closely with Yarra priorities of arts and culture shaping Yarra's places and spaces.

ACG25-118: Midsumma Festival Inc

Pride KINection

Project Description: The Pride KINection project will explore pride, kinship, and connection through multi-artform presentations at Victoria's Pride in February 2025. It will feature diverse artistic expressions including dance, drag, theatre, and visual art. A key element will be a collaborative performance with emerging LGBTQIA+SB Yolŋu artists and local artists. The project promotes unity, visibility, and cultural representation through various established platforms.

Grant amount: \$18,525.00

Panel Comments: Pride KINection would be an important addition to Victoria Pride's Street Party programming, by providing artistic and participation opportunities to First Nations members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a strong project speaking to many of Yarra's funding priorities and benefitting both focused communities of priority and the broader community.

ACG25-130: West Space

West Space—Community Engagement Programs 2025

Project Description: In 2025, West Space will enliven the City of Yarra with a suite of differently scaled community engagement programs expanding on our exhibition program. Grounded in the idea that art is for everyone, these activations are designed to appeal to a wide range of audiences, including our 3 target communities for 2025: under-represented artists, local Yarra communities, and students.

Grant amount: \$19,700.00

Panel Comments: A solid application from West Space with a strong budget built around artist fees aligning well with Yarra's funding priorities. A vital project with significant funding from additional sources and much in-kind support, strengthening the application.

Stream: Climate Action and Environment

AG25-004: Condell Growers and Sharers Community Garden (CG&S)

Indigenous Pollinating Garden: Garden for climate action, community partnerships and OHS compliance

Project Description: We want to: "Garden for Climate Action" and we propose to plant Indigenous pollinating plants to increase the diversity of pollinator insects, butterflies and birds in the Garden. This proposal has been developed by CG&S with the support of local Aboriginal organisations, MAYSAR, Blak Pearl and a tele-

consult with Elders from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop a culturally respectful project.

We want to: Repurpose CG&S to better serve the interests of the community to address the climate emergency by improving the natural environment with Indigenous plants and pollinators. Raise the awareness of the gardening community about how our actions align with Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030. In preparation, CG&S members will read Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan and the Gardening for Wildlife booklet

Grant amount: \$4,995.00

Panel Comments: Most closely aligns with Council's strategic directions of improving biodiversity and stronger social connections. It is important to bring biodiversity back to the streetscapes of Fitzroy. Great community building and good to see engagement with Wurundjeri and other First Nations groups

AG25-033: Friends of Merri Creek Labyrinth (Auspiced by Friends of Merri Creek Incorporated)

Merri Creek Labyrinth Environs: Stage 5 - Ecological Restoration of Merri Creek Riparian Habitat

Project Description: Our 2025 grant proposal represents the fifth phase of an extensive, multi-year project aimed at rejuvenating the Labyrinth's surroundings as an exemplary climate action initiative.

This undertaking is a pivotal moment in our ongoing collaboration to improve the Merri Creek Labyrinth and its surrounding landscape.

Situated at Hewson's Hollow along the Merri Creek trail, the Labyrinth lies between the Quarries Park playground and the wetlands and rotunda. It is located on the creek corridor of Crown Land, managed by the City of Yarra. Previous efforts have laid the groundwork for the continuation and re-establishing a biodiverse habitat around the Labyrinth.

With the aid of this grant, we plan to undertake additional planting of indigenous species, rigorous weed control, and ongoing maintenance. Through these activities, we seek to transform the Merri Creek Labyrinth and its surroundings into a biodiversity sanctuary, providing a more enriching experience for visitors and showcasing our and Yarra Council's dedication to environmental conservation.

Grant amount: \$4,900.00

Panel Comments: Aligns with Council's climate and biodiversity goals, should deliver ongoing benefit to biodiversity and will beautify the area. The project will benefit all visitors to the Merri Creek through education, enjoyment, appreciation of indigenous vegetation, and the health benefits of interacting with biodiversity.

AG25-050: The Up Community

The Up Community

Project Description: Securing funding from this grant is crucial for advancing Project Stationery, a vital initiative led by The Up Community to tackle the issue of surplus end-of-year stationery in Yarra Council schools. Our primary objective is to systematically collect, sort, and redistribute these materials locally, effectively addressing environmental challenges and fostering deeper community engagement.

Project Stationery employs a structured approach beginning with the collection of surplus stationery from schools and families. Through meticulous sorting and refurbishment, we ensure that items are in optimal condition for redistribution to kindergartens, homework clubs, and community centres. This process not only diverts usable materials from landfill but promotes a sustainable economy, where resources are reused to benefit both the environment and the community.

The grant we are seeking will enable us to expand our outreach, enhance logistical capabilities, and deepen engagement with stakeholders across the Yarra Council area. By investing in Project Stationery, supporters will help us establish an effective model for waste reduction, promote equitable access to educational resources, and foster a community-wide commitment to sustainability.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Application strongly aligns with three strategic directions including enabling the community to make lifestyle changes to cut carbon emissions, avoiding and reducing waste and promoting circular economy systems, and building stronger social connections.

AG25-099: Traffic Design Studios T/As Local Utopia

FLICK THE FLYING FOX - A little bat's journey home

Project Description:

1. Complete my illustrated children's book about the rescue of a flying fox pup and her return to the Yarra Bend colony.
2. Adapt my artwork and book contents to an online and offline marketing campaign promoting the plight of our Flying Foxes and my book, including:
 - a. A beautifully-designed website featuring my artwork, the story, factual information about the colony & links to support it, and book pre-orders.
 - b. Social media posts for Instagram, TikTok and Facebook.
 - c. Google Analytics configuration.
 - d. Posters and postcards featuring my artwork and a QR code to the website.
3. An initial small print run or 'prototype' of the book for local storytime/educational sessions to garner feedback that can be used to refine it prior to incurring the significant printing costs associated with a wider release.
4. Develop basic educational support materials so the book can be used for story time, science activities and guided art classes at public libraries, primary schools and kindergartens.

All this is based on my illustrated children's book about Flick, an orphaned flying fox pup, her rescue, care and ultimately, her return to the colony. In addition to the story, the book includes a non-fiction section with educational information on the critical role Flying Foxes like Flick play in pollination and seed dispersal, the dangers they face, and the many ways we humans can help. It also features interesting facts, a short history, photos of rescued pups, and a Q&A with a local carer. 10% of the profits from the book will be donated to 'Friends of Bats and Bushcare' and 'Fly by Night Bat Clinic'.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: This project aligns with Council's commitments and actions in the new CEP in relation to connecting our community with nature. This project draws attention to the threatened grey-headed flying fox, and makes conversations/action in relation to conservation, nature, caring for country very accessible and relevant.

AG25-114: The Venny Inc

Cubbies Productive Food Garden Phase 2

Project Description: The foundation of a productive permaculture food garden at Cubbies is currently being established. This includes setting up an organic waste system and seed saving shed, establishing a volunteer garden group and planting produce.

This project will build on that foundation work to increase the size, productivity and volume of produce being harvested. Specifically, phase 2 will involve installing and planting up more garden beds with seasonal produce and potting additional fruit trees.

Our goal is to replicate the garden that we have created at our Kensington site which currently contributes to the provision of over 400 healthy meals and snacks each week.

We believe this project will:

- contribute to the provision of an additional 150 healthy meals and snacks each week for children and young people who attend our programs at Cubbies.
- provide a passive role in play, as it provides an ever-present invitation for children to explore and interact/connect with it while delivering a subtle healing presence.

- educate children and young people about growing, harvesting and cooking healthy food.

Grant amount: \$2,000.00

Panel Comments: This project directly supports at-risk communities living in the Fitzroy public housing estate, connecting residents (families with young children) to food growing, connecting with nature - as well as providing healthy food. This aligns with the aspirations of the Climate Emergency Plan.

AG25-136: **Electrify Yarra Inc**

Electrify Yarra Energy Neighbours Project

Project Description: Electrify Yarra is the primary volunteer community group in the City of Yarra with a clear message of energy electrification to reduce energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have collaborated with the City of Yarra and Yarra Energy Foundation on information events. We seek financial support to run more events across the whole of the City of Yarra. These events will provide information on why and how to improve and electrify your home. We will explain what we do and how we'd like to involve people in their own neighbourhood in the City of Yarra.

To realise these important changes in our community we intend to provide simple, consistent, actionable messages delivered by local volunteers to friends and neighbours in Yarra. We will establish "Energy Neighbours": groups of volunteers in Yarra supporting their neighbours in the streets in which they live.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Project aligns very closely with strategic directions including mobilising our community to take climate action, engaging the community to make lifestyle changes, building stronger social connections, and advocating for change. The value of helping City of Yarra residents and businesses move towards carbon neutral is significant.

AG25-147: **VicSES Heidelberg Unit**

Storm Preparedness Project

Project Description: The Heidelberg State Emergency Service (SES) are pleased to present the Storm Preparedness Project which consists of a number of Community Engagement events across the City of Yarra to raise awareness of the SES and our role in the community, and to provide valuable education and awareness about emergency preparedness, including floods and storms.

Communities across Australia are being affected by an ever-increasing number of natural disasters and extreme weather events due to the impact of climate change on our environment. The Heidelberg SES understands that communities require support and relief during & following disasters and to build resilience for future events.

Activities within the Storm Preparedness Project include visits to local Schools, Scouts Groups, Shopping Centres, Community Festivals and Markets within the City of Yarra throughout 2025.

Having access to these tools will significantly enhance our Storm Preparedness Program so that the community within Yarra are best prepared to deal with an increasing number of emergency events such as floods and storms due to the Climate Emergency.

Grant amount: \$4,989.00

Panel Comments: This is a terrific project and directly aligns with Council's commitment to supporting community preparedness in response to climate impacts (e.g. storm surges, heatwaves, flooding). Engaging our community in understanding the impacts of climate change, and how to prepare and cope with this is increasingly important. This project directly aligns with Council's commitment to supporting community preparedness in response to climate impacts (e.g. storm surges, heatwaves, flooding). Engaging our community in understanding the impacts of climate change, and how to prepare and cope with these is increasingly important.

Stream: Community Celebrations

AG25-016: **Fitzroy Primary School**

Fantastic Fete

Project Description: Fitzroy Primary School's (FPS) annual school fete brings together our students, parents and the wider community to celebrate our culturally and socially diverse community. With entry free to all, it will be a fun-filled day of games, entertainment, market and food stalls and various activities for everyone to enjoy. Our fete will also be an opportunity to bring together the francophone community from all over Melbourne and showcase the significant success of FPS' French bilingual program which is now in its fourth year. Coordinated by a group of dedicated parent volunteers, we hope that this event will promote community connectedness and social cohesion in the heart of Fitzroy.

Grant amount: \$2,000.00

Panel Comments: Fitzroy Primary School is a diverse, multicultural school with many students from the local public housing estates. They hold their school fete annually and all the funds raised are invested back into school projects.

AG25-023: **Melbourne Comhaltas**

Comhaltas St Patrick's 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 2025 this will be on a Monday. We will hire St Philip's Hall on Hoddle Street.

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 always join us for St Pat's and celebrate with us. Sharing our culture, music and dance is always a big part of what we do.

Grant amount: \$1,000.00

Panel Comments: Well written application with clear objectives and outcomes for the proposed project which has a range of income sources.

AG25-034: **Melbourne Irish Festival Committee**

St Patrick's Family Fun Day

Project Description: The event is an open-air festival held in Edinburgh Gardens, Fitzroy, welcoming approximately 8,000 attendees annually. This festival has been running in Melbourne for over 100 years, in different forms but usually on a Sunday afternoon just before or after St Patrick's Day. To date it is the only free family focused, outdoor festival in Melbourne celebrating Irish heritage and culture.

Entry is free and families come from all over to picnic on the grass and enjoy catching up with friends, sharing some Irish culture, music, dance, and sporting events for the children. Food vendors are present, but no alcohol is sold. It is a real family day, enjoyed by young and old. Our Festival always attracts large numbers of people from all cultures. Everyone is happy to be Irish for St Patrick's Day.

Our festival includes:

- Five hours of musical acts and dance displays, all by local Melbourne performers, usually five musical acts

and three Irish dance schools.

- Sporting activities, including Gaelic football and races, are held behind the stage for children and parents.
- A range of food truck vendors selling traditional Irish fare and other local cuisine offerings.
- A large children's marquee providing entertainment which includes a magician, storyteller, Bubble Artist, face painting, arts and crafts activities including weaving, building and painting projects.

Grant amount: \$2,000.00

Panel Comments: This annual festival celebrates Yarra's Irish community and its cultural diversity in general, creating a family friendly festive day for everyone. Great to have this free event for locals and those people who will visit and spend time in Yarra on the day.

AG25-044: Oromo Community Women's Group in the City of Yarra Inc

Celebration of Muslim festival, Eid Al Adha, Festival of Sacrifice

Project Description: We plan to hold our annual Eid Al Adha celebration at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House. It will be held on a date near the actual Eid Al Adha festival dates which are in early June 2025. It will be open to all family members of our organisation as well as members of the City of Yarra council and representatives from other local organisations and members of the Oromo community from other parts of Melbourne.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: This funding proposal outlines the need to support the upcoming Eid celebration, which is particularly important for empowering women within our community. Modest amount being sought to hold annual celebration at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House.

AG25-117: COHEALTH

Eid and community celebration 2025

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.

Grant amount: \$2,900.00

Panel Comments: This application from CoHealth plans to hold a celebration of Eid Al Fitr to observe the end of Ramadan and will include sharing food, cultural activities and children's entertainment to be held on the Collingwood Public Housing Estate.

AG25-125: The Venny Inc

Project Name Cubbies 50th birthday celebration

Project Description: The Fitzroy Adventure Playground, also known as Cubbies, was built 50 years ago in 1974. It was the first adventure playground built in Australia. Over the years, funding of adventure playgrounds in Australia has been precarious at times. Given the past uncertainty, reaching 50 years is a momentous occasion for Cubbies, and needs to be celebrated loudly with the community. The Venny has worked its magic since taking on the management less than 12 months ago. Attendance is booming and Cubbies is pumping.

Our celebration will be a free event open to the whole community with a focus on engaging our current and past user groups. The majority of our current users are young people aged 5 - 16 from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Most live next door on the Atherton Gardens housing estate.

We will co-design our event with children and young people who attend Cubbies and their families. They will be encouraged to help with planning and event logistics such as decorating the playground and designing flyers

and invitations. We will also engage volunteers, including families and our Board members, to help on the day.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: Cubbies does great work in the community and was Australia's first adventure playground. The event is free to attend. The application gives a clear account of the centre's activities and its benefits, and of the plans for the 50th anniversary celebrations.

AG25-128: **Fitzroy North Primary School**

Fitzroy North Primary School 2025 Fete

Project Description: Next year we celebrate our 150th anniversary as a public school within the City of Yarra and Fitzroy North. We intend to host a number of events to celebrate this tremendous milestone, with the major celebration being our annual fete.

We hope to bring the diverse school community together, along with past alumni, to celebrate at this event. Activities will include kid run activities, food, beverage and market stalls, rides, entertainment and a parade. With the finalisation of the major building works, that have hindered the past 3 years fete, we hope to showcase the new and improved school and reflect on our history of how far we have come.

Grant amount: \$2,000.00

Panel Comments: A significant anniversary celebrating 150 years of Fitzroy North Primary School. This is a great grass roots project for Yarra to support.

Stream: Community Housing

AG25-093: **UNISON**

Home Sweet Home

Project Description: Unison provides secure, long-term, self-contained, and rooming house accommodation for disadvantaged members of our community facing mental health and other complex issues, many of whom have previously experienced homelessness.

Unison is committed to not only providing affordable housing but also supporting renters in their homes and communities. Many individuals experiencing mental health challenges and homelessness require intermittent multidisciplinary support and on-site services. To address this, Unison plans to expand its support program, offering additional assistance during renter crises. This includes access to brokerage funds to sustain tenancies, prevent homelessness, and build a cohesive and resilient community.

Unison is applying for grant funding to provide Home Care support services such as pest control, room cleaning, renter damage repairs, and apartment modifications due to disability or ageing, aiming to improve the quality of life of residents. All renters live on low incomes and cannot afford to cover modifications or repairs for renter damage that fall outside the landlord's responsibility. This financial pressure affects all aspects of their physical and mental health. The HACC support worker would utilise grant funding to alleviate these multiple pressures during such times.

Grant amount: \$7,000.00

Panel Comments: The application covers many of the funding priorities, it highlights the need to support vulnerable and low-income households to maintain their tenancies. The project will have a direct impact on the lives of people with experiences of entrenched homelessness and help them avoid re-entering homelessness due to failed tenancies.

AG25-130: **THE SALVATION ARMY (VICTORIA) PROPERTY TRUST**

The Anchorage Outreach

Project Description: The Anchorage Outreach project has been operating for 2 years providing a weekly forum for residents of The Anchorage Housing complex to gather for food and conversation. In addition to providing

emotional and spiritual support, this outreach has provided good referral pathways for residents into local primary health care services (mainly North Richmond Community Health), external social groups (within the City of Yarra), financial assistance (Salvation Army), case management, and support for addiction issues including gambling harm.

The project also encourages residents to find healthy social connection and peer support in order to assist with social isolation. Residents of The Anchorage are a highly vulnerable and disadvantaged group of men often with a history of incarceration, mental health, social isolation, and addiction issues. This project aims to counteract these issues for residents and promote healthy pathways back into the community and other support groups, while also aiming to address any immediate health, housing, or legal issues, in collaboration with any existing supports they may have.

Grant amount: \$7,000.00

Panel Comments: This project will contribute to the social inclusion and wellbeing of a particularly disadvantaged group in the City of Yarra. Projects like the Anchorage Outreach project provide the socialisation and skills necessary to reintegrate into the community, and to address the myriad immediate needs that contribute to social isolation, poor health outcomes, and long-term housing insecurity.

AG25-211: **Launch Housing Limited**

Yarra Zero Establishing and Sustaining Tenancies Pilot Project

Project Description: This pilot project employs a worker to oversee the transition of people on the Yarra By-Name List (BNL) into social housing. It acts 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 does pre-housing preparation work with people still homeless, systematizing the process of housing preparation and planning. The worker oversees the transition into housing when an offer is made. In most cases, the worker does this work, but they 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 remains 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. The pilot has been operating since June 2024 and without additional funding will conclude in October 2024. It has already led to better transition management, sustained tenancies, and we hope that in time, greater confidence among Housing Allocations and Assessment Team members in DFFH to allocate to people on the BNL.

Grant amount: \$40,000.00

Panel Comments: This proposal fills a vital gap in service provision in the City of Yarra. We see a large number of clients that struggle to make the transition from homelessness into a home, and this project fills that need. Transitioning out of rough sleeping into a house is an incredibly tumultuous time that can be difficult, confronting, and retraumatising. Many people that rough sleep in the City of Yarra have been doing so for many years, some for over a decade, and do not always possess the necessary skills to engage with the process of accessing, securing, and maintaining housing. This project will have a material benefit to the large number of people that are named on the By-Name-List, and to those who will inevitably be added to the list over the next 12 months as people rough sleeping in the City of Yarra continues to increase.

Stream: Community Strengthening

AG25-025: **Al Mawada Eritrean Women's Group (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

Social, cultural and educational activities for Eritrean women living in the City of Yarra

Project Description: We plan to run a range of social events and celebrations where Eritrean women and their children can form networks and friendships, relax and enjoy each other's company, share food, spend time in the outdoors and celebrate the two important Muslim festivals of Eid Al Fitri and Eid Al Adha. Social activities

will include regular informal get togethers at Atherton Gardens, BBQs or picnics in local parks and possibly trips to see other parts of Melbourne. We will also explore opportunities for skills development such as learning Auslan to communicate with the deaf children in the community, learning to type and learning to sew.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: This project will establish good community connections and engagement while supporting local Eritrean women.

AG25-086: **Bent Twig Alliance (Auspiced by Switchboard (Victoria) Inc)**

Bent Twig Alliance Membership Initiative

Project Description: The aim of the project is to increase the visibility of the group and so increase membership and therefore opportunities for older LGBTQIA+ people to connect in an active way with the Rainbow Community. To achieve this end, we will use funds to:

1. Cater for a light lunch at the regular fortnightly meetings and some special events.
2. Advertising our group. Online, a pop up banner so people can find us, messages in the Yarra Council Newsletter (maybe a feature). We will also print flyers to distribute to all LGBTQIA+ venues in the area as well as businesses that are happy to have a poster in their shop windows. These flyers will be offered by group members to all LGBTQIA+ venues they visit across Melbourne and rurally. We will contact LGBTQIA+ print publications and hopefully have a feature article with contact details to attract new members. This part of our project is to raise visibility.
3. Special events. We would arrange a stall at the Midsummer Festival to make Bent Twig visible to all. This would require approximately \$500 for rental. We will also be visible either with a stall or in association with the Yarra stand at the Victoria Pride Street Party.

Grant amount: \$3,100.00

Panel Comments: This is important intersectional work for the ageing LGBTIQ+ community in Yarra. The Bent Twig Alliance have been coming together in the City of Yarra for some time now and is one of the only groups of its kind in Victoria. Their regular meetings provide an opportunity for often isolated ageing queer people to come together.

AG25-096: **GR8M8S Foundation**

Yarra Challenge Cups

Project Description: We have already rolled out the plan to rotate the "Challenge Cup", which is an eight a side soccer program, whereby approximately 200 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 has proved a great success with each of the Estates getting the opportunity to host the Cups on their home turf. This gives the Children and their families the chance to have easier access when the Cup is held local to them. The YCC offers 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 2024 Cups. For 2025, 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.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: A great youth sports program designed for young people facing disadvantage based in the Housing Commission flats in Yarra.

AG25-119: **Vietnamese-Australian Social Support Group (Auspiced by COHEALTH)**

Yarra social support for Vietnamese community

Project Description: Yarra Social Support for the Vietnamese Community Group is a nurturing and inclusive social group that caters to the needs of the Vietnamese community in Yarra. Our group provides a supportive and safe environment and enriching activities for our members.

1. We emphasise the importance of building resilience, social integration, and fostering a sense of connection and support within our community to combat feelings of isolation and reduce stigma.
2. We regularly host sessions with guest speakers who contribute to language and cultural exchange, present and discuss a wide range of social and health-related topics.
3. Our group encourages open discussions on food, cooking, health, wellbeing, and family issues. Members provide mutual support, share ideas and thoughts, and offer feedback and insights to one another.
4. Cultural Activities and Celebrations: We take immense pride in showcasing our rich cultural heritage through singing and cultural performances, promoting harmony and celebrating our traditions with a trained volunteer.
5. We observe important cultural dates such as the Lunar New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival, and Vu Lan Le to honour wandering souls.
5. We also focus on physical well-being by engaging in gentle exercises led by trained volunteers to promote health and fitness within the community.
6. Our group provides a safe and supportive discussion circle space for members to discuss various topics, including parenting support, mental health, and the challenges of navigating life in Melbourne.
7. We encourage members to give back to the community by participating in volunteer work such as helping with food banks or supporting other community initiatives, strengthening bonds through collective action.
8. We believe in the power of socialising and creating a warm and welcoming environment for our members to connect and share experiences over refreshments.

Grant amount: \$3,800.00

Panel Comments: Great project for cultural preservation, enhanced social connection, skill development and collective resilience. This project looks to deliver various engagement and activities for the Vietnamese community in Collingwood for people living on the public housing estate.

AG25-148: **Arts Projects 3065 (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

Arts Projects 3065

Project Description: Arts activities hosted by creative practitioners engaging with the community to create a range of outcomes that celebrate our neighbourhood, reflect our sense of place and encourage connection.

Ceramic tile wall:

The transformation of the community space at 140 Brunswick Street has prompted this public art project that invites people to contribute to the revamping of the space and build community connection. Community members will design and create ceramic tiles through open access sessions at Fitzroy Learning Network and on the Atherton Gardens Housing Estate.

People can use design motifs influenced by their culture [where appropriate] or use tools and items to create something abstract. The format appeals because it does not depend on people thinking of themselves as artists and celebrates that we can all be part of a creative process. The resulting wall will be installed in the community space where people can see their tile as part of the big picture.

Stitching our story:

The neighbourhood will be invited to join in the creation of a Neighbourhood House banner celebrating the relocation of the Fitzroy Neighbourhood House after 40 years of residing in Napier Street. The project will support novices through to more experienced stitchers, and with a design template to work from, will encourage and support broad participation. Pop up activities will be held at Fitzroy Learning Network, the Community Grocer market and Bridges to Harmony Festival.

Bridges to Harmony Park Makeover:

The annual community celebration held in March at Condell Reserve will host Arts Projects 3065 in 2025 through both works installed for the festival and participatory opportunities at the event. Artwork created in the lead up to the festival will be installed on the fence and we will have the tile making and stitching our story activities running along with a giant cross stitch project.

Grant amount: \$2,500.00

Panel Comments: A worthwhile project to support local artists and skills. The project aims to promote collaborative partnerships and aims to engage local artists to capture the history of Fitzroy and also provide employment pathways. The project plan articulates a strong focus on community participation, connection and skill development as well as community pride.

AG25-160: **Friends of Baucau Incorporated**

Strengthening community connections between Yarra and Baucau

Project Description: Friends of Baucau will undertake the following activities:

We will celebrate the strength, solidarity and resilience of the Yarra community 1975 to 2025 – 50 years since the arrival of the first Timorese refugees in Yarra in 1975 and 25 years since the Friends of Baucau relationship began in 2000.

We will hold two dinner/concerts in partnership with METAC that will bring the Timorese community – young and old – to strengthen links between the generations of older members of the community, young Timorese and other community members through increased understanding of refugee histories and Timorese cultural traditions. We will also support a major celebration of the 50th anniversary of Timorese refugees arriving in Yarra at Collingwood Town Hall in August (date TBC).

We will create opportunities for old and young Timorese community members to share their traditions with the wider communities of Yarra, including presentations at least three local organisations.

Grant amount: \$2,500.00

Panel Comments: Good project to strengthen community connections. They are seeking a modest amount and given the history of City of Yarra, with first Timorese refugees arriving in Yarra in 1975 it is important for Council to make a contribution.

AG25-214: **Kids Space in Yarra (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

Holidays program

Project Description: The Kids Space in Yarra project, will provide a holiday program during the school holiday break for primary and early high school aged kids. These children will have access to wellbeing and educational activities after having finished their direct school learning year and now are ready for indirect learning via holiday activities where they will have fun with their friends and siblings. Also, children will have a good time interacting with their parents to connect with each other in a friendly and fun environment. These holiday activity programs will engage these kids in fun and indirect education, where they'll have a lot of physical activity programs that is missing these days from children's lives.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a good project providing free school holiday activities for local families based on the estates and run by a local community-led organisation.

Stream: Community Support

AG25-003: **Footscape Inc.**

Foot Care Kits

Project Description: Footscape is an Australian Podiatry charity that assists disadvantaged persons encountering debilitating foot problems. Since 2016 Footscape has been assembling and distributing Foot Care Kits through project affiliate organisations to empower Homeless Persons, First Nations persons and Asylum Seekers through daily self-care practices and improved foot health. Such individuals that confront complex health needs have difficulty prioritising their foot health despite the risk of problems, including diabetes complications. Footscape intends to continue maintaining this project work within the City of Yarra community.

Footscape's provision of high quality new/second hand footwear, new socks and foot care kits greatly improves the ability of project affiliate organisations to support clients as they work to achieve their goals. Nonetheless, demand for Footscape material aid items has been at record levels over the past twelve months. In all 20,000 items of footwear, socks, foot care kits and orthotic devices have been funded/distributed by Footscape. In so doing material aid inventory, including foot care kit resources, are rapidly being exhausted. Given current cost of living pressures continue to result in increasing numbers of requests, Footscape is seeking urgent support to ensure a supply of foot care kits can be maintained with City of Yarra affiliates including Bolton Clarke, Cohealth and North Richmond Community Health. Affiliates recognise that Footscape is addressing health inequity by providing essential resources, delivering social justice and empowering affecting individuals.

Grant amount: \$8,000.00

Panel Comments: A great project supporting Yarra's disadvantaged. This organisation has been providing kits for a number of years and there is clearly a need for this in our community. They have well established connections in Yarra as they have been working on this project for multiple years.

AG25-026: **Free Massage Project Group (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

Free Massage Project

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 a strong track record and 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 those living in public housing. So far, we have provided 380 free massages in Yarra over the last year (up from 234 last year). With this funding we would be able to continue to grow the number of free massages in Yarra in 2025 through established organisations and events.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: This well-established project provides free massages to those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community, particularly those living in public housing and unable to afford self-care. They have developed community connections so will be able to find participants easily. Detailed budget with many letters of support.

AG25-039: **Ethical Interactions (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

My Sensory Space

Project Description: My Sensory Space creates sensory spaces at events and conferences. These are spaces for people who thrive in a different kind of sensory environment - away from bright lights, echoing voices and hundreds of people. Our spaces are carefully designed to respond to and support folks' 7 key sensory systems. They have lower and more flexible lighting and sound/acoustic elements; we offer a range of seating

options as well as blankets, wraps and weighted blankets; and we provide a range of options for people to activate their smell, taste and touch senses in ways that help them become and stay regulated. In addition to the environment design itself, each Space is hosted by at least two NeuroAffirming Angels who welcome people into the space and provide additional support (finding alternative seating, offering earplugs) and offering social connection for those who would like it.

Our aim is to improve the accessibility and inclusion of events in the community. My Sensory Space supports all members of our vibrant community and is specifically tailored to Neurodivergent people and those with sensory and psychosocial disabilities. We hope to use City of Yarra funding to facilitate My Sensory Space at the following events: SPACE concert, Collingwood Toy Library Sessions, Clifton Hill Primary School Annual Fete and the Abbotsford Convent Music Gig 2025.

My Sensory Space will be delivered at cost price so that we can maximise community participation and reach with this grant funding.

As a Yarra-based organisation, we are focussed on attending local, community events and ensuring we listen to our community's feedback to co-design the space. We love living within the City of Yarra and attending the great events on offer and are keen to support members of our community at these great events.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a great proposal, ensuring events are truly accessible to all. Well written grant application with lots of detail and statistics included. The panel suggested a pilot program and reduced funding due to a limited pool in a competitive grant round.

AG25-041: **Oromo Community Women's Group in the City of Yarra Inc**

Social and cultural activities for Oromo women and their families in the City of Yarra

Project Description: We propose to run the following activities:

- Fortnightly gatherings for women
- Information sessions
- Excursions and BBQs, to be held locally
- Craft activities such as sewing
- An Iftar during Ramadan for Oromo community and members of the wider community

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a great project that will empower women to take active roles in community events like Eid celebrations. It not only strengthens their involvement but also enriches the community as a whole. Detailed budget plan of how funds will be used and why this project is needed.

AG25-048: **Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Inc**

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra - Breast Care Cushions and Bags

Project Description: Since 2005, Zonta Melbourne in Yarra has produced breast care cushions 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!"

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 709 in 2023. This year, in 2024 we delivered 565

to 30 June. 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 will be approximately 1000 cushions in 2025. Cushions are mainly distributed in the City of Yarra to the following hospitals: Epworth Richmond and Epworth Freemasons.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: Overall, it is a small amount of money for a big impact which helps many people. They have a well-established volunteer network to construct the breast care cushions and bags and have been operating since 2005.

AG25-053: **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. 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 vocational training and into the realm of self-empowerment and improvement with lasting and life-changing effects.

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 is free. Each student will be allocated a volunteer Learning Partner to aid them in their journey. Graduates, on completion of the course, receive a Certificate in Liberal Studies which can be used, if the student chooses, as a bridge into a Bachelor of Arts at ACU.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a powerful community program that tackles isolation and educational disadvantage among community members and has been successfully run in previous years.

AG25-056: **CHEAC (Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

Yarra Gala Ball

Project Description: The Yarra Gala Ball aims to bring together residents from Collingwood and Richmond housing estates for an unforgettable evening of elegance and community spirit. This formal event will feature a diverse range of activities designed to cater to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Guests can enjoy a sumptuous selection of food, engaging entertainment, and dance activities that promise to create lasting memories. The ball is not just a celebration of diversity but also a platform for fostering bonds and unity within the community

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: The Yarra Gala Ball provides a unique opportunity for residents of diverse backgrounds to come together, celebrate achievements, and form lasting connections. The event addresses social isolation, promotes cultural understanding, and supports local arts and enterprises.

AG25-072: **Collingwood Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc**

Collingwood

Project Description: The Collingwood Project has multiple aims:

1) To process the wool fleece of the sheep at the Collingwood Children's Farm into yarn that can be used for a number of initiatives and prevent the fleece from being discarded in the trash. We will use the wool to create

knitted, crocheted and woven items to sell at our market stalls. We will also sell some skeins of wool to other knitters at our market stalls. We will donate some wool to SisterWorks who use the wool to support their knitting and crochet programs. If there is excess yarn, we will reach out and donate wool to other community groups who support women and children within the City of Yarra and the various neighbourhood houses throughout the City of Yarra that have yarncraft groups.

2) To run a series of workshops in fibre craft. Given that we have run the workshops for a number of years we have this year introduced a knitting-in-the-round workshop which is following the knitting basics workshop. We also offer workshops in spinning wool and crochet. The spinning workshop teaches participants how to spin their own yarn with a spindle. The knitting and crochet basics are introductions to knitting and crochet skills.

3) To meet community needs for stronger community partnerships and add value to other key local initiatives (such as the Collingwood Children's Farm and the Abbotsford Convent precinct and the popular Regional Farmers Market at the Convent).

Grant amount: \$9,000.00

Panel Comments: The panel were delighted with this application which is a co-operative exercise between a number of community organisations in Collingwood using the wool produced by the sheep of the Children's Farm to produce yarn and then create a range of items to sell at the market. The project has been supported by Council for a number of years since inception.

AG25-073: **Community Free Haircuts (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

Community Free Haircuts

Project Description: We want to provide free haircuts 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 haircuts we can provide. We see a strong need for this service for those disadvantaged in our community. We have a strong track record and 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.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: A proven positive service. Simple but it can make a world of difference to people's lives, especially those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community.

AG25-080: **SalamFest Incorporated**

SalamFest Islamic Art Workshops

Project Description: SalamFest envisions an Islamic Arts workshop in Yarra, designed to celebrate and promote Muslim artistry while fostering community engagement and cultural exchange. This dynamic event will feature a diverse range of activities aimed at enriching the local cultural landscape and creating meaningful connections among residents. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in interactive art workshops led by skilled Muslim artists, exploring traditional crafts such as calligraphy and henna. These workshops will cater to all ages and skill levels, encouraging creativity and hands-on learning.

SalamFest's Islamic Art Workshops will foster a deeper understanding among participants by celebrating diversity, promoting inclusivity, and encouraging community spirit through art and culture. The event seeks to leave a lasting legacy of cultural enrichment and mutual appreciation in Yarra, helping to bridge gaps between different communities and promote harmony. It also aims to provide the underrepresented Muslim community with a platform to share their traditions, making them feel heard and seen.

By engaging the community in artistic and cultural activities, SalamFest aims to highlight the rich contributions of Muslim artists to the broader Australian cultural mosaic. The event will not only enhance the cultural vibrancy of Yarra but also strengthen social cohesion and foster a sense of pride and belonging among

residents. Through this initiative, SalamFest aspires to create an inclusive space where everyone feels welcomed and valued, making it a memorable and impactful experience for all involved.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: A well-considered and written application that helps promote social cohesion and understanding through art.

AG25-083: **COHEALTH**

Supporting Community Resilience

Project Description: The “Supporting Community Resilience” project will facilitate the connection and collaboration among African-descent communities living in the city of Yarra to enhance their capacity to organise social activities that build resilience, skills and confidence which enhances their abilities to engage and collaborate with local service providers, council and local community.

The project will provide opportunities for community members to articulate their needs and identify their local priority issues, 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.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: Cohealth are really passionate about this project and its potential to address community concerns. By creating a space for open dialogue Cohealth will be empowering residents to voice their issues and collaborate on actionable solutions. This kind of initiative can be incredibly valuable for bridging gaps between the community and Council.

AG25-085: **Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di North Fitzroy**

The Ginnastica per Pensionati Exercise Program for Italian Seniors

Project Description: The Ginnastica per Pensionati exercise program for Italian seniors is held in the Edinburgh Gardens Community Roo. The program has been running since 2010. The program is run by volunteers and employs an exercise trainer to run the sessions. This year we have a new instructor who is a qualified gym instructor who works for Yarra Council and is from an Italian background. 50 - 60 people come weekly to the sessions and enjoy a simple hot lunch, such as soup, pizza or pasta. Also, four times per year we run a healthy lunch for all members together. These are important because the pensioner members can have a traditional home cooked meal and socialise, which is particularly important for the widows and widowers who live alone.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: A very worthwhile project that supports the elders from Italian backgrounds to maintain good mental and physical health and strong connections with their community to support independent living and improve health outcomes.

AG25-087: **Yarra Chinese Friendship Association**

Yarra Chinese Friendship Association weekly meet ups

Project Description: We wish to meet weekly at the Florence Peel Centre in Fitzroy.

We will meet on Sundays from 9am - 1pm each week, throughout of the year. Each week we will run information sessions on relevant topics to our members, organise classes such as exercise, singing, dancing, play Mah Jong, cards or other games. These sessions are important to our group to foster community and connection. Most of our members are elderly.

Being able to connect with other community members relieves loneliness and encourages positive mental and physical health. We also wish to help members improve their English in terms of listening, speaking, reading

and writing to be able to communicate in daily conversation and build vocabulary. The Grant will cover the venue hire cost.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: These sessions are important to foster community and connection. Most of their members are over the age of 70. Being able to connect with other community members weekly relieves loneliness and encourages positive mental and physical health.

AG25-090: Ms Maria Dimopoulos (Auspiced by Super Cro Incorporated)

Art Responssive Techniques (A.R.T.) - 4 C Art Project

Project Description: A.R.T. is a Health Arts program that was trialled in 2014 successfully with the collaboration of VMIAC. It involves 2 sessions of full day workshops and up to 10 participants in a safe and inspiring community studio setting. Two Facilitators will be using the creative process of artmaking to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals. The participants would be expected to produce one to two art pieces which will later be showcased in a private group exhibition in Collingwood. Family and friends will be invited to attend the opening of the exhibition to celebrate each client's achievements. Speeches will be made on the night and the event will be documented. Our workshops are based on the belief that the creative process involved in artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behaviour, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness, to achieve insight. 2D and 3D art-making activities including writing will be practiced. The ability of practicing artistic pursuits in a sharing and interactive group provides participants with the opportunity to feel more centered when they are feeling mental instability.

We encourage everyone from diverse cultures, background, genders and mature ages to participate in our future workshops, as A.R.T. can be helpful on many levels including prevention and recovery due to mental health wellness using holistic methods and creative techniques.

Grant amount: \$3,000.00

Panel Comments: A great project which will enhance the mental health of local community members through art therapy.

AG25-091: Sunrise women group (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)

Sunrise Women Group

Project Description: The Sunrise Women group is an initiative focused on upskilling women through the art of sewing. This project aims to foster empowerment and community development by providing participants with the opportunity to learn essential sewing skills in a supportive and collaborative environment. Through hands-on workshops and guided learning sessions, women will gain practical abilities, boost their confidence, and enhance their economic prospects.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: A great community project which teaches skills to migrant women so they can create/make items to sew and generate extra income. The sessions provide the opportunity for the participants to learn the basics of sewing while enjoying a social gathering.

AG25-094: Community Pop-Up Markets Ltd, trading as The Community Grocer

Grocer Gift Cards - dignified food access for Yarras' multicultural community at The Community Grocer

Project Description: The Community Grocer (TCG) runs a weekly affordable, culturally relevant fruit and vegetable market every Tuesday at the Atherton Gardens public housing estate and are planning to introduce a new market in Yarra at the Richmond public housing estate in early 2025. Each week, we serve nearly 100 customers in Fitzroy, with $\frac{2}{3}$ of our customers coming from multicultural backgrounds and living on the estate. We expect to serve similar numbers in Richmond given the size of the estate.

With the increasing cost of living putting pressures on households living on a low-income, 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 relevant produce for the multicultural community living on the estate.

Our Grocer Gift card program enables people to 'purchase' the food they want and need at our markets, with dignity and choice. It is an innovative, Australia-first food voucher program that has been operating since 2021 with great success, using a custom-built web platform to safely generate and redeem vouchers of various denominations, potentially multiple times, via our market point of sale.

Grant amount: \$7,500.00

Panel Comments: With a growing number of people experiencing food insecurity in Melbourne it's important to support initiatives that provide easier access to nutritious and fresh produce close to home. This project does this and targets our most vulnerable cohorts by running the grocers on public housing estates supporting local residents to have access to fresh and nutritious food.

AG25-100: **CULTIVATING COMMUNITY INC.**

CALD including Deaf and Hard of Hearing Work Ready Resource Library

Project Description: We would like to support participants into our WISE (work integrated social enterprise) pathway by creating a series of videos and materials that are in Auslan and some other potential languages that make onboarding into employment easier - e.g. how to get a TFN, how to manage induction as well as basic food safety, white card, small tool management and additional tasks within community development cooking and urban horticulture. These resources may not cover full qualification elements but certainly units and part of them. We will seek out local organizations to work alongside our interpreters and participants from community to develop these and use them to improve our diversity and inclusion as well as share with those that need them.

Grant amount: \$8,000.00

Panel Comments: A well thought out project with a clearly articulated need, that addresses barriers for people with a disability and creative solutions for social inclusion and employment pathways.

AG25-131: **Positive Attitude Inc**

Supporting and nourishing our community

Project Description: Lunch costs about double in 2024 than it did in 2023 due to the cost of living and inflation crisis which has seen food costs rise higher than anyone expected. There is a lag between rising costs and corresponding rises in donations, a grant will ensure this weekly service gets delivered until costs stabilise. Due to the economic crisis more people are attending luncheons than before as many can't afford fresh food because of the high costs. This is why it is a priority for us to provide luncheon free of charge.

Being able to offer lunch with security every Friday free of charge 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, and especially given the rise in presentations of the 'anti-trans' sentiment across Melbourne.

Our group is built around this promise, of food and a friendly and inclusive social environment. We are at risk of intermittent, interrupted, or infrequent lunches without additional support. Volunteers are currently reimbursed to cover travel costs including transporting our more fragile and vulnerable participants.

Grant amount: \$8,500.00

Panel Comments: This is a great program and a good application, with lots of detail. Part of this Grant is to cover the venue hire which they previously received for free.

AG25-133: **North Richmond Community Health**

Innovating Traditional Models of Clinical Care – Group Medicine Initial Pilot

Project Description: Declining bulk-billing, increased out-of-pocket costs, and broader cost-of-living pressures mean many Victorians delay seeing General Practitioners (GPs) or go to emergency departments, adding pressure on hospitals. This project aims to improve healthcare for older residents in the Richmond Housing Estate by testing a proven model of care locally.

The grant will fund the implementation of a pilot for the Group Medicine model, covering GP costs, Clinical Coaches (registered nurses), and interpreter support throughout the pilot period.

The pilot will involve one group of 16 patients each attending 10 group appointments over 10 weeks led by a GP and Clinical Coach with interpreter support. The Clinical Coach will also provide follow-up support. The data collected will be analysed to evaluate the impact and sustainability of the pilot model, which has the potential to be scaled for broader implementation in community-health settings.

Grant amount: \$9,900.00

Panel Comments: This pilot program could be of great benefit to people in need and will direct specialised resources to disadvantaged groups in Yarra. The application has detailed information and supporting documentation. This project is very worthwhile in terms of value to both patients and health care providers creating a new method of diagnosing and treating patients at a lower cost.

AG25-134: Life Saving Victoria

Inclusive Communities: An Aquatic Inclusion Project for CALD, Seniors, and People with Disabilities

Project Description: Building on our 2022 pilot and in partnership with Yarra Leisure (Collingwood Leisure Centre, Fitzroy Swimming Pool and Richmond Recreation Centre), we will connect with a further 500 community members with disabilities, from CALD backgrounds and Seniors (over 55s). The program facilitates ongoing physical activity and connections to local community whilst 'bridging the gap' between traditional Australians and the CALD community. Participants gain vital skills and knowledge to better allow them to safely and more comfortably access local City of Yarra aquatic centres, other facilities and their nearest beaches/foreshores.

Evaluation will show that this type of targeted CALD programming raises future CALD community attendance/participation. Sustainability will also be achieved through local employment opportunities for participants who successfully complete Pool Lifeguard and Swim Teacher qualifications.

Engaging both Diverse and non-Diverse groups is providing opportunities for cross cultural learnings and understanding assisting in the overall settlement and development of community connections for new Australians.

Grant amount: \$9,995.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this was a very strong, detailed application. The project targets disadvantaged community groups (CALD, people with disabilities and seniors). It offers specialised resources tailored to their unique requirements. There is little doubt LSV can complete this project. It is very much needed, could save lives and will have a big positive impact.

AG25-138: Twilight Market events group (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)

Richmond Twilight Markets

Project Description: Twilight Markets are a monthly celebratory event in Richmond which help share a sense of pride and belonging. The markets will showcase the talents of community members who are encouraged to perform, have a market stall or make cultural food. The markets offer families and individuals of all ages a place in their neighbourhood to come together, meet their neighbours and enjoy food and fun activities.

During 2025, 10 Twilight Markets will be held, with themed cultural events for the community celebrations. This may include for example Lunar New Year, Eid, NAIDOC and Refugee Week. Each market will be curated

by a team of local residents and aim to celebrate the different cultures across City of Yarra, such as Vietnamese, Timorese, South Sudanese, Chinese and Somali. The events will invite other local organisations and services to attend, including Yarra City Council, Yarra Libraries, North Richmond Community Health and Mind Australia. Music, arts and food will be the central theme of the events.

The events are aimed to be friendly, welcoming, resident led, fun and inclusive. These events are also opportunities for the wider Richmond community to mix and spend time in these areas of public housing.

Grant amount: \$8,500.00

Panel Comments: A great application with clear project objectives and outcomes and metrics. The project encourages community harmony and participation for people living on the estates and the broader community. The markets have been running for multiple years, which indicates its ongoing engagement from community and speaks of its success.

AG25-142: **Victorian Skateboard Association (VSA)**

Promoting Yarra Skateable Spaces

Project Description: Promoting Yarra Skateable Spaces will boost participation and connection across public housing areas and surrounding school in the municipality through 15 inclusive skateboarding workshops. Promoting Yarra Skateable Spaces aims to significantly increased skateboarding participation and community connection by engaging children, youth and families at the municipalities upgraded North Fitzroy skate parks, and surrounding school and pop up areas such the Fitzroy Cubbies, Richmond Hub, Collingwood English Language School, Fitzroy High School and Abbotsford Primary School.

At each All Aboard Skateboard Session we start with a group intro, skate park orientation, core skills such as pushing, standing, turning, breaking, and falling, in a safe and go-at-you-own-pace vibe. City of Yarra municipality attendees will benefit from inclusive skateboarding education on how to skateboard competently and confidently, as well as provide a foundation for independent skate park and space usage of council facilities, with the many physical and mental health benefits that come with skateboarding and intermingling with likeminded community members. New skateboarding skills, tips on how to use new public facilities, and emerging friendships will create a huge accessibility impact for numerous Yarra communities, many newly arrived and culturally diverse.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: A detailed and well written application with a long list of supporting documentation, including multiple years of program data showing it has been well attended and successful in engaging residents that may otherwise be disengaged. It's encouraging to see the risk management table and photos of smiling happy attendees (all in safety gear).

AG25-145: **EcoPawsitive (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

HighRise Paradise by EcoPawsitive

Project Description: To fund a series of gardening workshops for elderly residents in high rise towers to enjoy at home living in apartments without balconies.

Who: (Project Beneficiary) Collingwood and Fitzroy elderly residents especially those living in high rise towers without balconies.

Why: Community request based on resident survey conducted in North Richmond (current project currently has ongoing funding by North Richmond Precinct Grant) where it was explicitly expressed that due to lack of community garden plots for residents living in high rise towers without a balcony, the ones who are keen gardeners felt left out and unable to nurture their passion. Also their level of depression and anxiety heightened during the pandemic which led to poor mental health due to being in extensive lockdown that prevented them from being out to enjoy the communal gardens. From that level of disconnection with nature, they had requested for us to share the knowledge of bringing to life a miniature garden paradise into their homes that can be enjoyed every day throughout the year.

What: A series of gardening workshops for apartment living residents, requiring minimal space - miniature planters and kokedema.

Grant amount: \$9,500.00

Panel Comments: A strong application and the project itself is based on community requests. It is a practical and well-conceived project, with a targeted audience and positive proposed outcomes that address issues of equity, social isolation and mental health. It also has a detailed budget.

AG25-149: **Alex Makes Meals**

City of Yarra Fresh Meal Food Relief Project

Project Description: To alleviate hunger and address the increasing demand for food assistance from individuals and families in the City of Yarra, Alex Makes Meals are seeking a community support grant for the production of an additional 4,672 meals over a 6-month period at a cost of \$2.14 per meal for distribution via our community partners to families and individuals including young people in the City of Yarra who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The grant will be used to procure fresh produce that will enable the production of 4,672 meals by our dedicated kitchen volunteer teams that will be directly distributed to vulnerable people experiencing disadvantage through our network of local community partners in the City of Yarra. Our partner organisations then go on to provide additional targeted support services that meet the individual needs and circumstances of people needing assistance.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Alex Makes Meals is looking to establish additional community partner relationships that follow this same model within the City of Yarra. It is seeking a community support grant for the production of an additional 4,672 meals over a 6-month period. This is a clear application with established relationships in Yarra to support the access of food at a time when many are struggling.

AG25-157: **Timorese Breakfast Club (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

East Timorese Breakfast Group

Project Description: We are an East Timorese elders community group based in Richmond Public Housing. In early 2023, we initiated a Timorese Breakfast group, and it has since become a cherished weekly gathering, attracting around 20 guests each week. This initiative is more than just a meal; it is a celebration of our Timorese culture and a rare opportunity to enjoy traditional foods that we often wouldn't prepare at home, especially since many of us live alone.

Our breakfast group has formed a strong connection among us. Each week, we not only share a meal but also sing and practice songs together. Music, a significant part of our cultural heritage, fills our gatherings and creates a vibrant atmosphere that brings us all together, rather than being at home on our own. Additionally, our group has extended its presence into the broader community by performing at local events. These performances have allowed us to showcase our culture and talents, bringing pride and visibility to our community. For example, we have performed at Twilight Markets and the Boogie Man Bar on Hoddle St.

We are seeking funding to continue this initiative into 2025. The support will enable us to maintain this important cultural and social activity, ensuring that we can continue to gather, celebrate, and support each other in a meaningful way.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: A worthwhile project that promotes connection and social engagement for the East Timorese Community to come together to make connections, preserve and celebrate cultural activities.

AG25-162: **CHINESE GOOD VOICE (MELBOURNE) INC.**

Venue Hire Fee Coverage for 2025

Project Description: The purpose of this grant is to help cover venue hire fee of Florence Peel Centre for the weekly gathering/rehearsals for our senior members on every Sunday between 2pm to 5pm during 2025.

Grant amount: \$2,184.00

Panel Comments: These weekly sessions are important to foster community and connection. Most of their members are senior citizens. Being able to connect with other community members weekly relieves loneliness and encourages positive mental and physical health.

AG25-173: **Greek Elderly Club North Fitzroy and North Carlton**

Weekly activities for the Greek community

Project Description: The club provides opportunities for the personal and social development of its members through cultural, recreational and educational programs. It also maintains Greek culture and provides financial assistance to members in need. We have around 150 members and meet every Monday from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the Edinburgh Gardens Community Room in North Fitzroy. Usually there's around 60 people in attendance and we socialise, have coffee and cake, play cards, have discussions, and share a meal. We are just like a big family.

We are seeking funding to pay for our venue hire which was previously provided for free by the City of Yarra. The estimated cost is around \$4,000 per year.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: This is an otherwise self-sufficient group that is requesting funding to hire a CoY managed venue. It's important to support cultural and elderly groups to continue to meet in person in an accessible and safe space. Being able to connect with other community members weekly reduces loneliness and encourages positive mental and physical health.

AG25-180: **Scout Victoria Richmond Branch (Auspiced by Scouts Victoria)**

Cultural Walks with Wurundjeri Educators for the children of Richmond

Project Description: Our project aims to introduce scouts and primary school students in Richmond to Aboriginal history and culture through guided cultural walks led by Wurundjeri Educators. By exploring our neighbourhood through the lens of the ancient history connected to the land and the Wurundjeri people, participants will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of these traditions and the place they live in.

Specifically, we will be collaborating with the educators of the Wurundjeri Corporation to guide our scouts and other students on three cultural walks around our neighbourhood (Inner City tour, Dights Falls and Merri Merri Creek). This induction will include a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony too.

The second part of this project is to share this experience with other children in Richmond, by inviting 4 students from each of the 5 Primary Schools in Richmond and Abbotsford to join us on these walks which will be spread out across the school holidays next year.

Grant amount: \$4,355.00

Panel Comments: This is a really important project which aims to actively engage with the Wurundjeri and Aboriginal community in Yarra while at the same time educating young people about their local history. Learning is best done in practice, walking the land and hearing directly from Elders creates an important opportunity.

AG25-188: **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.

Grant amount: \$8,000.00

Panel Comments: A worthy and high impact project, this well-established program can continue to reach their target audience with support from this grant. There are multiple local organisations involved and all the funding goes towards the meal vouchers, applicant supplies and staff to manage program. The project will enable a group of people who are particularly vulnerable, experiencing both homelessness and disability, to maintain access to nutritious meals and improve social connectedness.

AG25-194: **Collingwood College**

Collingwood Doll's House Community Hub

Project Description: The Doll's House in Collingwood, an architectural gem with rich historical significance, is poised for transformation. We propose establishing month long artist residencies that offer dedicated studio based residencies for local artists. This creative endeavour will culminate in a series of exhibitions designed to engage the Collingwood community, particularly students from Collingwood College

Our initiative aims to merge contemporary art with the historical context of The Doll's House, enriching its cultural narrative. Each residency will culminate in an exhibition at The Doll's House, showcasing the artworks inspired by the space. This public exhibition, open to Collingwood College students and residents, will celebrate the intersection of art and heritage.

Grant amount: \$8,000.00

Panel Comments: The Doll's House is a well-known historical building in Collingwood. Bringing the building back to life with a community focus is a great idea and one that Council should support.

AG25-203: **Richmond Churches Food Centre**

Defibrillator purchase

Project Description: We would like to purchase a defibrillator for use at our Food Centre. Many of our clients and volunteers are older and it would give us peace of mind to have an automatic defibrillator available if it is ever needed. The defibrillator will be located in the community hall at St Ignatius so it would be available to all community groups that use the hall.

Grant amount: \$1,699.00

Panel Comments: Clear, concise grant application for a defibrillator. It is a busy location at a food bank which needs access to a defibrillator. The church has funded First Aid courses so people have been trained to use it.

AG25-209: **The Kitchen Project (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network)**

2025 Meet and Eat Kitchen Project

Project Description: In 2025, we want to:-

- * host 10 Community Lunches and six Community Dinners.
- * build on the weekly market stall.

The Community Lunches will be prepared and held at the 125 Napier Street Community Kitchen or 198 Napier Street. They will be co-hosted by the Kitchen Project and English Language Classes and a group of social housing residents. The Community Dinners are a collaboration with Fitzroy Learning Network hosted at 198 Napier Street. One dinner will be held on the Atherton Gardens Housing Estate. The dinners are a feature of the annual calendar and bring people from Atherton Gardens as well as the Collingwood Estate. These events invest in social capital and community wellbeing. They provide a platform for cultural exchange,

sharing culture through food and building social cohesion. The timing of events are programmed to play a role in community celebrations such as Eid, to celebrate our culturally and linguistically diverse community and are vital to building community cohesion. This project funding will support the employment of community members who are passionate about sharing food and culture.

Grant amount: \$4,000.00

Panel Comments: A good project with clear outcomes, reasonable budget and modest ask for the outcomes. It has good community engagement and a clear demonstration of need. The focus is on employing women and they have well established networks and partner organisations who are also contributing money and resources to this project.

Stream: Family and Early Years

AG25-065: **North Richmond Community Health**

Early Childhood Developmental Screening and Education

Project Description: In 2024, the Child Health and Development (CHAD) team at NRCH received a Community Grant to extend its developmental screening program to more early childhood education and care (ECEC) settings in the City of Yarra. Before 2024, the CHAD team offered a limited number of developmental screenings to local ECEC settings (1-2 settings). With COY support in 2024, the CHAD team extended this service to more children, across 4 ECEC settings. These screenings were provided by Allied Health professionals.

The screenings involved:

- Collaborating with the ECEC to implement the screening sessions. This involved educating the ECECs on the purpose and process of the screenings and sharing information to help them identify children who may benefit from a developmental screening and communicate with parents about the process.
- Allied Health professionals (e.g. Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist) attending each ECEC to screen the children referred (with parental consent). This involved assessing the child's overall development.
- Feedback to parents about how their child went post screening (in person if parents attended, and via written report).
- The professionals made recommendations about any appropriate referrals (e.g. referrals to Allied Health services, Paediatrician), and provided strategies as appropriate.

The developmental screenings were well-received by the 4 ECECs included in 2024, and viewed as valuable for helping to identify children who would benefit from additional supports to develop their learning and development. It was also able to help allay worries of some parents by being able to inform them that their child was developing as expected for their age.

Grant amount: \$9,468.00

Panel Comments: The panel thought this was a great program. Clearly articulated thorough application. Evidence based. Great service for the community to bring allied health practitioners to local early childhood settings and provide early intervention and health support. It aligns strongly with Council priorities. Application highlights how it will positively impact community. This funding request is building on a past successful program and providing an essential service to a vulnerable part of the community.

AG25-071: **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, our 30th Birthday Party in 2022 attended by over 300 community members and our Community Fun Day in 2024 attended by over 480 people. In 2025, we wish to leverage our profile and connection with the community to host three free family-friendly events, one at Abbotsford and two

at our Fitzroy branch.

Community Fun Day - Abbotsford: Adopting a similar format to our highly successful 2024 event, 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 Stay and Play: We will host two events that reflect the relatively recent establishment of our Fitzroy library and are tailored to the needs of families in Atherton Gardens. We will use the foyer of Connie Benn to host fun stay and play sessions 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.

Grant amount: \$6,500.00

Panel Comments: Well written application, with clearly articulated project plan, needs and anticipated outcomes however the Abbotsford event doesn't articulate how this event will actively involve/benefit vulnerable/CALD/ economically disadvantaged community members. Collingwood Toy Library has proven experience to deliver on projects such as this. The activities proposed at the recently established Fitzroy branch will benefit vulnerable/CALD/economically disadvantaged children and families and provide promotional opportunities. Part funding due to a competitive round and limited funds.

AG25-089: **Reading Out of Poverty Inc (ROOP)**

Pop-Up Libraries

Project Description: Books from Birth is a program focused on providing early literacy skills and school preparedness for children aged 0-5 years. Our primary target is children from low socio- economic backgrounds, including migrants, refugees, and Indigenous individuals. The program will focus on parents and their children who are living in public housing estates of Richmond, Carlton and Collingwood. We strive to help children discover the joy of reading in their early years. We empower parents to be their child's first teacher.

The project will set up 4 mobile Pop-Up Libraries in the housing estates to increase access and availability to books for children. We seek to engage the children in reading and early literacy activities. ROOP will collaborate with each of the housing estate management to ensure the Pop-Up Libraries are well-utilised by the local residents.

Over the 12-month grant period, project funding will contribute towards:

- The provision of 1,000 educational resources and 4,000 children's books in the Richmond, Carlton and Collingwood housing estates across 4 locations.
- 150 volunteer hours of literacy mentoring and tutoring.

Grant amount: \$6,000.00

Panel Comments: Important work! Clearly articulated and evidenced based. Well established organisation with proven program delivery, great to see them expanding into Yarra and already consulting with local housing teams. Good application but needed more detail. It would be strengthened with letters of support by housing estate managers from HomesVic. What is missing is how the project will support parents for whom English is second or third language (where English is low level) how do they engage?

We encourage them to connect with other local agencies (eg. Yarra Libraries, BANH, Collingwood Toy Library, Drummond Street, NRCH) to support other collaboration opportunities. Running a small pilot program in Yarra may have been more achievable.

AG25-167: **Dadfit Community Ltd**

Dadfit - supporting healthy, safe and gender equal families in Yarra

Project Description: We'll support the health and wellbeing of 45 families with children aged 0-5 by delivering 3 five-week Dadfit programs between January and December 2025. We'll deliver two programs in Fitzroy North and one in North Richmond, including participation by culturally diverse fathers and those experiencing economic disadvantage. Each program is expected to have 15 dad participants.

The Dadfit program comprises five weekly two-hour sessions. Each session includes:

- Dad Workout (45 minutes) - fun, inclusive, suitable for dads of all fitness levels.
- Dad Chat (60 minutes) - facilitated, evidence-based discussions about parenting, respectful relationships, mental health and family health.
- Dad Challenge - a simple, practical weekly challenge to build healthy habits at home.

The program creates a lasting local 'Dad Team' who stay connected beyond the five-week program and often continue meeting weekly.

Sessions are delivered by Dadfit facilitators Simon Hogan and Ryan Carters. Simon and Ryan are Yarra dads who are former athletes who have been trained by Drummond Street in group facilitation, mental health promotion, early childhood development and cultural inclusion.

We work closely with the City of Yarra MCH service to promote the program, as well as through neighbourhood houses, childcare centres, community organisations and libraries.

Grant amount: \$6,620.00

Panel Comments: Well written application, with clearly articulated project plan, needs and anticipated outcomes. Dadfit have existing experience delivering this project in the community, with extensive collaborative partnerships. The panel endorse the idea of engaging with fathers around parenthood and physical activity.

AG25-199: **Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club**

FLSC - Soccer Skills are Life Skills

Project Description: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club (FLSC) will implement the 'Soccer Skills are Life Skills' pilot project during the 2025 season. The project will embed a 'life skills' curriculum into training sessions and game days with the aim of using team-based physical activity to develop the personal and social skills that are foundational for wellbeing. The project will target members of the FLSC who are aged between 5-12, 90% of whom are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The high cost of participating in team sports creates socio-economic barriers that prevent many disadvantaged youth from engaging in the community-building, pro-social, mental and physical health benefits, and personal development opportunities that team sports provide. To address this issue, FLSC is committed to offering access to community soccer at no cost, eliminating registration and uniform fees for those from low-income and culturally diverse backgrounds.

The 'Soccer Skills are Life Skills' pilot program will integrate a life skills curriculum into our training sessions and game days, teaching essential personal and social skills such as leadership, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and resilience. The program will also encourage self-reflection, self-efficacy, and self-esteem. Our goal is to meet the needs of young people by providing strong community connections, access to inclusive health-promoting environments, robust social networks, positive pathways, and the psychosocial skills necessary to navigate challenges they may encounter.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: Great initiative. Good idea to include children from lower socio-economic backgrounds but didn't explain what costs would remain for these children to access the program. More detail needed. Application would be stronger with letters of support from project partners. Grant application that meets

funding priorities and builds on existing well-regarded program with high buy-in from community, supporting young people from a vulnerable cohort.

AG25-212: Kids Space in Yarra (homework club (Auspiced by Fitzroy Learning Network))

Homework Club

Project Description: The homework club program will provide a twice weekly onsite opportunity throughout the school term for primary and early high school children to access educational support in the form of homework and reading assistance. Furthermore, children will have a good time interacting with their parents to connect with each other, along with culturally diverse volunteers.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: Very important homework club for the Atherton Gardens community, established and run by local community member and valued by local families.

Stream: Major Projects

AG25-013: Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Convent Kids 2025

Project Description: Abbotsford Convent Foundation's (ACF) annual Convent Kids program of free/low-cost arts and cultural experiences enables children/families to explore, learn and participate in quality arts/cultural programs. Since 2018, 60+ events for 25,000+ children and families have been delivered. Audiences have increased by 25% in the past year, reporting a 95% satisfaction rating.

In 2025, in response to community feedback and demand, the ACF will introduce a new youth program run by highly qualified artists with social development backgrounds (youth worker, arts therapist, Community and Cultural Development worker) for those aged 25 and under. Our program now caters to children from birth to 25 years.

Our approach ensures artists are enabled to deepen and grow the scale, sustainability, reach and impact of their work. Co-created by young people, our program provides rich engagement and an investment in our future culture-makers. It delivers on all the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework outcomes for children from birth to eight years: identity, community, wellbeing, learning and communication.

Convent Kids 2025 will deliver to local audiences 38 inspiring events between January and November 2025.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: Convent Kids 2025 is a Major Projects application from the Abbotsford Convent Foundation for a range of activities for young people aged 25 and under, to be run by highly qualified artists with social development backgrounds. According to the application it will deliver 38 inspiring events/activities between January and November 2025. It will be play-based learning, enabling and supporting young people's creative expression, wellbeing and learning through arts and culture, separate from the constraints of formal education. It will support neurodivergent children's participation through sensory programs created by artists skilled in neurodivergent arts practice. It has a detailed and comprehensive Project Plan outlining the purpose and objectives with activities identified, the target audience and timeline, marketing and promotion strategy.

AG25-037: Thorne Harbour Health Ltd

LGBTQ+ Multicultural & Faith Events Program 2025

Project Description: Thorne Harbour Health (THH) will devise a program of events over 12 months to improve the social and emotional health outcomes of LGBTIQ+ community members from multicultural and multifaitah LGBTIQ+ backgrounds in the City of Yarra. This will be done by creating and working alongside community

partners to develop a range of forums, workshops, events and social catchups, each of which:

- Celebrates cultural and multifaith traditions,
- Empowers and supports multicultural LGBTIQ+ social groups,
- Reduces social isolation and improves social connectedness, and
- Increases visibility and representation.

Led by the dedicated THH Events team (including 2 staff members), this program partners with diverse queer multicultural and multifaith social groups and networks in Melbourne.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a worthwhile events program that has clear purpose and aims. It aims to provide opportunities for the most vulnerable LGBTIQ+ and multicultural, multifaith community members to celebrate key cultural and religious holidays/dates in the year, which may be challenging for many who are not easily accepted into the conventional celebration settings due to their gender and/or sexual orientation.

AG25-042: **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 Chance 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

Grant amount: \$25,000.00

Panel Comments: Second Chance Cycles is a well-established and successful program. The program covers the majority of the funding priorities, giving participants an opportunity to be involved several ways. It is an impactful program. Strong application showing measurable impacts; wide reach. Amazing results from 2023.

AG25-069: **Ilbijerri Theatre Company**

ILBIJERRI Youth ENSEMBLE - Creating career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth

Project Description: The ILBIJERRI 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.

Training is undertaken in association with Victorian College of the Arts and the Wilin Centre to facilitate safety, connections with other First People students, and encourage Ensemble participants to engage with further training options.

ILBIJERRI Ensemble is the only ongoing First Peoples 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.

Grant amount: \$22,500.00

Panel Comments: Strong application overall, that shows clear and measurable outcomes. Good supporting material and very reputable group with high quality partnerships such as BlakDance. Need to show more clearly that your projects prioritise Yarra residents.

AG25-078: **3CR Community Radio**

3CR Community Radio Local Connections

Project Description: 3CR will undertake a number of activities as part of our Local Connections project.

1. Beyond the Bars 2025

Beyond the Bars presents live radio from inside prison with First Nations inmates. It is completely unique and delivered by First Nations broadcasters many of whom live in the Yarra area. It gives voice to over 100 First Nations prisoners and is delivered by a team of over 15 First Nations broadcasters.

2. Disability Day 2025

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. Local Connections

We will engage with at least 10 Yarra based community organisations to facilitate their media access, engagement with their local broadcaster and enable them to utilise the station to communicate with their communities. The organisations will span across diverse communities and various specialist areas. 3CR will liaise with Council in identifying need and targeting specific groups.

4. 3CR Open Days

We will run two free Open Days in 2025 - 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.

Grant amount: \$22,500.00

Panel Comments: This is a diverse initiative. This application is clear, detailed, well written and is thoroughly thought out in the ways it elevates and enhances Yarra's community engagement and access. The project has many parts, all great programs in their own right. Beyond the Bars offers enhanced understanding of Indigenous incarceration, which is a rare insight in Yarra (and in Australia as a whole) The Disability Day is a great program to showcase the disability community. It feels like they will get value for money, as there are 4 separate programs which will benefit from this funding. They will be able to achieve all aims of the project as they have run these programs in previous years.

AG25-115: **Carringbush Adult Education**

African Women's Group

Project Description: This project will provide on-going support for 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 is facilitated by a local resident

woman of African background, led by Carringbush and supported by MiCare, City of Yarra Family Services and the Neighbourhood Justice Centre.

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 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, with all our meetings being culturally safe. One example of this is that 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 in return. 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.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: Assisting women from multicultural backgrounds in connecting with their local community while celebrating their culture and religion in a culturally safe environment is both meaningful and impactful - that's a fantastic focus for the project!

By focusing on cultural safety, engagement, and support, this project can play a crucial role in connecting women from diverse backgrounds with their community and creating a more inclusive and supportive environment. It also great to see that this project will leverage strong partnerships with local service providers which can significantly enhance the effectiveness and reach of the project.

Very worthy project with several connection points over the course of a year with the African community; a local project lead/facilitator.

AG25-165: **YOUNG ASSETS FOUNDATION LTD**

Fitzroy Youth Homework Club

Project Description: At the Young Asset Foundation's Homework Club at Fitzroy Library, our primary focus is on providing educational support to young people in the City of Yarra, many of whom live in public housing. We offer homework assistance Monday to Friday after school, ensuring that students have consistent access to the help they need throughout the week. Our services cater to primary, secondary, and university students, offering tailored support to meet their diverse academic needs. Our dedicated team of volunteers, including university students, retired educators, and community members, provides personalised tutoring and academic assistance, helping students enhance their understanding of various subjects, complete assignments, and prepare for exams.

In addition to the academic support, we also offer career guidance and mentoring programs. Our mentors, who come from diverse professional backgrounds, provide advice on career paths, academic pursuits, and personal development.

Moreover, our job support services are designed to equip young people with the necessary skills to enter the workforce. We conduct workshops on resume writing, cover letter drafting, and interview preparation. Our volunteers offer one-on-one sessions to review and refine these documents, ensuring that each participant presents themselves professionally to potential employers.

Through these activities, we strive to create a supportive environment where young people can access the resources they need to succeed academically and professionally. By fostering a culture of learning and ambition, we aim to empower the youth in our community, helping them to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

Grant amount: \$20,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a strong application seeking to also leverage State Government, philanthropic funding and dedicated volunteer efforts. It is well structured in its project plan and has clear links to various council plans/strategies.

Stream: Social Enterprise

AG25-001: **Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective**

Zero Waste Food Relief-WUC comes to the City of Yarra!

Project Description: Wholefoods Unwrapped collective (WUC) proposes to deliver fortnightly, sustainable food relief services for a cohort of Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (CNLC) students. These students are migrants/ refugees in a beginner English class who are facing food insecurity/social isolation

It is WUC's goal to provide this group with sustainable/ethical food relief support in addition to simultaneous and post grant CNLC "wraparound" supports including classes/speakers that focus on relevant topics such as food/financial literacy and support that can be obtained through services from relevant agencies/organisations.

WUC will facilitate an info session to providing CNLC customers with everything they need to understand the program including how to make an order and return all containers/crates/produce bags ensuring that our circular economy model continues

WUC believes that everyone is entitled to nutritious food and should not need to compromise on care for the planet. Our business model is inclusive whilst engaging recipients fully with our eco ethos.

Through this project, we will not only address immediate nutritional needs for our CALD cohort but also cultivate long-term environmental and social benefits for this community.

Grant amount: \$14,680.00

Panel Comments: This application addresses the important issue of food insecurity as well as climate issues and employment opportunities. This is a considered application with many elements addressed. The links to CNLC are a positive element, and their experience delivering this in the northern suburbs is also a bonus. The program is good for the environment (zero waste!) while also helping CALD residents during a cost of living crisis.

AG25-139: **North Richmond Community Health**

The Economic Empowerment of Cultural Catering Community Cooks

Project Description: Cultural Catering, a social enterprise initiated two decades ago by residents of local public housing in collaboration with Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH), exists to address the social determinants of health of economic stability, social and community context, and neighbourhood and built environment. The initiative effectively provides culturally relevant catering services while offering employment opportunities, benefiting 17 public housing estate residents by equipping them with hospitality skills and supplementary income.

The funding will support content creation, regular marketing campaigns, and website optimisation, crucial for expanding the enterprise's market footprint so that more residents facing barriers to traditional employment can benefit. By empowering cooks with business setup and training support, Cultural Catering strengthens local economies and enriches Yarra's cultural fabric by offering diverse culinary experiences.

Ultimately, the project seeks to build a self-sustaining model where Community Cooks can transition into

successful entrepreneurs, multiplying the initiative's positive impact across the community. Through continued partnerships and strategic investments, Cultural Catering aims to set a precedent for inclusive economic development and social empowerment within Yarra's diverse neighbourhoods.

Grant amount: \$15,000.00

Panel Comments: A very strong application. This project shows complexity and development of ongoing impact opportunities. They have clear structure, support from business and local area, scalability, meeting multiple needs in the community and address a consistent ongoing business model. NRCH have proven past success with this program and have showed they can measurably build on the work already done. They have developed good partnerships which contribute to the success of the program. The benefits of the funding reach the broader community as well as providing specific employment opportunities.

Stream: Sports and Recreation

AG25-021: **Richmond Skippers Netball Club (Auspiced by Yarra Netball Association)**

RICHMOND SKIPPERS NETBALL CLUB

Project Description: Richmond Skippers is a not for profit community group, that aims to assist primary school aged girls, who live within the Yarra City Council area, who might not otherwise have the opportunity, get involved in netball.

Our aim is to coach & encourage these girls, in a supportive and safe environment. Through the support of approximately 10 Richmond based volunteers, largely mothers who have seen the benefits firsthand that team sport, particularly netball, has on the confidence and growth of their own daughters.

Currently we have 7 teams registered with Yarra Netball, with at least one new team added of U9's each year. Demand has been consistent over the last few years and we expect this to continue, growing into 2025 and beyond.

We are seeking this Small Project Grant to assist with costs of training equipment, uniforms but largely to cover registrations for those families unable to financially commit to the cost of the netball program. Currently we cover five players with the prospect this will rise as rising cost of living impacts our families.

Grant amount: \$1,000.00

Panel Comments: This project is business as usual.

AG25-058: **Northcote United Cricket Club**

Women's & Girls' Cricket Initiatives

Project Description: For the last 2 years, NUCC has run a 'Women's Social Sixes' program, regularly attracting 10-15 participants. We would like to build on this and appeal to a broader range of females so that we can also field a competitive women's cricket team, a Social 9's team and boost female participants in our Woolworths Blast and Junior cricket program. Whilst our Blast program has attracted approximately 40 participants over the last 3 years, 90% of participants have been male with no females transitioning into Junior Cricket as yet.

To address this imbalance, we will offer a range of female only cricket initiatives to break down barriers. The range of initiatives will include: - A Women & Girls in Cricket Carnival Day, aimed at attracting new or existing players for a range of activities including introductory cricket skills to new participants via a Social Sixes format &/or Woolworths Blast format. For the more experienced or existing players, we propose offering batting and bowling sessions, led by an accredited coach and close the day with a mothers/daughters social game of cricket. We will offer participants a light lunch and refreshments. At the carnival, we will also promote a free 3 x session workshop to further develop skills. This workshop approach was successful in establishing our

Social Sixes program. The workshop will allow us to continue to work with keen females beyond the carnival. We propose holding a wrap up afternoon tea at the workshop conclusion & will endeavour to coincide with International Women's day.

We will also trial a school holiday camp for girls, focusing on getting them involved in cricket and providing a fun and supportive environment for them to participate.

Grant amount: \$3,877.00

Panel Comments: The Cricket Victoria participation program is great way to capitalise on the population growth in the area and bring more people to sport.

AG25-059: **Richmond Harriers Inc**

Obtain portable defibrillator for our club events

Project Description: We wish to obtain a portable defibrillator for numerous club running events held by the club in various locations predominantly across the City of Yarra.

Grant amount: \$1,000.00

Panel Comments: The purchase of a defibrillator will address an identified health and safety risk and can be a critical factor in an emergency.

AG25-067: **Melbourne Swimming Club**

Child Safety Education

Project Description: We require all our staff (coaches, teachers, lifeguards, admin staff, and committee) who directly interact with or supervise children and young people to undertake child safety training facilitated by ChildSafe Australia. The 2-hour Level 1 SAFE training course is specifically designed for aquatic, sporting, and leisure facilities. This course will provide our staff with the essential knowledge and understanding of child safety standards, how to recognise and respond to harm and abuse towards children, and how to implement child safety practices within the organisation.

We are seeking grant assistance to be able to subsidise the training for our staff. They are mostly volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to overseeing the operations of the club and we want to avoid burdening them with fees to attend this valuable training to upskill and be able to offer a higher quality of service to our players.

Grant amount: \$1,000.00

Panel Comments: Strongly aligns with both the stream objectives and the Coach / Volunteer training funding category.

AG25-068: **University of the Third Age Yarra City Inc (U3A Yarra City)**

U3A Mixed Park Soccer

Project Description: This is a new program providing an opportunity for members to participate in park soccer in a fun and inclusive setting. The initial enrollees are a broad mix of senior age women and men – some of whom have never played and are curious to try out a new sporting activity, whilst others are players who hung up their boots decades ago and are thrilled to being given a chance to have another go.

We are using old equipment (goals, coloured bibs and balls) voluntarily provided by the program tutor on a makeshift basis. This equipment will be in need of replacement by the end of the year and it would be a fillip for the program to be provided with new and better quality equipment ahead of its 2025 edition.

A \$1000 funding grant would enable the purchase of new equipment for the 2025 edition (\$516) and meet the cost of oval hire across the year (\$484) which would in turn overcome the need to impose these costs onto the playing group (noting that they are already required to pay an annual U3A membership fee).

Grant amount: \$1,000.00

Panel Comments: Great social sport initiative, addressing the stream priorities and the 'participation' funding category.

AG25-097: GR8M8S Foundation

Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps (TASC)

Project Description: We would like to request funding to run the Toolangi Adventure Sports Camp (TASC) for 2025, 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 2025 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.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Project strongly aligns with the stream objectives by supporting the participation of children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in sport and physical activity. Project has a proven record of success.

AG25-135: The Red Tag Fly Fishers' Club

Catch a Rainbow - Get Hooked on Fly-fishing with Red Tag Fly-fishers

Project Description: Fly fishing is a recreational activity predominantly enjoyed by men. Our project aims to broaden participation in this enjoyable pursuit to the LGBTIQ+ community. We plan to do this by using IDAHOBIT Day 17 May 2025 as a catalyst to generate interest and encourage participation.

Participants who attend the IDAHOBIT event will be guided through fun activities designed to introduce them to the amazing world of fly-fishing including an introduction to equipment (e.g. rods, reels, flies, nets), fly tying, casting demonstrations and casting lessons culminating in a casting competition with prizes on offer. The objective is for interested participants to get a taste for fly-fishing. They will be welcomed by our members, have the chance to experience the facilities the club enjoys including club rooms, an extensive library and casting pool.

Should they wish to further their involvement, they can then progress through a four-week long formal development program designed to teach them relevant skills and expose them to all the facets of fly-fishing, so they have a solid foundation.

The program culminates in a fly-fishing day at a trout farm where skills learned are put into action under the guidance of experienced club anglers and participants can 'catch a rainbow' (trout!). Participants then have a pathway to join the Red Tag Fly-fishers' Club should they choose.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Great initiative that addresses inclusion and diversity while supporting participation. It is recommended that a portion of the funding be spent on educating and upskilling current membership base to create a welcoming and inclusive environment.

AG25-141: North Richmond Community Health

Tai Chi and Qi Gong Exercise Group

Project Description: Tai Chi is a gentle, movement-based program that has proven particularly popular at North Richmond through 2024. We seek ongoing support to provide a group for the residents of North Richmond.

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. As well as improving balance and reducing falls risk, it has been shown to provide positive benefits related to 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 Qi Gong forms can be easily adapted even for client groups with reduced balance or other physical limitations.

This project will provide participants with ongoing access to 1-hour weekly group exercise at 106 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.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Application is strong and project has been run successfully for many years.

AG25-150: North Richmond Community Health

Chair Based Exercise Group

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 one 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. Participants are encouraged to stay after the sessions to have a cup of tea and socialise with one another to increase social connectedness. The group is seen by participants as a key social and physical activity in their week.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Project strongly aligns with the stream and has a proven record of successful outcomes.

AG25-152: 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 and adults 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, to support players who wish to compete in the FV All Abilities competition, and to contribute to the further development of the Football Victoria 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), and Adults (from 19 years). About three quarters of the players participate in games, and one quarter attend training but do not participate in games.

In 2025, the Collingwood Eagles Inclusive football club will continue to build numbers and skills in the Junior and Youth teams. A second goal will be to provide additional training opportunities for the Senior team to equip them to participate in the Senior competition which has become more challenging with the amalgamation of the previous Division 1 & 2 leagues in 2024.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: The project strongly aligns with the stream objectives and has a proven record of successful outcomes. The maximum funding amount in this stream is \$5,000.

AG25-169: **Northcote United Cricket Club**

Junior Cricket Equipment

Project Description: As part of our Junior Growth & Development Plan, the Club is committed to growing Junior cricket amongst local communities including the Yarra Bend precinct & local school communities.

To ensure that we can continue to provide these activities to our Junior teams & 'turn up & play' approach, we would like to purchase an additional cricket kit to support our 4-5 Junior teams in Under 9s, 10s & 12s.

Grant amount: \$840.00

Panel Comments: Project aligns with the stream objectives by supporting the participation children and young people.

AG25-185: **Ariels VCNA**

Ariels VCNA School Netball Outreach Program

Project Description: Through Ariels VCNA establishing a netball competition program at Fairlea Reserve Netball Complex, we can create more opportunities for junior players from non-traditional and disadvantaged backgrounds.

We are seeking funding to expand Ariels VCNA's school outreach program in 2025, which will target schools with lower ICSEA scores and a majority of students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Students of all genders that wish to expand their participation can sign up for Ariels VCNA's Net Set Go program, or Ariels VCNA can refer them to their local club to participate in regular competition. This outreach program has the dual benefit of giving school students the opportunity to try a new sport and accelerating the development of a sustainable competition program at Fairlea Reserve Netball Complex.

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: Strong alignment with the stream objectives and the Yarra community. A school outreach program is a proactive way to bring in new participants and by going to them this breaks down a barrier to participation.

AG25-187: **EDINBURGH CRICKET CLUB**

Social Sixes - casual midweek cricket for women and girls

Project Description: Work with Cricket Victoria and Proud to Play to host and run Social Sixes programs for women and girls

January - February 2025: introductory program targeted at women and girls, 4-6 weeks including a come-and-try launch and final award event coordinated with club training or games.

September-October 2025: same program with option to participate in organised club training and transition to club teams for 25/26 season

Grant amount: \$4,500.00

Panel Comments: Strong connection to the community and the stream objectives.

AG25-193: **Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club**

Safeguarding George Knott Reserve Conditions During Winter

Project Description: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club (FLSC) is currently sharing the George Knott Reserve with the Collingwood Harriers Athletic Club. Each season, we struggle to complete our football season due to the poor condition of the ground. Therefore, we are seeking this grant to help protect the reserve for community use by hiring an alternative venue through Football Victoria (FV). We plan to host our home games at the FV venues, potential locations include the Darebin International Sports Centre or the home of the Matildas instead of George Knott Reserve.

This alternative approach is necessary to ensure that FLSC does not disrupt the Collingwood Harriers existing arrangements with schools and other organisations. Without finding an alternative venue, there is a risk that Collingwood Harriers could lose revenue from their school bookings, which could complicate their current arrangements with the council. We want to be a club that adds value to our community, not one that disrupts existing partnerships.

Grant amount: \$3,700.00

Panel Comments: The project targets an underrepresented group and is 'community first' by fostering its relationship with the local athletics club.

AG25-204: **Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club**

FLSC - Ramadan iftar

Project Description: Every year during the season, we find it challenging to engage many disadvantaged young people and families, particularly those from the Muslim community, because we do not fully understand their needs during the month of Ramadan. As part of our commitment to creating an inclusive environment for everyone, we recognise the importance of accommodating the unique cultural and religious practices of all our members.

To address this, we would like to host Iftar throughout the month of Ramadan for both Muslim and non-Muslim club members on training nights. Iftar is the meal eaten after sunset to break the fast during Ramadan.

Grant amount: \$4,500.00

Panel Comments: Fantastic initiative which celebrates diversity, promotes inclusion whilst supporting sport participation.

Stream: Youth and Middle Years

AG25-011: **Breath Circle - auspice by Matthew Shawcross, Sacred Heart Primary (Auspiced by Sacred Heart Primary School)**

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 1 hour 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.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: Very valuable program, with prior experience working in partnership with Yarra schools. Would be good to see this expanded to other schools in Yarra. Application was well written, however budget was not complete. Evidence based links were good to see. Program reach is great.

This application has clearly articulated need and benefit via research and data and have included a research evaluation report. They have also cited feedback from previous programs they have conducted. In their project they have included an 'education training component' (involving parents and teachers, offering scholarships to train youth) which can make it sustainable once the project is completed.

AG25-017: **Sacred Heart Primary School**

UBUNTU - I am, because you are!

Project Description: This project aims at supporting the 9 & 10 year old cohort of Sacred Heart School. Due to the effect of COVID isolation during their formative years, we have identified that these students lack the social skills to work together to learn and to play co-operatively.

This project aims at giving the 9 & 10 year old students the opportunity to develop the essential societal and community based skills they lack, so that they can work together collaboratively in both work and play. We aim to create a collaborative play space in an unused area at the side of the school - which has both passive and active play areas which focus on building social cohesiveness and collaborative skills. We will purchase specific equipment and work with students using this equipment to build collaboration. We will also create 'Lunchtime Clubs' - led by teachers, volunteers and community members, which will give the opportunity for these students to learn new skills in a variety of areas, as well as being the perfect vehicle for students with shared interests to work collaboratively in a positive learning environment.

Grant amount: \$7,000.00

Panel Comments: A great initiative from Sacred Heart PS, meeting a specific need for those students who are still feeling the impact of COVID lockdowns. Well thought out project, evidence based and meets several of Yarra targets. Significant budget for equipment that will benefit the whole school and beyond one year.

AG25-095: **Australian African Community Development Inc. (AACD) (Auspiced by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)**

African youth curriculum support program

Project Description: We want to hold weekly youth curriculum support homework club sessions at Collingwood neighbourhood House. Young people attend with their families and tutoring is structured to their needs. We provide healthy snacks and share a meal at the end of the session to build connections between the young people and their families who attend the program.

This project is a collaboration between the African Australian Community Development Association (AACDA),

Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House (BANH) and local families. The project supports African young people from the ages of 6 - 15 with English and Maths 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
- Create opportunities for parents who bring their children to the homework session. This includes practising public speaking.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a great program, the panel loved it. Clear, easy to understand project and aims. Very important homework club for the Collingwood community, established and run by local community member and valued by local families. The application clearly outlines the importance of this program operating to support young people's education. They wish to build on an already established program. It is a community led initiative and have consulted with a range of stakeholders.

AG25-098: **GR8M8S Foundation**

Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball, Leadership & Development Program

Project Description: Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball, Leadership & Development Program (YWBLDP) 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 2025 we intend for the squads to participate in two tournaments, in July and December subject to available funding.

The Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball Program (YWBLDP) was developed in 2010 in relation to community consultation held in line with the GR8M8S / Home Ground Hub (HGH), 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).

Grant amount: \$5,000.00

Panel Comments: This is a highly valuable program for vulnerable Yarra young people, with a strong track record delivering on outcomes. The application is evidence based, citing research and clearly stating the need - focuses on vulnerable young people from CALD and refugee backgrounds. It has demonstrated strong consultation with a range of stakeholders and highlighted the positive impact on community.

AG25-102: **ORO World Taekwondo (Auspiced by North Richmond Community Health)**

Taekwondo on the estate

Project Description: Taekwondo is a discipline that helps young people with their mental and physical health. It also teaches them to manage their emotions, show respect and control impulsiveness. With ORO World Taekwondo, due to the high number of participants, children and young people involved have to wait for their turn and watch others, therefore also learning patience and group work.

ORO World Taekwondo was started 3 years ago by Ethiopian refugee Dechas Aliyi, a resident of the Richmond public housing estate. ORO stands for Oromo, Dechas' cultural group, but the activities are open to all young people.

Dechas learnt Taekwondo in Ethiopia and brought his experience to Australia, where he is now a Second Dan and holds a membership to the World Taekwondo Headquarters. Knowing the benefits of Taekwondo on young people, Dechas decided that it was the best way for him to contribute to the well-being of young people on the

public housing estates.

With support from a handful of volunteers, Dechas and friends Abdilaziz and Mudeser have been running their Taekwondo classes at 110 Elizabeth for the past year, 3 times a week. With 120 girls and boys on their books (mostly from Richmond, Collingwood, Fitzroy and Carlton housing estates), it is a highly successful program, supported by community organisations. Parents bring the children and often stay to watch them. This is uncommon for African parents, who are often not involved in their children's sporting activities.

Grant amount: \$7,350.00

Panel Comments: A strong application, providing a well-regarded program to the local community. teaching great skills. The grant application meets the funding priorities and is building on an existing successful program. It is a moderate request for essentials to ensure the program continues. Has support of families and young people.

AG25-107: **Fitzroy Scout Group (Auspiced by Scouts Victoria)**

Fitzroy Scouts Equitable Access Project

Project Description: Fitzroy Scouts Equitable 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 removing membership/insurance costs and heavily subsidising 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.

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.

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.

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: Well written application with clearly articulated project plan and outcomes. Valuable to provide equitable access to Scouting services. It meets funding priority areas and focuses on young people from public housing estate and CALD/refugee backgrounds. Building on existing subsidised participation.

AG25-109: **The Rotary Club of Richmond Inc**

RC Richmond Next Step Program

Project Description: The Next Step Program is designed to support disadvantaged young people in Year 10 who attend Collingwood College within the City of Yarra, as selected by the School's Year Level Co-Ordinators. The funds requested help to support a Career Advisor employed by Collingwood College. Approximately eighteen students are expected to participate.

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. Students have the opportunity to participate in targeted activities such as:

- Two-day Smith Family Work Inspirations Workshop (last year at Origin Energy)
- Attend the Trades & Tech Fit Expo for females and non-binary students

- Extra assistance with Class Assessments - e.g. Curriculum Vitae and other job application documents
- Extra assistance with finding relevant work experience positions
- Rotary mentoring
- Financial Literacy workshop

Grant amount: \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: Strong application. Organisation has a long track record delivering this program with Collingwood College. It has proven strong outcomes with students over many years. Evidence based, good success rate. Supporting disadvantaged young people through employment pathways is vital for the community. It is an existing program that achieved a 90% success rate (school retention of participants) and targets the most vulnerable/disadvantaged and those that will benefit from the program. The program focuses on school retention and education at year 9/10 level which is a critical time for youth.

AG25-113: **North Richmond Community Health**

NRCH OT School Holiday Group

Project Description: The OTs who work as part of the Child Health and Development (CHAD) team are seeking support to run a holiday group program for 8-11 year old children who have identified needs relating to the development of life and social skills. Large mainstream holiday programs don't always cater well for these children.

The group will increase the opportunities to develop life skills and explore new interests outside of a school environment. The group would be offered for two days every school holidays. Children known to the CHAD service who have had been assessed and have appropriate goals would be invited to attend.

The group aims to meet the needs of participants through the following experiences:

- Community access (problem solve the use of public transport etc)
- Learning new skills and activities
- Thematic learning (completing small projects in a team)
- Peer connections

This program has been successfully piloted and we believe will prove to be a valuable additional offering that complements our existing services. This cohort often experience a significant number of social complexities which are difficult to work on in a standard individual, hour long appointment.

Grant amount: \$6,500.00

Panel Comments: Very strong application, with a quality program meeting a targeted need. This is an extremely well thought out and researched project, with clear links on the large impact it will have on community. NRCH has a proven track record to deliver on programs such as this. Strong alignment with funding priorities. Already piloted project providing impetus and evidence.

AG25-122: **Australian Vietnamese Women's Association Inc**

Brighter Futures Program

Project Description: Brighter Future is an initiative (the "Program") by the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association (AVWA) aimed at providing homework tutorial support to highly disadvantaged primary and high school students who mainly live in the Richmond Public Housing Estate. AVWA has solid evidence that the parents of the target cohort are often unable to help with their homework due to the English language barrier and other factors. Furthermore, these students do not have a conducive learning environment at home due to the nature of the dwellings in which they live.

The Program, which has achieved enormous success in previous years, will be delivered in partnership with St Kevin High School and Melbourne Girls' College. AVWA proposes to deliver the Program focusing on outcomes, with the pillars of social cohesion embedded and the provision of counselling services for those assessed for further one-on-one assistance and support. The program will serve 38 primary students as well

as high school students (from year 7-9). Around 100 high school tutors have been involved in this program to date. This year, we have recruited 12 teachers from both high schools.

Grant amount: \$9,990.00

Panel Comments: This is a great project with clear links on how it will support great outcomes within the community. Very important homework club for the Richmond community, established and run by local organisations and valued by local families. Strong partnership with schools providing volunteer tutors (youth leadership)

AG25-161: **Collingwood Toy Library Inc**

Board Games Series: Inclusive events for neurodiverse young people to socialise, connect and engage.

Project Description: Collingwood Toy Library has experience hosting highly successful free community activities for Yarra families, including messy play days, our 30th Birthday Party in 2022 attended by over 300 community members and our Community Fun Day in 2024 attended by over 480 people. In 2025, we wish to host a series of smaller events for neurodiverse young people.

Our proposal is to run 2-hour facilitated board games sessions for small groups (4-8) of neurodiverse young people, aged 8-14

- 10 sessions in total (2 x 2 hour sessions over 5 separate days) over the school holidays
- We will provide a selection of board games, puzzles and Lego sets suitable for different skill levels and interests
- Considerations: We will offer cooperative games, strategy games and creative building challenges options that we know from experience help to (a) Focus on enjoyment and positive experiences, (b) Minimise anxiety as they avoid strict time limits or competitive elements, and (c) We will also provide fidget toys and noise cancelling headphones if needed
- Existing staff and volunteers will be supplemented with suitably qualified paid casual staff to facilitate the sessions. These understanding and patient facilitators will explain rules or offer support if needed to help participants feel involved and connected during - the session

Grant amount: \$7,410.00

Panel Comments: Well written application, with clearly articulated project plan, needs and anticipated outcomes. While this is a new project for Collingwood Toy Library, the team has proven experience to deliver on projects such as this. The project outlines are clear and target minority groups i.e. neurodiversity.
