

# Investing in Community Grants 2021-2023 Attachment 1

## Recommended

ICG21/23-005: **cohealth**

*Yarra Multicultural Services Network - Connecting with Community*

**Project Description:** This project will provide funding for a bi-cultural worker (BCW) to co-facilitate and support the Yarra Multicultural Services Network (YMSN) with the City of Yarra community development project officer

The YMSN is a network of local agencies supporting people from refugee and asylum seeker background and recently arrived communities in the City of Yarra. The vision of YMSN is that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are supported in the City of Yarra so that they settle in a way that enables them to feel welcome and respected.

This project will provide YMSN adequate resources to continue its mission in supporting multi-cultural communities in Yarra. This will involve activities such as cultural safety forums, anti-racism campaigns/information sessions, employment forums, family violence forums and refugee week celebrations.

The co-facilitation role this application will support will be filled by a bi-cultural worker will ensure community perspectives are embedded in the leadership of the network. This will also provide an opportunity for a bi-cultural worker to expand their influence, networking and leadership skills. This opportunity will be provided in a supportive environment with regular supervision and support from both cohealth and Yarra City Council staff. The bi-cultural worker will also develop or assist in a community-based project each year which will further enhance the reach of YMSN and give the opportunity for the BCW to utilise project management skills.

**Total Project Cost:** \$71004.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$70965.92

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$23,600.00

**Panel Comments:** This project, from an organisation with an established presence in Yarra, meets a strong need closely correlating with the grant criteria. The project arises from an existing network of agencies addressing the needs of the targeted communities and aims to build capacity within the community.

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ICG21/23-006: **Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (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).
- The opportunity to learn how to repair and maintain their own bikes (the skill development and mobility elements).
- A chance to give back to the community (the restorative justice element).
- 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.

In 2019, 1071 refurbished bikes were donated to local residents, recent migrants and international students.

**Total Project Cost:** \$421000.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$147693.41

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$48,500.00

**Panel Comments:** Good community outcomes in volunteering and bike usage and many people will benefit from program. This is a long-term project, delivered by established organisation with support from governmental and non-governmental bodies that addresses the needs of very disadvantaged people.

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#### ICG21/23-012: **Cultivating Community**

*Let's Keep Cooking*

**Project Description:** Let's Keep Cooking will be the central and umbrella brand for the community cooking and food skills work of Cultivating Community within Yarra City. A brand that will create trust and quality assurance for its inclusiveness, place-based design and delivery, culturally appropriate content, sustainability, collaborations and joyfulness.

Content will be delivered at locations to include Fitzroy Food Hub, our new North Richmond Food Hub (due November 2021), Collingwood Children's Farm and Alphington Food Hub and include the potential development of a disability garden growing space at North Richmond.

The content will be informed by our projects that involve community meals, vulnerable and at-risk groups, CALD individuals, people living with dementia, those facing financial difficulty and increased risk of going hungry and after school activity.

**Total Project Cost:** \$245700.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152,261.25

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$30,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A project with significant benefits to the community across a range of outcomes. Great to see an organisation using this grant to build and expand upon their current services and further engage the Yarra community. Highly recommend.

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#### ICG21/23-013: **Community Radio Federation**

*Beyond the Bars 2021-2023*

**Project Description:** Beyond the Bars gives voice to the ideas, opinions and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates in Victorian jails. It does this through a series of live prison radio broadcasts during NAIDOC Week. The radio broadcasts are presented by ATSI broadcasters from 3CR and beyond, and distributed via 3CR 855AM, 3CR Digital, streamed live online and made available to other community stations around Australia. The broadcasts are preceded by workshops that engage, challenge and prepare the inmates for their time on air. The broadcasts are an opportunity to speak out, build confidence, connect with community and explore cultural and social issues. Beyond the Bars gives voice to over 100 ATSI women and men and is unique throughout Australia and the world in facilitating the participation of ATSI prisoners via live radio. It is our intention in 2021 and beyond to broadcast from Barwon prison, Middleton/Loddon prison, Marngoneet/Karreenga and Fulham Correctional Centre. Following the annual broadcasts a double CD (1000 in quantity) of highlights is produced and launched at a free, public event in the City of Yarra that celebrates the project with live music and a panel of speakers. The CD features the songs, poetry and stories from ATSI prisoners and is distributed free to community broadcasters, prisoner participants, ATSI individuals and organisations, prison management and services, and other media outlets. The CD distribution ensures that the broadcast event is not just a one-off listening opportunity. In addition, Beyond the Bars audio is available online [www.3cr.org.au/beyondthebar](http://www.3cr.org.au/beyondthebar)

**Total Project Cost:** \$237064.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$80,856.81

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$11,300.00

**Panel Comments:** There is a strong and timely need for this initiative. The importance of unique positive projects around this subject have been brought into sharp focus by Council's work on the Black Lives Matter

movement - which has increased awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of the justice system. This program has been delivered by 3CR for a number of years.

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#### ICG21/23-014: **Brotherhood of St Laurence**

*Connie Benn Centre - Early Years, Middle Years and Volunteer Engagement*

**Project Description:** Based in Fitzroy, the Connie Benn Centre is a family hub that offers support to those living in the local community.

BSL works in partnership with Yarra City Council to provide services and programs that support parents, children and young people. Both at the centre and through outreach engagement, we strive to deliver a successful place-based intervention implementing tailored supports for Yarra residents who are experiencing vulnerabilities and disadvantage in order to promote a pathway out of poverty.

Many of the families BSL supports through Connie Benn Centre programs are recently arrived in Australia and living in the neighbouring Atherton Gardens Housing Estate or in the surrounding area. Families have reported having limited networks around them, such as family and friends, and our programs support their wellbeing, education and development, and overall sense of community.

Our services and programs run out of the centre include:

- Supported playgroups.
- Parent-only information workshops and peer groups.
- One-on-one family support.
- Support and referral to facilitate parents' social and economic participation.
- Before, during and after school activities for primary and secondary school students, working within a school partnerships model.
- Volunteer training and development.
- Service development and broader community engagement through participant committees and network participation.

Through this application, we are seeking a multi-year funding agreement with Yarra City Council to continue to deliver our vital programs through 2021-2023.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2662681.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152261.25

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$37,000.00

**Panel Comments:** Well written, transparent submission supporting an existing service, providing an important support to the local community - especially CALD women and families in Atherton Gardens. A continued partnership with Council will promote volunteer opportunities. Well-rounded and preventative program for all disadvantaged and vulnerable members of community.

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#### ICG21/23-016: **Australian Catholic University (School of Behavioural and Health Sciences)**

*Yarra Blue Light, Victoria Police and Australian Catholic University Sport Programs for Middle Years*

**Project Description:** Yarra Blue Light, Victoria Police and Australian Catholic University have joined forces since 2017 to provide Sport, Health and Education programs for the middle years children in the City of Yarra. One of the main purposes of these programs is to provide a safe environment for middle years children to be involved in activities that promote engagement, inclusion and participation. Sport for development programs have been shown to be a powerful tool to engage young people in the middle years of low socioeconomic communities to believe in themselves so they contribute positively to their community and society.

Furthermore, research by Victoria Police has identified that a key ingredient in preventing youth crime and empowering local youth to transition safely through the middle years is to provide community led sport and health programs that engage young people.

The sport for development programs that would be partially funded by this successful grant application are all established programs that have been developed in consultation with the community on the social housing

estates in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond. Collectively, these programs provide sport opportunities, health and education to more than 250 children per week in the "middle years" demographic. Furthermore, previous participants are provided a support pathway into paid coaching positions.

**Total Project Cost:** \$593697.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152,261.25

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$40,000.00

**Panel Comments:** A clear and effective application which highlights the need in the community. The program runs in partnership with other, well-funded and well-known groups to create an inclusive program. The data and support letters provided in the application clearly demonstrate success over past three years.

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#### ICG21/23-020: **The Wellington**

##### *Cohesive Community Health*

**Project Description:** In continuing the impact of The Wellington in preventative and public health, we are seeking to expand our existing programs and implement new community requested and driven programs. By facilitating groups and activities targeted at significant cohorts within our community, we seek to enhance the physical, mental and emotional health, social inclusion, and health education outcomes for our local residents. Our Cohesive Community Health Project identifies existing and emerging needs in the community, and tailors programs to a wide range of age demographics, backgrounds and abilities.

**Total Project Cost:** \$608547.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152,261.25

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$20,500.00

**Panel Comments:** A well thought-out application aligning the project aims with a number of Council's funding priorities. The project incorporates a number of complimentary programs for people of all ages and incorporates a food security element. The project has broad reach among a range of disadvantaged groups in the community.

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#### ICG21/23-025: **Community Radio Federation**

##### *Disability Day Radio 2021-2023*

**Project Description:** The Disability Day Radio project will deliver 12 hours of dynamic radio featuring the voices, ideas and creative talents of the disability community with a particular focus on Yarra. The project will employ a worker with a disability to design and oversee the radio shows, podcasts and manage the broadcast event. The worker will collaborate closely with an advisory committee made up of people with a disability from the areas of advocacy, radio production and local service organisations. A production assistant skilled in radio and project management will provide resourcing and support to the Disability Day Radio worker in delivering the radio programming by and for the disability community on 3 December each year.

Across a six-month period, the worker will facilitate the ideas of the disability community, including existing disability radio programmers at 3CR in producing that is podcast, transcribed, broadcast live on 855AM and 3CR Digital, and streamed via 3cr.org.au. Additionally, 3-4 programs will be made available nationally via the Community Radio Network to community stations around Australia. The result will be an exceptional series of podcasts available on the day and into the future that are designed and delivered by the disability community. The project will provide a unique opportunity for training and professional development for the worker in project management and delivery, and radio production. Overall the project will facilitate the voices of the Yarra disability community and amplify issues of concern to them across multiple media platforms in celebration of Disability Day.

**Total Project Cost:** \$117999.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$88,625.19

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The project is an important piece of advocacy, giving a voice to people with disability. The submission displays initiative and is sufficiently detailed to justify funding and instil confidence in delivering achievable outcomes.

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## ICG21/23-026: Welcoming Australia

### *Future Proofing Fitzroy Lions*

**Project Description:** Welcoming Australia and Fitzroy Lions will join forces to improve the viability and sustainability of Fitzroy Lions, an extraordinary community asset who delivers significant social, physical and well-being outcomes through the vehicle of accessible community sport and social connection.

Fitzroy Lions was founded by youth from the community to provide free access to football, social connection and build confidence and resilience in its young people. They are an embedded community organisation that has the ability to engage those that mainstream sports exclude and main stream service providers cant connect with.

Welcoming Australia as an organisation will mentor Fitzroy Lions, provide links to experts in business, sport and community development and provide resources such as data collection/ outcome measurement systems developed specifically for community development through sport.

Through the project Welcoming Australia will support Fitzroy Lions to;

- develop a sustainable funding model,
- improve governance skills and management structures,
- develop its leadership
- offer accessible community sport programming,
- engage and invest in female youth leadership
- improve the wellbeing of hundreds of young people in the City of Yarra.

The project will provide evidence of best practice in the development of an innovative and much needed community sports clubs model that is relevant to other communities with similar demographics in Victoria and Australia. The City of Yarra will be leaders by providing resources to a group of young people to lead their own future and impact the futures of others.

**Total Project Cost:** \$297777.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$97,471.56

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$10,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The application offers a clear plan to build the ongoing sustainability of a grassroots, youth-led sporting club and provides a compelling case for funding. The project offers a multi-pronged program that can benefit many people from a hard-to-reach cohort.

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## ICG21/23-027: Fitzroy Learning Network Inc.

### *Skills2Connect*

**Project Description:** Skills2Connect provides skills development and support which people from CALD backgrounds need for economic and social participation. Initiated by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, FLN has managed Skills2Connect since 2016. Program developments and improvements, stemming from ongoing evaluation, will be incorporated in Skills2Connect from 2021, including:

- Increased capacity to assess specific needs of individuals;
- Weekly drop-in sessions to assist with straightforward requests;
- Tele-meetings to make assistance more accessible;
- Use of FLN's updated computer lab as required.

Still central to Skills2Connect is 1:1 mentoring where volunteer mentors from the CoY community are recruited and trained. These volunteers then provide support and guidance in 3 streams:

- \*Employment & Business: resume writing; job searching and understanding the Australian workplace.
- \* Study & Learning: understanding education pathways and requirements; general English conversation practice; assistance with class work.
- \* Social support: 1:1 support with issues causing barriers to work and employment.

Supporting the volunteer mentoring is:

1. Conduct of an intake assessment and development of personal plans are developed (by our

Community Support Coordinator).

2. Specialist 1:1 support from the Community Support Coordinator, including referral to external specialists as required.
3. Targeted group courses to build specific skills (e.g. digital literacy, setting up an ABN, Australian idioms and culture).
4. A tailored volunteer training program based on a curriculum by FLN.

Our vision for Skills2Connect is to continue to support vulnerable groups to develop the skills, resources and knowledge needed to develop in and for their community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$199157.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$121,809.00

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$40,300.00

**Panel Comments:** Good program with great outcomes for both young people and mentors. Provides a valuable, supportive alternative education program catering for individual needs. Recommended.

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#### ICG21/23-032: **Abbotsford Convent Foundation**

##### *Convent Kids*

**Project Description:** Abbotsford Convent Foundation's (ACF) Convent Kids – an annual program of free arts experiences for children and families to explore, learn and participate together through the arts. Convent Kids encompasses a rich program of events each year, developed collaboratively with leading artists and partners of diverse practices and cultures.

Convent Kids fosters children's lifelong engagement with the arts and educational outcomes by placing children at the centre of diverse and inclusive arts and cultural activity. Children and families express themselves creatively through play and interactive learning, facilitating bonding and the exchange of ideas, strengthening family engagement and building a positive sense of identity, belonging and social cohesion.

Convent Kids is a significant program offering within Yarra. Since 2018, ACF has delivered 21 programs, 114 workshops and has directly connected with 35,668 children and families. We will continue to sustain and deepen creative engagement with children and families through Convent Kids for 2021-2023 and beyond. Convent Kids enables creative expression and community interaction. It provides children with a rare agency in a public institution, inviting their active participation and celebrating their citizenship.

Convent Kids offers free/low-cost entry, come-and-go sessions and options to participate or observe.

Convent Kids will continue to:

- Deliver high-calibre contemporary art and cultural experiences to broad audiences within Yarra
- Celebrate diverse children's varied experiences
- Offer different modes of aesthetic expression
- Foster meaningful social connection, physical health and wellbeing
- Provide unique opportunities for children and families to become co-creators of new artistic works

**Total Project Cost:** \$650577.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$120,304.66

**Recommendation (per annum):** \$30,000.00

**Panel Comments:** The Abbotsford Convent plays a significant role in the cultural life of Yarra City and the wider community. This is a comprehensive application with strong creative artists and the program focuses on families and children and offers a unique opportunity for young children to develop in a creative way. The project benefits a large number of people so presents a good return on investment.

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# NOT RECOMMENDED

## ICG21/23-001: Yarra Riverkeeper Association

### *Rewilding the Yarra River for Yarra*

**Project Description:** Over the past year, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRK) has grown significantly. From only three staff, the organisation has grown to a dedicated team of six, with seventeen core volunteers. Productivity and output has more than doubled and online engagement has increased by over 1100%. In line with this growth we have moved in a new operational direction, focusing on Restewarding habitat pockets along the Yarra River. This is about promoting and protecting biodiversity cores such as Abbotsford Riverbank. This work directly aligns with the goals outlined in the City of Yarra's Nature and Environment Strategy and the United Nation's decade of ecological restoration. Ongoing tri-ennial funding will allow us to further operationalize our re-wilding work in Yarra and tie it to Yarra programs such as "It's only Natural." Funding will allow us to further create high equality education materials and improve the community's understanding of restoration on a landscape scale and how 'green' Yarra is with its richness of trees and its key 'cores' such as Abbotsford Riverbank fits into the Yarra Corridor. Yarra is in part on the receiving end of what happens upstream and outside its borders.

The funding will allow the Riverkeepers's administrative staff to plan and implement programs but also support project support in conduct on the ground work to rebuild and restore urban habitat for native wildlife. The continuity of this grant will allow us to build on established relationships and discover new ones to ensure that the values of Yarra are appreciated.

**Total Project Cost:** \$197500.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$45678.38

**Panel Comments:** Strong case and great initiative, but not our strongest priority at this time in a tight funding pool. The impact on City of Yarra seems to be somewhat limited. The project description could be more explicit about what would be delivered. The grant application could benefit from close proof reading and editing.

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## ICG21/23-003: Operation Newstart Incorporated

### *Operation Newstart Yarra*

**Project Description:** Operation Newstart will run a project that provides therapeutic outdoor and life experiences for young people deemed to be at social and educational risk. The young people will be identified by wellbeing coordinators from local secondary schools and agencies who are exhibiting disengagement and mental health concern. The program will deliver outcomes that promote achievement and self concept as well as developing education and training opportunities. The program works collaboratively with organisations in Yarra, such as YSAS, Headspace, Victoria Police and Yarra Youth Services to address mental health, public safety and community participation as well as providing support networks that assist in community engagement. Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis there has been a large impact on the mental health of young people as they become isolated and disengaged from education. The use of therapeutic outdoor camps and adventure activities promotes a strength-based approach to develop character traits that assist in goal setting with respect to school and future pathways. The project will motivate the participant to become active and make healthy choices. A community bike project will have the young people build bikes and donate them to young new arrival students. A landscaping project at the Collingwood children farm will deliver additional outcomes around self-worth and a sense of pride knowing they can contribute to their community. The project acknowledges their efforts and achievement through a graduation and community celebration in front of friends, family and community stakeholders.

**Total Project Cost:** \$167200.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$30452.25

**Panel Comments:** A well-defined project, with strong support from other relevant organisations in the community, that addresses a significant community, however with just 24 participants, it doesn't have enough reach to justify funding at this time due to a tight funding pool.

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## ICG21/23-004: You Matter (Aus) Ltd

## *You Matter Yarra*

**Project Description:** Having established itself as a community building organisation, You Matter has recently begun an expansion program and as part of this is now working with Domestic Violence Agencies in Yarra. We will furnish and style a minimum of 12 homes each year for victim/survivors of family violence within Yarra each year. Our program provides everything needed to run a functional household from beds, to washing machines, fully equipped kitchens and laptops so clients are able to participate in the digital world. Their home is also styled to Air B&B quality by our volunteers. We provide our clients with a springboard from which to launch a new life away from abuse and enable them to return to being productive contributing members of the community, secure in the knowledge that they are valued and that their community wants them to succeed in life. As Indigenous Australians, migrants, the CALD community and the elderly (particularly women) are disproportionately represented in the statistics of those who never manage to recover financially after leaving an abusive situation, our focus is on these groups. To make this a true community based initiative, we are in need of a space within Yarra where we can store donated furniture & household items. We will recruit volunteers from within Yarra, call for and accept donations of furniture and good quality household items from residents and local businesses in Yarra, secure storage space within Yarra and use a Yarra business to rent a truck for a weekly furniture collection run.

**Total Project Cost:** \$345772.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$88756.13

**Panel Comments:** An important and valuable project, but the submission is not clear on the organisation's ability to deliver on the outcomes. The application would also benefit from making the link between the issues arising from family violence and the need for the project explicit.

The project application does not offer value for money in its current incarnation, due to the high cost of storage in City of Yarra. The recommendation of the panel is that they apply for a 2022 Annual Grant to establish the capacity of the organisation as this is their first application.

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## ICG21/23-007: **Carlton Scout Group, The Scouts Association of Australia, Victorian Branch**

### *Sustaining Scouting in Carlton for everyone*

**Project Description:** This application seeks to remove barriers to participation for families in the City of Yarra close to the Carlton Scout Hall, where there is a mix of members from diverse social contexts, from those living in the nearby public housing to those who have sent generations to this troupe and are deeply involved in volunteering and community service.

Carlton Scouts have always embraced a diversity of member families, raising funds through a range of community activities, to support families expressing economic need.

During COVID-19 however, the regular means of ensuring equity of access have been challenged both by the unusual demands put upon the group to maintain service delivery and by the economic hardship experienced by many families. In 2019 we supported 10% of our membership who were unable to pay fees. In 2020, the offer of free scouting during Covid has contributed to a 30% growth in membership. We are concerned that our model for financially supporting families will be unsustainable in 2021 when Scouts Victoria resumes charging fees and we continue our outreach program in vulnerable local communities. Our concerns are exacerbated by the removal of community fundraising activities during the Melbourne lockdowns.

This application will support our group to offer reduced and fully subsidised annual fees to existing members experiencing hardship and new members not otherwise able to afford Scouting. It will allow exhausted volunteers the space to focus on the quality of the program, rather than constant pursuit of small amounts of income through fundraising activities.

**Total Project Cost:** \$520452.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$30452.25

**Panel Comments:** The application is centered around the need for a COVID subsidy which is probably warranted, however the program as described, doesn't reflect this. The group has mixed membership between City of Yarra and City of Melbourne. Due to a tight funding pool, unfortunately this project cannot be funded through this program at this time.



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**ICG21/23-008: Project Respect**

*Meeting the needs of women in the sex industry and women trafficked*

**Project Description:** This project focuses on marginalised communities within the City of Yarra so that they are valued, supported, included and respected. It will engage and support women with experience of the sex industry and women trafficked, who have additional intersecting identities, including women from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, women on temporary visas including international students, and women who identify as trans.

We will partner with community service organisations in the City of Yarra to break down barriers women experience when accessing services by increasing their capacity to understand how to be responsive to the needs of women involved in the sex industry, including women trafficked. We will advocate for the rights of women to reduce stigma and discrimination they may experience due to a lack of understanding of their experiences.

We will employ a Mandarin speaking project worker to deliver components of the program.

The project will deliver programs and support services including:

1. Direct outreach to provide support and information to women involved in the sex industry including to licensed brothels and (potentially) massage parlours
2. Virtual outreach to women via online platforms including WeChat and WhatsApp.
3. Partnership development and capacity building with services located within the City of Yarra by providing
  - warm referrals to external agencies
  - providing integrated case-coordination for women to be able to have their holistic needs addressed
  - delivering information sessions and capacity-building training to services
  - providing secondary consultations to external services to better enable them to support women.

**Total Project Cost:** \$274516.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$120377.74

**Panel Comments:** As vital and valuable as this program is, unfortunately it is not as strong as some of the other applications in this competitive round. Although this group works with a dedicated Women's Advisory Group, the application lacked supporting documentation from other relevant partnerships.

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**ICG21/23-010: 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 simple training and into the realm of self-empowerment and improvement with lasting and life-changing effects.

The program is more than simply a gateway into further education; it aims, through the study of humanities subjects such as literature, history, philosophy, and art, to assist students in breaking out of their cycles of disadvantage and become fully participatory in the public world.

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.

**Total Project Cost:** \$185250.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$60904.50

**Panel Comments:** An excellent program that has positive and unique community outcomes, however it is not in the highest priority for funding currently. An online publication or social media stories could be a more cost effective and easier option than a printed book. It was not entirely clear to what extent this funding support will be for ongoing viability of the program or to support the development of an alumni group. The number of participants is quite small (18 per year) and while supporting graduate employment in the program is seen as valuable, the amount requested is relatively high.

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#### ICG21/23-011: Princes Hill Community Centre

*Community Involvement through Bridge, Craft, Sustainability and History Workshops, Performing and Creative Arts*

**Project Description:** We aim to maintain and support the existing programs from the previous funding period - i.e : The Games groups for our predominantly Senior clientele (Bridge and Mahjong); the varied one day Craft Workshops, the Sustainability Workshops plus the collaborative (with the Carlton History Group) Local History Walk and Talk sessions and our performing Arts group (an amateur String Group) and a potential Mime Performance group. We hope to expand our sustainability involvement with (an in negotiation) program to Green the Melbourne Cemetery (particularly the Princes Hill end) using volunteers monitored by the PHCC (there is substantial interest from volunteers already). With the Advent of Covid 19 and the requisite smaller class numbers, the PHCC needs to schedule extra classes of smaller numbers and expand our support to our Creative Art Sessions ( Life Drawing) and the possible Performing Arts group (of Mime Performers). Added to this is the extra cleaning mandated by the DHHS to safeguard Covid19 compliant operations plus the inevitable extra administration and monitoring and marshaling Covid 19 incurs.

**Total Project Cost:** \$128443.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$128444.56

**Panel Comments:** A well written application addressing the challenges of COVID -19 and how it will manage the programs in a safe and compliant way. This program, although greatly beneficial for the participants appears expensive given a relatively limited number of participants.

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#### ICG21/23-015: Collingwood Children's Farm

*A Place to Belong: Supported Volunteering at Collingwood Children's Farm*

**Project Description:** A Place to Belong: Supported Volunteering at Collingwood Children's Farm will engage a cohort of children and adults with an inclusive program of volunteer work and Farm experiences, supported by a dedicated 0.8 FTE Program Leader.

While delivering comprehensive academic and inclusive programs, our participating schools and services have identified a need in their cohorts for a community based, skills focused educational program.

Collingwood Children's Farm exists to fulfill this need and seeks to be a space where children and adults can enjoy hands-on programs that teach practical work skills and increase the motivation to participate and be proud of their achievements. CCF programs build positive, lasting relationships that lead to long-term positive outcomes, including increased employment related attributes.

Using both existing and new relationships with special development schools, community high schools, community organisations, adult disability services and the wider community, CCF will deliver this hands-on program to people who face barriers to inclusion.

With support and training provided by a dedicated CCF staff member, participating groups and individuals will learn to complete a variety of Farm-based tasks across the property, all the while inadvertently benefiting from the well documented effects of spending time with animals and in nature and forging connections and relationships within the wider Farm community.

Supported Volunteering offers pathways to a wide gamut of Farm experiences, including Community Shed sessions at the Big Green Shed (our soon-to-be completed woodworking workshop), individual voluntary positions throughout the Farm and in some cases, even paid employment.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2048817.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$147845.67

**Panel Comments:** This is an ambitious project, that aligns with many of Council's key plans and strategies for the community. It is well written, clearly articulating the need for the project, and how it will deliver positive outcomes for the community. Unfortunately, it is one among many other worthy projects and the purpose of ICG is not to subsidise losses due to COVID. Considering much of the program caters for a range of schools and settings outside the City of Yarra, this would be more appropriately funded by State government or other philanthropic grant funders.

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#### ICG21/23-017: **Jesuit Social Services**

*Unpacking the Man Box – engaging early childhood educators to challenge stereotypical masculine norms*

**Project Description:** Unpacking the Man Box is an adaptation of a successful approach already delivered in schools and community organisations. It is built off The Man Box research and Jesuit Social Services' evidence-based programs designed to promote attitudes and behaviours that produce healthy masculinities.

The project will build effective partnerships with early learning centres, toy libraries, playgroups and maternal child health centres to create action toward healthy masculinities in early childhood in the City of Yarra. The project is designed to influence change in grass roots community by initially engaging staff and parents through co-designed workshops and progressing to guided action plans via a community of practice. Together, we will develop and deliver a series of 1-2 hour workshops for socio-cultural influencers in early childhood, including parents, educators and people working with young children and families in the City of Yarra. Leaders from these groups will be invited to introductory workshops to consider modelling gender equality through early childhood.

The workshops with socio-cultural influencers in early childhood settings provide a foundation for extending the conversation and workshops with parents and action to build engagement and participation of male role models in early childhood. The supported local community of practice will work collaboratively on action plans that will include practical initiatives to reduce gender stereotypes and extend the cognitive, emotional and social development of children.

The project ultimately will contribute to a consistent approach to reducing adherence to stereotypical masculine norms in early childhood shared across services in the City of Yarra.

**Total Project Cost:** \$123331.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$91356.75

**Panel Comments:** Interesting initiative but the panel found it difficult to attribute the outcomes in projects aimed at behavioural change such as these. It is unlikely to get specific enough benefits for City of Yarra community members and may be better suited to other funding programs.

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#### ICG21/23-018: **Fitzroy Scout Group (legal entity is The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch)**

*Fitzroy Scouts Inclusion Project*

**Project Description:** Fitzroy Scouts Inclusion Project develops disadvantaged migrant youth through participation in the Scouting program, outdoor adventure and camping. We heavily subsidise weekly activities, outdoor excursions and weekend camps for the participating youth to ensure as many children as possible can benefit regardless of their circumstances. These activities build resilience and interpersonal skills and provide participants with opportunities to engage with nature. The Scouting program provides non-formal education, which helps young people to develop and grow holistically.

This project requires financial support in three areas. Firstly, to deliver these outdoor educational experiences for the 8-11 year-old Cub Scout section which has approximately 25 members. This will ensure the Group is able to deliver six subsidised camps and 40 weekly programs each year and cover membership/insurance costs and uniforms for all members. These camps and activities build life-skills, citizenship and connections with the broader Australian community. Secondly, this grant will also support the establishment of an 11-14-year-old Scout section. Existing Cub Scouts can then continue their development and remain with the Scout Group, as well as enabling additional young people to also be

engaged. The deliverables would be the same as the Cub Scout section. The final area for support is organisational costs, such as supporting our volunteer Leaders to be trained and paying rent and utilities on the space we use for weekly activities.

**Total Project Cost:** \$348100.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$30452.25

**Panel Comments:** Based upon evidence, there does not appear to be strong community drive for the initiative - this may also be due attributed to declining income through COVID. Would be nice to support given the significant contribution of volunteers to the program, but due to tight funding pool in a competitive round, panel has deemed low priority.

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#### ICG21/23-022: **Fitted for Work**

*Connecting Women from a Multicultural Background with Work*

**Project Description:** We are seeking funding to support an innovative Richmond-based program that will empower at least 380 women from multicultural backgrounds, who are experiencing disadvantage, to secure work. The program focuses on building women's confidence and self-esteem as well as the skills and knowledge required to obtain work.

This program will provide free tailored, practical services including, a personal outfitting service (interview and work appropriate wardrobe), Resume and cover letter writing support, interview practice, make-up workshops, job readiness workshops, the option of a mentor and registration for our recruitment social enterprise She Works.

Although Fitted for Work (FFW) is over 15 years old we are new to the City of Yarra, we moved our National Office and Melbourne services to Richmond in February of this year. We are invested in building strong relationships with other community organisations in the City of Yarra to create seamless referral pathways for women who need our services.

Since March 2020 our team have been working from home due to the COVID situation, this meant work to set up the premises for clients halted. Only a skeleton team of staff have returned to the office in the last 3 months and we have been delivering all our services virtually. Our plan is to re-open for face-to-face delivery in March 2021.

In preparation for this we need to ensure our new space is set up and ready for clients. We want to create an inclusive safe space for women that inspires hope, positivity, kindness and trust.

**Total Project Cost:** \$273000.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152261.25

**Panel Comments:** The panellists can see the potential in taking a new approach to engage with City of Yarra clientele, however there was little evidence as to how Fitted For Work intend to achieve their outcomes beyond office fit-out and referral pathways. Not enough evidence was provided to demonstrate measurable outcomes.

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#### ICG21/23-023: **Rethink Recycling Co-Op LTD**

*Rethink Recycling's Community Workspace (working title)*

**Project Description:** Rethink Recycling's Community Workspace is a grassroots pilot project run by the community for the community. By establishing a community workspace, we will collect plastic lids from around Victoria, with particular emphasis on establishing collection within the City of Yarra. These discarded lids will come from community residents, businesses, schools and other organisations which will then be processed and turned back into viable products to be supplied back in to the community.

Educational demonstrations and workshops will be core feature with plans to have a presence within schools and public forums.

Local businesses and prospective entrepreneurs will have access to consultations in efforts of making their prototypes and businesses more sustainable.

The project will consist of community members including those who are at a greater disadvantage including refugees, asylum seekers, and people living with disabilities. Duties of employed staff and volunteers may include:

- Community plastic collection
- Cleaning of plastic
- Sorting by type and colour of plastic
- Shredding plastic
- Production of plastic sheets, beams, and other items from mould
- Overseeing operations
- Building community networks

**Total Project Cost:** \$1178051.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152261.25

**Panel Comments:** The submission is ambitious and well planned, but does not align strongly enough with City of Yarra priorities to justify funding in a tight grant round. The budget does not balance and includes \$175,000 of unconfirmed funding and \$10,000 of unconfirmed sponsorship funding. It is also unclear whether \$10,000 of AMES staffing incentive is committed or unconfirmed. The project has \$92,000 worth of project expenses and only \$51,450 in income if they were successful in securing the grant. The minimum amount of funding stipulated is \$50,000 making it difficult for Council to consider funding the project for a lesser amount.

#### ICG21/23-024: **Fitzroy Legal Service Inc**

##### *Community Educators Project*

**Project Description:** The Community Educators project is part community legal education delivery and part employment pathway. People who are newly arrived in Australia or from migrant backgrounds can experience significant barriers accessing legal education and information that is understandable and presented in a culturally accessible way. This often contributes to avoidable legal problems or poorer legal outcomes.

This project will recruit, employ and train a number of Community Educators who speak at least one Yarra community language, in addition to English. These Community Educators will deliver legal education sessions to newly arrived and migrant community groups. It is anticipated that the sessions will cover common legal issues such as fines, driving laws, reporting racism, and the Victorian legal system. Community Educators will be trained on the legal session topics as well as presentation and delivery skills. They will also be assisted to re-design sessions to be the most useful to their communities' cultural needs.

The project also offers an employment pathway for the Community Educators. People who are newly arrived or from migrant backgrounds can experience many barriers to gaining employment - particularly stable, on-going, skilled, and meaningful employment. While this project will unfortunately not provide Community Educators with a living wage, FLS hopes that by providing employment, professional support and training and an enhanced professional network, it will assist Community Educators to obtain secure and sustainable work.

**Total Project Cost:** \$165201.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$144669.51

**Panel Comments:** The panel recognised the importance of FLN's role in providing community-led legal education and support, however the submission only meets one of the funding priorities of this grant. Therefore, the application was not found to be competitive in this competitive funding round.

#### ICG21/23-028: **The Social Studio**

##### *Open Studio*

**Project Description:** Open Studio is a new initiative of The Social Studio designed to engage young people (aged 12-25) from refugee backgrounds in a range of creative programs.

Open Studio will be a dynamic new program featuring creativity, diversity and opportunity. Focused on introducing students from refugee/migrant backgrounds to the possibilities of a career in the creative sector, Open Studio will deliver industry-based learning coupled with strong personal and professional development.

As a new project, the first stage of Open Studio will be a collaborative, exploratory process. Consulting with community and industry partners, we will work to identify appropriate programs to engage our target community. Programs are yet to be determined, but based on preliminary feedback and suggestions with partners including Collingwood College, Fitzroy High, and the Fitzroy Learning Network, programs may include something like the following:

- Creative holiday programs and after-school workshops
- Natural dyeing/tie dyeing
- Upcycle your clothes (eg, turn your jeans into shorts etc)
- Basic mending/hand sewing
- Sew a simple item (eg a tote bag)

Creative micro-courses

- Fashion Business Start Ups
- Fashion Business Marketing Essentials
- Fashion Merchandise planning

Creative short courses

- Pattern making
- Introduction to sewing
- Design thinking for innovation

Life skill workshops:

- Word readiness (CV writing, job-seeking, interview preparation, Australian workplace norms and culture)
- Financial literacy

Delivery of all programs will be accompanied by psycho-social supports provided by The Social Studio's Youth Coordinator.

**Total Project Cost:** \$600456.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$122905.28

**Panel Comments:** While this is a positive project and offers the opportunity to enhance skills, it has not been recommended due to the large amount of unconfirmed funding specified in the budget, the relatively low reach of only 40 students and the high demands on this competitive funding round.

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#### ICG21/23-029: **Raise Foundation**

*Youth Mentoring for At-Risk Young People - Collingwood*

**Project Description:** The Raise mentoring program at Collingwood College is a 23-week mentoring program for 15 young people in year 8 who have been identified as at-risk of disengagement and poor wellbeing. Evidence shows that Year 8 is a pivotal and vulnerable time in a young person's life. The young people are matched with a Volunteer Community Mentor who participates in best-practice training with Raise Foundation and works with the young person on an evidence-based mentoring curriculum to help them achieve optimal outcomes in relation to resilience, self-worth and engagement with education.

Volunteer Community Mentors are at the heart of our project. The Volunteer Mentors spend one hour each week with their mentee and an additional hour following that with their Program Counsellor who debriefs with them and helps them with any issues or skills development. The positive outcomes experienced by Volunteer Community Mentors in regard to skills building, knowledge of the issues facing young people, ability to mentor and a stronger sense of community connectedness also work towards our goal of building thriving, connected communities. Volunteers are well supported throughout the program by their Program

Counsellor as well as the wider VIC Programs Team. A graduation ceremony is held on the 23rd week of the program to recognise and thank the volunteers and acknowledge the progress made by the young people.

**Total Project Cost:** \$104660.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$78140.47

**Panel Comments:** A deserving project but not supported on this occasion. This is a relatively large funding request which would benefit a small set of youth in one year-level at one school. The impact of the project is not as wide reaching as others. Preferable for council to support programs that are not school specific and are open to young people across a range of schools.

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#### ICG21/23-031: **drummond street services**

*Live Wires After School Program*

**Project Description:** LiveWires (formerly delivered by Concern) is for children (aged 5-12 years) living at Collingwood Housing Estate involved in activities at an after-school program at Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

Building on the ongoing success of LiveWires, the drum will use expressive arts, crafts, cooking, Aboriginal art & culture, cultural diversity, gardening, music, dance, sport and mindfulness activities to provide experiential learning and build resilience.

LiveWires will run an early intervention after school program during the school term, twice a week. Be propose continuing to run the program in its current format based on consultation with children/young people, families and local services. The weekly and term-based program will be co-designed by children.

The funding will enable for two staff (who are public housing residents) to work with children/young people and their families. They will:

- lead the co-design process
- use lived experience and knowledge of early childhood development and parenting theory to support positive developmental experiences
- build pathways for support for vulnerable children and families by making referrals for support
- create opportunities for children/young people to connect outside the estate
- promote participants/residents contributions to the wider community
- ensure children's views and needs are heard by others
- support volunteers and student placements to enrich the social experience of children and increase the capacity of the program
- build & strengthen partnerships to be further enrich supports for residents of the Collingwood Estate Community.

**Total Project Cost:** \$429722.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$30452.25

**Panel Comments:** As drummond street services are already well-funded by Council through the Richmond and Collingwood Youth Program, the panel decided against recommending additional funding, despite this being a great program, due to the competitiveness of this grant round. The application would have been further strengthened by support letters from community partners and/or children's families.

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#### ICG21/23-033: **Loom Arts and Management**

*Open Access Studio*

**Project Description:** Housed at Collingwood Yards in partnership with Barpiridhila Foundation, the Studio will provide space for artists with disability to build their capacity as artists, attend industry-lead masterclasses, and contribute their experience and talents to the incredible community of artists and organisations at Collingwood Yards.

The Open Access Studio program is a key component for the support and capacity building of Loom's artists. Loom's Studio program will provide workspaces, resources for both visual and performing arts, framing and exhibition of artwork, production of digital content such as showreels, headshots and cataloging work. Loom

will facilitate artist support and mentoring and provide year-round management of the Studio's operations.

Many artists with disability do not have access to professional studio space, and instead attend generalised day-service programs where they do not have the freedom of self-directed creative work. Loom's Open Access Studio program will offer one-on-one mentoring and support for artists to pursue the work they wish to and enable artists to complete commissions and other professional endeavours within appropriate timeframes, budget and to industry standard.

It is vital to Loom Arts and Management that the Studio is based in an environment such as Collingwood Yards in order to emphasise the importance of inclusion of artists with disability in the wider creative sector. Loom has already begun to establish many positive relationships with other organisations within the Yarra community. Support of the Open Access Studio program would enable Loom's artists with disability to build successful, on-going and positive careers within the arts sector.

**Total Project Cost:** \$458974.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$106582.88

**Panel Comments:** The application was lacking detail around previous experience/successful projects in this area. It would have been good to see examples of creative mentors who may be involved and to have heard in more detail from partnering organisations in supporting documentation.

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#### ICG21/23-034: **Lighthouse Foundation**

*Community Connector Project*

**Project Description:** Funding is needed to re-invigorate the YRC Community Committee (known as the Richmond Committee) after a 9-month hiatus owing to a resource shortfall and the effects of the COVID19 shutdown. Community committees are a crucial element of our specialist Lighthouse Therapeutic Family Model of Care™ (TFMC™), providing tangible support to our homes, carers and young people. Each lighthouse home is cared for by their own community committee made of 10 to 15 dedicated volunteers who work to ensure that 'their' local Lighthouse home remains open by supporting the basic needs of the home, carers and young people.

The COVID19 shutdown has had a devastating effect on our Richmond Committee with the shutdown of the YRC as a meeting place, making it almost impossible to keep in contact with our youth. Many young people experienced loneliness during this time and heartbreakingly, we lost two young people to suicide. Prior to the lockdown, both of these precious young people had been regular visitors at our YRC and tragically, one of these beautiful souls had in fact been a volunteer member of the Richmond Committee prior to the lockdown.

The Richmond Committee must now rebuild and re-establish contact and connection with our young people. Once reconnected, Lighthouse can again provide help in times of crisis when a slide back into homelessness might be a possibility. We believe the unusually high success rate of our young people permanently exiting homelessness is partially attributable to the ongoing 'aftercare' support we provide.

**Total Project Cost:** \$135240.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$67238.57

**Panel Comments:** A worthy organisation but the application did not clearly set out what their project goals were. It was unclear if the intention was to establish a committee, respond to Covid or reactivate the group. As only 30% of the clientele is concentrated in City of Yarra, the panel has decided not to recommend funding at this time.

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#### ICG21/23-036: **Carringbush Adult Education**

*On the Same Page- Facilitating meaningful communication between CALD communities and agencies*

**Project Description:** This project will support and facilitate meaningful and effective communication and engagement between hard-to-reach CALD community members and agencies that provide services and opportunities relevant to the community. We will employ our expertise in adult EAL and literacy and community development to provide professional guidance and support to community-facing agencies in reaching CALD individuals with low English language and literacy and increase those community members'



access and participation in City of Yarra's services, initiatives and community life. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Providing feedback and support in developing written and visual information (e.g. flyers, surveys, digital communication) that is accessible to individuals with low language, literacy and digital skills
- Promote and co-deliver or facilitate information sessions, workshops and education programs. Carringbush will provide English language and literacy support to the CALD participants or audience
- Provide one-on-one or small group support to target community members in accessing services, programs and opportunities through facilitating referrals, supporting individuals in navigating systems and communicating their needs to the relevant organisations.

As an adult education provider regularly engaging with approximately 150 City of Yarra's CALD residents, Carringbush is often approached by other organisations to promote their services and consult with CALD communities. This project will enable Carringbush to facilitate meaningful and effective engagement between CALD individuals and service providers, increasing the inclusion of Yarra residents who face barriers to accessing information about support services and opportunities due to low English language and literacy, digital access and relevant social connections.

**Total Project Cost:** \$166550.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$106582.88

**Panel Comments:** The program was similar to other programs currently operating and was not seen as clearly filling a gap in existing services. It has overlapping elements with the Fitzroy Learning Network's program. Due to a competitive funding round and limited pool, it has not been selected for funding in this round.

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#### ICG21/23-038: **Anglicare Victoria**

*A New Multicultural Community Hub Model of Emergency Relief to Prevent Long Term Disadvantage*

**Project Description:** Anglicare Victoria (AV) seeks to pilot an innovative new model of Emergency Relief (ER) provision from our ER premises, Mission House, in Fitzroy.

The pilot provides a vital multicultural access point for local migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum seeking ER support – many of whom don't receive welfare payments or have been devastated by job losses/insecurity associated with the pandemic and economic recession.

Onsite co-located services offered by AV and/or partner agencies will tackle other complex vulnerabilities associated with poverty - reducing risks of entrenched disadvantage. Services will include financial counsellors, employment support, mental health services and family violence workers.

Based on surging demand for ER assistance at Mission House this year, we estimate this pilot will support 400 new migrants in the City of Yarra annually. This is in addition to the 1000 individuals facing financial hardship that normally access ER support at Mission House.

Migrants account for the vast majority of individuals and families that request emergency relief support from Mission House. Our co-located model will serve to expedite access to important cultural and mainstream services.

Many vulnerable migrants feel reluctant to engage with mainstream services or simply can't attend. Language and cultural barriers exist, and the overly complex nature of our service systems can prove difficult for migrants to navigate.

Results from this pilot will help build a case for alternative model for ER that includes relevant co-located services rather than siloed and stand-alone ER Centres to support migrant communities to prosper in the long term.

**Total Project Cost:** \$951774.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$150732.55

**Panel Comments:** The panel recognised a definite need for this service, but has identified it as overlapping with similarly offered services from Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Fitzroy Legal Service, Fitzroy Learning Network, Brotherhood of St Laurence. The application would have been strengthened by cross-sector support.

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**ICG21/23-039: SisterWorks Inc**

*Social Enterprise Capacity Building*

**Project Description:** The SisterWork model is centred around a Social Enterprise model. Each time a SisterWorks product is sold, more income is produced and more opportunities are created for vulnerable migrant, asylum seeker and refugee women to be engaged in the program. SisterWorks believes that through both work and entrepreneurship women can be empowered. Thus, through our social enterprise program, SisterWorks teaches women that they can add value and earn money; despite the barriers they have faced in gaining employment. This improves their confidence in their skills and abilities, while also providing women with a sense of community and belonging.

The long term aim for the SisterWorks Social Enterprise is to be self-sustaining.

**Total Project Cost:** \$586800.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$154173.65

**Panel Comments:** While Sisterworks has been funded consistently through the Annual Grants program and the panel is in full support of the group's purpose, this application did not provide enough evidence that it fulfils a pressing need in the community. With only 50% of the group based in Yarra and a competitive funding pool, it has been unsuccessful on this occasion.

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**ICG21/23-040: GR8M8S Foundation Inc**

*Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps (TASC)*

**Project Description:** TASC provides young people aged 13-18yrs living on the Yarra High Rise Estates (Richmond, Collingwood, Carlton & Fitzroy) an opportunity to develop strong community enfranchisement with peers and receive ongoing mentoring to reduce the risk of criminal involvement. TASC is a four day school holiday camp program which visits the idyllic bush setting of Toolangi and hosts a range of team-based activities, fostering soft skill development, sports specific skills and broadening the experiences of young Yarra High Rise Estate residents.

TASC seeks funding to contribute to costs of the 5 camps per year during school holidays. TASC alternates between basketball and soccer activities, and boys and girls camps each program.

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 centred on outdoor activities such as basketball, soccer and a Outdoors Inc adventure-based activity, whilst also incorporating the crucial life skills such as cooking, cleaning, activity planning and working in a team environment.

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

**Total Project Cost:** \$104150.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$91356.75

**Panel Comments:** Although this is undoubtedly a valuable community project, the application itself could be improved. The budget was incorrect and makes it hard to ascertain what the funding would be used for. The project plan is incomplete and some of the references to the need are very old. Funded through the Annual Grants 2021.

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**ICG21/23-042: Centre For Projection Art**

*INCEPTION - engaging Yarra's young people through the creation of Public Art Projection*

**Project Description:** INCEPTION is a new program engaging young people from Atherton Gardens Cubbies and Yarra Youth Services (YYS) to explore and create projection art to share with the wider community. Presented by Centre for Projection Art, INCEPTION will focus on a young people collaborating with a lead-artist and each other to work on public art projection outcomes that can be shared annually with the Yarra community.

Exposure to new media, digital and public art is important for children to explore creativity and essential for their development. Through INCEPTION, middle years children from Cubbies (ages 10-12) will learn new skills about the creation of public art and the impact it has in engaging community. They will experience an accessible way of making, creating art and sharing artworks with their community who may otherwise not experience art in the mainstream. This project will also provide a connection to the wider Atherton Gardens Housing Estate community, with the final animated artwork to be displayed as part of the Gertrude Street Projection Festival, visited by up to 50,000 people each year. These children will be ambassadors of their community, the festival and Yarra, instilling their values and visions through their art to the festival audience.

Collaboration with YYS Artist-In-Residence program will assist in developing these projection works. Centre for Projection Art will mentor YYS artists, developing their skills for working on community projects, with a vision that these artists will become the lead-artists facilitating the cubbies program in future years.

**Total Project Cost:** \$128203.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$43698.98

**Panel Comments:** Potentially this is a very exciting project, however the application lacks evidence of demand within the local community and presents a relatively high cost per participant, especially in such a competitive field. It would have been beneficial to see how young people would progress by the end of the program. The application would have been strengthened by a letter of support from YYS and young people's voices and indicating the targeted groups interest or previous connection to the festival.

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ICG21/23-043: **CLIMARTE Inc.**

*The CLIMARTE Space*

**Project Description:** The CLIMARTE Space will be a dedicated, collaborative and inclusive community space from which to exhibit, debate and advance art, science, ecology and culture for the common good. Each year seven themed group exhibitions will be presented in an accessible North facing site located at 120 Bridge Road, Richmond. Inspired by literature that celebrates the natural world (a poem or line from a novel or even a single powerful word in any language for instance) each exhibition will be accompanied by a series of public conversations involving the participating artists and guest researchers, writers, activists and/or other suitable community leaders working in areas of social justice offering diverse perspectives that foster a whole systems approach to the climate and biodiversity and inequity crises we collectively face. 3D virtual tours of the shows, along with webinars of the public conversations, will also be available via CLIMARTE's website. In providing key information and programs in creative and accessible ways free of charge, the CLIMARTE Space will also assist in connecting visitors to active community-based art, climate and sustainability projects locally and beyond. Given the City of Yarra's visionary leadership in advancing plans for a cleaner and fairer society, we could not be more excited and prouder to be basing our Space marrying art, ecology and culture on Richmond hill.

**Total Project Cost:** \$384500.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152261.25

**Panel Comments:** The project proposal appears underdeveloped - in particular that there are no other agencies aware of CLIMARTE's plans re this space, and a lack of other letters of support. Budget was not sufficiently detailed. Panel suggests that CLIMARTE could partner with local businesses in the City of Yarra to fund an artist / prize each, therefore increasing the audience and awareness of the program, climate change and reach for these artists.

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ICG21/23-044: **STREAT Ltd**

## *Green jobs for an Incr-edible City*

**Project Description:** We're currently facing two catastrophic challenges: mass unemployment disproportionately affecting marginalised young people, and the need for rapid climate adaptation. This project addresses both.

In early 2021 STREAT will build a training hub at the Collingwood Children's Farm (CCF) to kick-start new training and employment pathways for marginalised young people into urban farming. This will be done in partnership with four Melbourne social enterprises: CCF, Cultivating Community, Melbourne Farmers Markets and CERES. This pathway will contain three 'stepping stones', an 8-week pre-vocational program, an accredited 6-month Certificate II program, and a 6-month employment program. Trainees will also gain life and work readiness skills and 'on-the-job' training in the gardens of our social enterprise partners. STREAT's youth team (clinical psychologist, youth and social workers and employment specialists) will ensure trainees have the supports and specialist services they need. We will train 125 young people across three years.

Just as we've built a hospitality portfolio over the last decade, we'll build a horticulture social enterprise to install and maintain bountiful veggie gardens and run weekend workshops for local residents to learn to do the same. In addition to creating more green jobs for our graduates this will help sustain this program beyond three years.

We now have the site, the major social enterprise partners and two major funders for this innovative project. We're ready to create a new generation of young urban farmers to help build the Incr-edible City we're dreaming of.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1688250.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$152261.25

**Panel Comments:** An exciting and ambitious project, however the applicant has stated that if less funds were granted, they would not change the project but seek funds elsewhere. The project is already well funded through multiple funding sources, and with Yarra not a specific cohort of recipients, it has not been selected for funding on this occasion.

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## ICG21/23-045: **GR8M8S Foundation Inc**

*Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball Program (YWBBP)*

**Project Description:** The Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball Program (YWBBP) was developed in 2010 in relation to community consultation held in line with the Yarra Blue Light weekly sports and recreation programs evaluation process. An aspiration for a dedicated local African youth basketball team was evident.. Being part of the WBBT allows local young people (13-25 years) to connect with other friends whilst participating in the Adelaide Easter Classic each year.. 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 2021 the squads will be participating in the Easter Classic.. There will also be a regular training program conducted leading up to the Tournament on the newly built Collingwood College Basketball Courts..

**Total Project Cost:** \$120700.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$60904.50

**Panel Comments:** It is unclear from this application (the second in this round from GR8M8S) as to why additional funds are needed, making it difficult to justify funding. The application would have benefited from some more updated evidence of need, as well as support letters from young people, families, and other organisations. The project plan was incomplete. Testimonials from past participants, underlining what they've got out of the program, would also add weight to the application.

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## ICG21/23-046: **Open Table**

*Free and Fair Food*

**Project Description:** Open Table's Free and Fair Food project will provide much needed food relief to vulnerable residents of Yarra. Free and Fair Food will be a welcoming and accessible food bank that provides reliable access to free fresh and nutritious food for people experiencing food insecurity. This project will aim to improve social isolation by providing a safe, open and welcoming space for Yarra residents to connect

directly with others, building social capital.

Food distributed through the Free and Fair Food project will be donated surplus from large food rescue organisations including Foodbank, Secondbite and Ozharvest as well as local businesses. The project will share our vision for reducing food waste, by providing educational workshops, resources and recipes to further reduce any food ending up in landfill. This project will allow us to expand our existing volunteer opportunities, open to locals diverse in age and cultural backgrounds.

Free and Fair Food will run as a pop-up free food market. These markets will run weekly in community venues that are accessible to vulnerable groups. This project will be a place based, collaborative and localised response to the recent increase incidence of food insecurity. Our existing partnerships with local not-for-profit community organisations, Yarra Libraries, neighbourhood houses, local businesses and large food rescue organisations allow our small organisation to be agile and creative in responding to this need for access to free fresh food for many of our communities' most vulnerable members.

**Total Project Cost:** \$841352.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$98969.81

**Panel Comments:** The panel has identified similar programs provided by other community groups and neighborhood houses, and sees the potential viability of the group to deliver a scaled back version of the project without funding and in collaboration with other groups. Therefore, due to limited available funding and the competitive nature of the grant, this has not been selected for funding on this occasion.

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ICG21/23-048: **Uniting Vic. Tas.**

*Housing Estate Energy Support Program*

**Project Description:** The Housing Estate Energy Support Program will focus on delivering energy support and literacy to vulnerable households within the Yarra Council public housing estates.

Program deliverables will include:

1. Co-design up to 3 energy advice and literacy workshops each year in collaboration with specific CALD groups (after discussion with tenants, on-site support services and community organisations to determine which groups are most vulnerable/need support) within the nominated housing estates, to ensure the workshops and their delivery method respects and fits the needs and capacity of the estate's CALD communities
2. Deliver up to 6 on-site/virtual workshops (delivery method will depend on community need and health regulations during the period of the program) for the nominated housing estate tenants on topics such as:
  - o Household energy efficiency advice
  - o How to read and understand energy bills
  - o How to get support when households are struggling to pay their bills and understanding their rights in the energy market
  - o How to do basic household budgeting
  - o How to contact your retailer to set up an affordable payment plan
  - o How to find the cheapest energy deal for your needs
  - o How to check that any eligible concessions are applied to your bill and what to do if they are missing
  - o How to apply for a State Government grant to help reduce energy debts (where eligible)
  - o Where to go for extra support
3. Support up to 3 x CALD community champions each year with training and mentoring from Uniting energy advisors

**Total Project Cost:** \$156395.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$145290.74

**Panel Comments:** The submission seems quite formative at this stage: with no supporting evidence of partners or community support in particular. The applicant does refer to 'time constraints' re gathering this evidence. They also refer to a 'trial' in one house estate. Recommend they apply for an Annual Grant in June this year.

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ICG21/23-049: **Artful Dodgers Studios (Jesuit Social Services)**

### *Rudder - Living and Learning Mentor Program*

**Project Description:** 'Rudder - Living & Learning Mentorship' is a personalised mentoring program giving highly marginalised young people the opportunity to work individually with a mentor to discover aspects about themselves so as to enable them to make decisions about their lives from a powerful, healthy place and to better navigate the world at large (socially, economically and educationally).

Participants will be encouraged to address the barriers they are facing in a productive manner, and to see complexities in the past as potential skills which can be utilised in the future. This program will help young people explore not only the education system, but to also gain a broader understanding of the variety of available employment opportunities, and how to successfully build towards achieving their goals.

The program will provide skilled one-on-one specialist support, and connection to education, employment and training pathways. The project model is based on the Artful Dodgers Studios working experience whereby a time-rich, nonlinear, flexible, informal, relationship-based approach ultimately results in the best sustained outcomes for participants.

Mentor and mentee will meet 1-2 times per week for 8 weeks working through a personalised plan that reflects the particular needs of that young person. The mentor will employ a holistic approach, using a variety of tools, activities and approaches, dependent on individual needs. After this time contact will be on an 'as needs' basis for a period of up to 10 months.

All clients will have ongoing access to the Artful Dodgers Studios' support, peer community and programs.

**Total Project Cost:** \$118860.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$89590.52

**Panel Comments:** Great initiative but not very Yarra specific. Given the demands on funding, this submission lacks sufficient weight to support funding - especially because of the lack of evidence of community support and partnerships.

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### ICG21/23-050: **drummond street services**

#### *LiveWires- Holiday Program*

**Project Description:** LiveWires (formerly delivered by Concern) is for children (aged 5-12 years) living at Collingwood Housing Estate involved in activities at a school holiday program. It will combine a mix of activities on the Collingwood Estate, in the City of Yarra and outside the LGA, where children/families may have not had the opportunity visit. Families will be included in our activities.

Building on the ongoing success of LiveWires, the drum will use excursions, onsite activities (including expressive arts, crafts, cooking, Aboriginal art & culture, cultural diversity, gardening, music, dance, sport, and mindfulness activities) to provide experiential learning and build resilience.

The program would run 2 days per week of the school holidays between 8:30am - 4:30pm (for a minimum of 6 hours).

We will provide a variety of activities that include fun, engaging and participatory learning experiences for young people and their families living at Collingwood Housing Estate.

The holiday program aims to cater for about 20-30 children, two days per week during school holidays four times per year. We will facilitate this program with support from the LiveWires Facilitators, 10 and at least 5 partnering agencies per year. 20 parents usually attend, providing them with a social connection with members of their community.

Our activities will be developed using a co-design process, with staff (with lived experience), children, families/carers provide positive experience for children and families.

**Total Project Cost:** \$80769.00

**Amount Requested (over three years):** \$30452.25

**Panel Comments:** A well-written application, however the Panel suggested drummond street services should be pairing with the regular after-school program, rather than duplicating services. Considering other funding available to them and limited funds available from Yarra this was not recommended for funding on this occasion.

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