

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 year): \$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.

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 year): \$48,500.00

Panel Comments: Good community outcomes in volunteering and bike usage and a large number of 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.

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

Lets Keep Cooking

Project Description: Lets 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): \$152261.25

Recommendation (per year): \$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.

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

Total Project Cost: \$237064.00

Amount requested (over three years): \$80856.81

Recommendation (per year): \$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.

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 year): \$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.

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): \$152261.25

Recommendation (per year): \$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.

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): \$152261.25

Recommendation (per year): \$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.

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): \$88625.19

Recommendation (per year): \$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 instill confidence in delivering achievable outcomes.

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 main stream 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): \$97471.56

Recommendation (per year): \$10,000.00

Panel Comments: The application offers a clear plan to build the ongoing sustainability of a grass-roots, 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.

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): \$121809.00

Recommendation (per year): \$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.

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): \$120304.66

Recommendation (per year): \$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.
