

Community Partnership Grants Recommendations 2021-2025

CPG22-01: Yarra Drug and Health Forum (Auspiced by cohealth)

Yarra Drug and Health Forum

Project Description: The Yarra Drug and Health Forum is a community-based approach to addressing the impact of drugs and alcohol and related issues in the City of Yarra. Any person who lives, works or is connected to the City of Yarra can participate in the Yarra Drug and Health Forum and its activities. The Forum's core values include open and equitable community access to Forum activities by providing a voice and neutral or safe space for discussion, deliberation and action. The Yarra Drug and Health Forum adopts harm-minimisation principles with an emphasis on collaboration between residents, traders, alcohol and drug sector as well as social, welfare, health, local and state government agencies, and promotes evidence-informed policy and practice aimed at reducing the impact of drugs and alcohol for the whole Yarra community.

Key activities include:

- Bringing people together
- Acting as an honest broker
- Hearing the voices of those with lived experience and
- Promoting evidence- based health responses

Looking forward, the YDHF will remain responsive to the alcohol and drug related issues as they present in Yarra, and will be proactive in working with the local community to

- reduce the experience of stigma and discrimination for people who use drugs, engendering compassion not judgement for people who use drugs or alcohol.
- include community members and people with lived experience of injecting drug use in the design and implementation of community action to address the impact of drug activity in Yarra

Amount Requested (Year one): \$32,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$33,463.00

Year 3: \$32,967.00

Year 2: \$32,480.00

Year 1: \$32,000.00

Panel Comments: Yarra Drug and Health Forum has a long-standing position of expertise in this field, connected to a broad network of community organisations, addressing what continues to be an important social issue in the Yarra community and aligns closely with our health plan.

CPG22-02: cohealth

Billabong BBQ

Project Description: The Billabong BBQ is a multidisciplinary assertive outreach program that works to improve service access and engagement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living within the City of Yarra. It consists of a weekly BBQ that provides a nutritious meal. The BBQ is typically held at Harmsworth Hall, opposite the Collingwood Housing Estate Park which is a regular meeting place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Due to Covid restrictions at Harmsworth Hall the group is currently being held at the nearby Collingwood neighbourhood house.

The provision of stakeholder services (including: justice, health, housing, legal, disability, welfare etc.) at the BBQ is underpinned by service commitment to the social determinants of health and to providing culturally safe practices, that ensures a more holistic and culturally responsive approach to Health and Wellness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Billabong Coordinator role ensures leads the weekly planning of the BBQ, planning and implementation of community events and related health promotion. The Billabong Coordinator does this in collaboration

with stakeholders to create supportive pathways to services engagement and access as well as addressing community health and wellness.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$54,235.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$56,713.00

Year 3: \$55,875.00

Year 2: \$55,049.00

Year 1: \$54,235.00

Panel Comments: Cohealth is a well-established organisation with many community partnerships, while the program provides a multi-pronged approach to services that help to support a complex community - and support for this community is a Council priority.

CPG22-03: Fitzroy Legal Service

Access to justice: Free evening legal advice service

Project Description: The Fitzroy Legal Service offers free legal advice each evening from Monday to Friday. The service was originally a drop-in service but has moved to an appointment-based service in response to the COVID pandemic. The night service provides advice to clients on a range of matters across civil, family and criminal law. We utilise significant volunteer support from the legal sector (solicitors, barristers and law students) who generously volunteer their time and services to make the law and legal support accessible to all members of the community, regardless of financial means. Approximately 300 volunteers assist in delivering these free legal advice services.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$90,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$94,111

Year 3: \$92,720.00

Year 2: \$91,350.00

Year 1: \$90,000.00

Panel Comments: Fitzroy Legal Service has a long-standing position in the Yarra community, demonstrating there is an ongoing need for the service. This is a very impactful and concrete program that provides an otherwise difficult to access service to disadvantaged community members.

CPG22-04: Princes Hill Community Centre Inc

Community Involvement through Games, Craft, History and Sustainable Workshops, Music and Art Groups

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 Mah-jong); the varied one day, weekly, fortnightly and monthly Craft and Sustainability Workshops plus the collaborative (with the Carlton History Group) Local History Walks and Talks sessions and our Book Club and performing Arts group (an amateur String Group. We are expanding our sustainability involvement with (an in negotiation) program to Green the Melbourne Cemetery (particularly the Princes Hill end) using volunteers monitored by the PHCC and coordinating with the Melbourne General Cemetery Trust (there are a substantial number of volunteers waitlisted already). With the Advent of Covid 19 and the requisite smaller class numbers, the PHCC needs to schedule extra classes of smaller numbers. Added to this is the extra cleaning mandated by the DHHS to safeguard Covid19 compliant operations plus the inevitable extra administration and monitoring and marshalling Covid 19 incurs

Amount Requested (Year one): \$30,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$31,371.00

Year 3: \$30,907.00

Year 2: \$30,450.00

Year 1: \$30,000.00

Panel Comments: The program provides a range of services and activities for seniors in the local Princes Hill area. The PHCC is not funded through Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses program so the Community Partnership Grants is a way of providing them with some support. It is a good project operating with local partnerships to bolster and expand its reach and outcomes.

CPG22-05: **Collingwood Children's Farm**

Young Farmers Program @ Collingwood Children's Farm

Project Description: For over 40 years, Collingwood Children's Farm has specialised in changing people's lives, and we partner with government, schools and the community to do just that.

The Farm's evidence-based community programs support children and their families, as well as people experiencing adversity, breaking down barriers to inclusion, combating social isolation, building foundational work skills and forging pathways to community and connectedness.

Delivering social impact is why the Farm exists, and it's what we're good at.

Young Farmers (YFP) sees Collingwood Children's Farm partner with Council to engage with local children throughout the year, introducing these young people to an inclusive and financially accessible program of meaningful work, learning opportunities and rewarding activities.

This hands-on program operates 30 weekends per year, with children aged 8-16yrs supported by a dedicated team of Farm employees; a team boasting a wide breadth of skills and experience spanning (but not limited to) education, land care, horticulture and market gardening, carpentry, animal husbandry and public engagement.

The provision of dedicated skilled support ensures participating children are able to safely access a broad range of hands-on Farm experiences; experiences that develop foundational work skills and work related attributes, including interpersonal skills, self-confidence and efficacy, communication skills, problem solving skills, teamwork, punctuality and personal responsibility / reliability. The program structure employs small teams and vertical grouping to encourage peer-to-peer learning, whereby younger children are supported by their older peers and older children are encouraged to develop key leadership attributes, including integrity, accountability, empathy, humility, resilience, and positivity.

The impact of this program is profound, and it is local; participating children are all City of Yarra residents and for many, participation in Young Farmers is their first exposure to a workplace, to teamwork and to work generally.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$70,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$73,197.00

Year 3: \$72,116.00

Year 2: \$71,050.00

Year 1: \$70,000.00

Panel Comments: The Collingwood Children's Farm has submitted an excellent application that aligns very well with Council's 0-25 years plan. The program meets a real need for vulnerable and at risk children and young people. This program has an established and successful referral and partnership approach with other key community family focused organisations in Yarra. It provides a great opportunity for young people to have exposure to farm work skills and build a relationship with the natural world. Case studies given prove the program is highly beneficial to the many participants.

CPG22-06: **Launch Housing**

First Nations Pathways Program

Project Description: The First Nations Pathways Program aim will be to build and enhance relationships between Launch Housing and the First Nations community within the City of Yarra (CoY). The First Nations Pathways program will address the barriers that the First Nations community currently experience in accessing homelessness and support services more broadly in the CoY. Launch Housing is committed to learning and providing improved culturally appropriate support to our service users. We will do this by strengthening partnerships, connections and relationships with First Nations people their communities and organisations.

We propose the program will have two phases, the first six months focused on scoping in consultation with the First Nations community and agencies, and a review of Launch Housings current practices to identify the access barriers and service gaps for First Nations people. This process will support Launch Housing Cultural Safety Plan and commitment to address disparity. The second phase of the First Nations Pathways Program will see the worker concentrate efforts on addressing and implementing change identified in phase 1 and continued commitment to strengthening relationships with key agencies and the community and looking for innovative ways to enhance access to non-First Nations services in the City of Yara.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$54,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$56,467.00

Year 3: \$55,632.00

Year 2: \$54,810.00

Year 1: \$54,000.00

Panel Comments: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing and homeless is a huge issue. This grant application marks a significant departure from the previous program, which the Aboriginal Partnerships team has viewed as being highly effective. However, there is clearly a significant need for this project and it will provide vital and culturally inclusive support to access housing.

CPG22-08: **cohealth**

Aboriginal Access and Engagement

Project Description: The Aboriginal Access and Engagement program aims to improve the health and well-being of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander community in the City of Yarra.

This is a marginalized group in the community who face significant disadvantage and have a complex range of health and well-being issues. Aboriginal Access and Engagement workers will continue to be employed and will have a role in linking Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people to relevant health, welfare and recreational services. The Aboriginal Access and Engagement worker role will include working with staff from other agencies and other cohealth staff to identify the needs of clients and community and to engage in Deadly care planning with clients to empower them to make informed decisions about their care.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$41,761.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$44,144.00

Year 3: \$43,023.00

Year 2: \$42,387.00

Year 1: \$41,761.00

Panel Comments: The community this program is pitched towards experience complex needs and require high levels of complex support. The project plays a significant role in supporting members of the ATSI community to access essential services, acting in concert with other relevant organisations and programs.

CPG22-09: **Richmond Toy Library**

Richmond Toy Library - Rebuild Community

Project Description: Our aim is to strengthen community bonds through a shared purpose: child rearing. Core to this goal is enabling interaction between parents and children through play. The Richmond Toy

Library (RTL) loans toys to families in Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley area, making toys more accessible to families of all income levels and reducing the environmental impact of play. The pandemic has had a profound impact on RTL. We were forced to reduce the number of opening hours and some parents were hesitant to attend due to health concerns. Membership numbers have dropped, as well as member participation in volunteer service duties.

Over the next 4 years, RTL would like to rebuild our membership base to ensure Yarra residents continue to have access to affordable, environmentally friendly play by:

- doing more promotion in the community;
- holding community play events;
- offering discounts to families with children with developmental challenges; and
- exploring options of opening in North Richmond to reach families in need.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$15,000.00

Recommendation:

Year 1: \$15,000.00

Panel Comments: Richmond Toy Library has experienced a long history of struggling with membership and this has been exacerbated through COVID. While they have aspired to partner with other organisations, this has not been successful. While the panel has recommended funding them for one year, they will need to show they are able to meet the requirements set out in this application to receive funding in the following years.

CPG22-10: Collingwood Toy Library

Nurturing children and community through play

Project Description: Collingwood Toy Library helps its member families stimulate their children's intellectual, physical, social and emotional development by making over 4,800 quality toys, puzzles and games available to borrow. We promote the positive adult/child interactions associated with unstructured and structured play, its educational value and the important impact it has on 'school readiness'.

Open from Tuesday to Saturday every week, we serve as an informal community space within Victoria Park Community Centre. We are strongly committed to inclusion, and by keeping our annual membership fee modest and offering heavily discounted rates or waiving fees where appropriate, we ensure that our service is accessible to all residents – regardless of age, gender, sexuality, income, education, skills, cultural background, language skills or disability.

In a world where people are increasingly retracting into their own homes, community integration suffers. It can be particularly tough for parents and carers at home with babies and small children, and especially isolating for first-time parents and those who are new-to-area. To counter this, the Collingwood Toy Library encourages families to engage with their local community through casual social interactions, discussing which toys their children have enjoyed or sharing a snack. Member families are engaged in volunteering their time to the toy library, actively working together to facilitate the success of the service. We also host fun special events to encourage local families to connect, such as the Messy Play Day and family discos.

By encouraging families to borrow toys instead of buying, we also promote sustainable living practices that help to reduce Yarra's environmental footprint by minimising consumption and landfill volumes.

In tune with Yarra's culturally and linguistically diverse population, and in response to feedback from our members, we provide a range of games in eight languages, and continue to enhance this collection in line with community needs.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$13,467.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$14,082.00

Year 3: \$13,874.00

Year 2: \$13,669.00

Year 1: \$13,467.00

Panel Comments: The Collingwood Toy Library continue to be an outstanding community service for not only families with under school age children but have now expanded to include toys and games for older children also. They are an excellent community partner and participate in collaborative activities which support the broader service sector and families and children.

CPG22-11: Collingwood Toy Library

Fitzroy Toy Library

Project Description: Collingwood Toy Library will partner with Yarra Council to scope and trial offering a toy library service to support families in and around the Atherton Gardens Housing Estate in Fitzroy. This service will take the place of the current Fitzroy Toy Library at Connie Benn but will likely take a different format.

In the first year we will explore options for a suitable space to operate from and work with local families and existing community volunteers to understand community needs and ideate solutions that are financially feasible to offer a quality service that is valued by families.

The purpose of a toy library service in Fitzroy is to help member families stimulate their children's intellectual, physical, social and emotional development by making quality toys, puzzles and games available to borrow. We promote the positive adult/child interactions associated with unstructured and structured play, its educational value and the important impact it has on 'school readiness'. In Fitzroy we will focus on early skills and play for 0-5-year old infants and children.

We are strongly committed to inclusion, and by keeping our annual membership fee modest and offering heavily discounted rates or waiving fees where appropriate, we ensure that our service is accessible to all residents – regardless of age, gender, sexuality, income, education, skills, cultural background, language skills or disability.

By encouraging families to borrow toys instead of buying, we also promote sustainable living practices that help to reduce Yarra's environmental footprint by minimising consumption and landfill volumes.

Amount Requested (Year one): \$13,467.00

Recommendation:

Year 4: \$14,082.00

Year 3: \$13,874.00

Year 2: \$13,669.00

Year 1: \$13,467.00

Panel Comments: The partnership between Collingwood Toy Library and existing Yarra City services at Atherton Gardens to deliver the project should translate into a successful and valuable service. It is encouraging that the Fitzroy Toy Library will be managed by the well-established Collingwood Toy Library and services will continue to be delivered after the departure of Save the Children as the auspice.
