



Agenda

Ordinary Council Meeting

6:30 pm, Tuesday 26 November 2024

Richmond Town Hall

www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are public forums where Councillors come together to meet as a Council and make decisions about important, strategic and other matters. The Mayor presides over all Council Meetings, and they are conducted in accordance with the City of Yarra Governance Rules.

Council meetings are decision-making forums and only Councillors have a formal role. However, Council is committed to transparent governance and to ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of Council is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made.

Question Time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Registration

To ask a question, you will need to register and provide your question by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Asking your question

During Question Time, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered to ask their question. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your question to the Mayor;
- don't raise operational matters that have not been previously raised with the organisation;
- don't ask questions about matter listed on tonight's agenda;
- don't engage in debate; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to ask your question, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't ask a question or make comments which:

- relate to a matter that is being considered by Council at this meeting;
- relate to something outside the powers of the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- deal with a subject matter already answered;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Addressing the Council

An opportunity exists to make your views known about a matter that is listed on the agenda for this meeting by addressing the Council directly before a decision is made.

Registration

To address Council, you will need to register by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Before each item is considered by the Council, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered in relation to that item to address the Council. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your statement to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject being considered;
- avoid repeating previous submitters;
- don't ask questions or seek comments from Councillors or others; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to speak, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't make any comments which:

- relate to something other than the matter being considered by the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held on the first floor at Richmond Town Hall. Access to the building is available either by the stairs, or via a ramp and lift. Seating is provided to watch the meeting, and the room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available. Speakers at the meeting are invited to stand at a lectern to address the Council, and all participants are amplified via an audio system. Meetings are conducted in English.

If you are unable to participate in this environment, we can make arrangements to accommodate you if sufficient notice is given. Some examples of adjustments are:

- a translator in your language;
- the presence of an Auslan interpreter;
- loan of a portable hearing loop;
- reconfiguring the room to facilitate access; and
- modification of meeting rules to allow you to participate more easily.

Recording and Publication of Meetings

A recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings (including during Question Time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council), you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication.

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1. Acknowledgement of Country

“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors:

- Cr Stephen Jolly Mayor
- Cr Sarah McKenzie Deputy Mayor
- Cr Evangeline Aston
- Cr Edward Crossland
- Cr Andrew Davies
- Cr Kenneth Gomez
- Cr Sharon Harrison
- Cr Meca Ho
- Cr Sophie Wade

Council staff:

Chief Executive Officer

- Sue Wilkinson

General Managers

- Brooke Colbert Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
- Sam Hewett Infrastructure and Environment
- Kerry McGrath Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman City Sustainability and Strategy
- Lucy Roffey Corporate Services

Governance

- Phil De Losa Manager Governance and Integrity
- Patrick O’Gorman Senior Governance Coordinator
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

3. Announcements

An opportunity is provided for the Mayor to make any necessary announcements.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Any Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at this meeting is required to disclose that interest either by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present or advising that they have disclosed the nature of the interest in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting commenced.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2024, the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2024, and the Extraordinary Council Meeting (Ceremonial) held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be confirmed.

6. Question Time

An opportunity is provided for questions from members of the public.

7. Council Business Reports

7.1. Instrument of Delegation to the Planning Decisions Committee

Author	Patrick O'Gorman – Senior Governance Coordinator
Authoriser	General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Service

Executive Summary

To consider a Instrument of Delegation regarding the Planning Decisions Committee required as a result of the move to single member wards and the previous Instrument expiring on 26 October 2024.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Government Act 2020:
 - (a) Adopt the Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Planning Decisions Committee as set out in Attachment one; and
 - (b) Declare that this Instrument of Delegation come into force immediately upon resolution of Council and the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument.
2. Adopt the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols) incorporating the changes set out in Attachment two.

History and background

1. The Planning Decisions Committee is a delegated committee of Council with the authority to determine certain planning matters, including planning permits and referrals from Heritage Victoria. The Committee's powers derive from an Instrument of Delegation which was endorsed by Council in March 2022 and ended on 26 October 2024.
2. The previous Instrument of Delegation was resolved by Council on 8 March 2022.

Discussion

Structure

3. The membership of the previous Instrument of Delegation was structured on a rotating model that was based on the previous multi-member ward structure. Given Council has transitioned to a single member ward structure, the Instrument of Delegation needs to be updated.
4. The release of the Operation Sandon report in 2022 presented a number of findings relating to planning processes and associated governance considerations that resulted from the investigation into the City of Casey. The Sandon report has influenced considerations raised in this report regarding the membership of the Planning Decisions Committee moving forward.

Review

5. In conducting a review of the current Instrument of Delegation to the Planning Decisions Committee, the following principles have been applied:
 - (a) The structure of the Planning Decisions Committee must comply with:
 - (i) The Local Government Act 2020;
 - (ii) The Planning and Environment Act 1987; and
 - (iii) The City of Yarra Governance Rules;
 - (b) The findings of Operation Sandon be considered in determining the appropriate structure for the Planning Decisions Committee insofar as they are applicable; and
 - (c) Benchmarking of other Councils and their Planning Committee structures.
 6. The following issues have been assessed in the review of the Instrument of Delegation:
 - (a) The previous multi-member ward structure has been replaced with nine single member wards. The previous committee makeup relied on the multi-member ward structure to establish the roster.
 7. The Chair of the Committee needs to be appointed either by the Council, or by the Mayor, not by the Committee. This is because section 11(i) of the Act prevents Council from delegating the power to appoint the chair of a delegated committee. However, section 19(a) does give the Mayor the power to appoint a chair to a delegated committee and could be used to enable the Chair to be appointed if the Council fails to do so.
 8. The previous Instrument allowed Councillors to swap their attendance on Planning Decisions Committee meetings. The practice of Councillors swapping on the Committee is problematic from a governance perspective. It raises transparency considerations given reasons for swapping are not recorded and could be perceived as compromising responsibility for decision-making:
 - (a) The Committee needs to have a quorum that is consistent with the Act as well as enable the application of Council's Governance Rules. This means that a committee of three Councillors cannot operate effectively when it is missing a member, because section 61 of the Act requires that the quorum be two Councillors, and Council's Governance Rules provide no mechanism to appoint a chair or determine a motion if the two Councillors in attendance do not agree;
 - (b) The unexpected absence of a Councillor, a conflict of interest relating to an application or a vacancy in office should not easily place the orderly conduct of the meeting at risk and mean decisions are unduly delayed. Under previous arrangements, it was possible for a meeting to fail with as few as two Councillors absent; and
 - (c) The previous provisions relied on a call up by two Ward Councillors. With the implementation of a single member ward structure, this is requires review. In Operation Sandon, it was observed: "delegation arrangements are applied inconsistently across councils, as are the use of call-in powers (under which Councillors can redirect a planning matter that has been delegated to council officers for determination back to the council for decision), which can make it difficult for the community to easily identify matters that may have been called in inappropriately."
 9. Options for Council's consideration are outlined in the "Options" section of this report.
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10. In all cases, it is recommended that a call up request continue to require the inclusion of an explanation why the item is being called up to the Planning Decisions Committee, and that these reasons be published in the officer report on the matter.
11. Benchmarking has been undertaken of metropolitan Councils regarding the Planning Decision Committee membership structure. The result of the benchmarking is outlined in the 'Consultation' section of this report.
12. The officer recommendation is that Council adopts the Instrument of Delegation to the Planning Decisions Committee meeting with the following change:
13. Committee structure Option 1 –
 - A Committee of the whole Council (comprising nine Councillors).
 - This will require a change to the Instrument of Delegation.
14. The adoption of the Instrument of Delegation to the Planning Decisions Committee does not require amendments to the Governance Rules.
15. A copy of the updated Instrument with proposed changes can be found in Attachment One.
16. Attachment Three contains a summary of the proposed changes and a discussion about why the changes are proposed.
17. In addition to updating the Instrument to align to the updated PDC structure, a number of other generally minor changes are proposed to the wording to address known issues. The table found in Attachment Three contains a summary of the proposed changes and a discussion about why the changes are proposed.

Changes to the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

18. In addition to updating the Instrument, it is also necessary to update the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols).
19. The Planning Protocols enable Council to set further guidelines upon the use of delegated powers, and is read in conjunction with the relevant Instrument of delegation.
20. It is necessary to update the Planning Protocols to make minor changes to address known issues and improve clarity.
21. A copy of the proposed updated Planning Protocols can be found in Attachment Two, with proposed changes shown in red.
22. Attachment Three contains a summary of the proposed changes and a discussion about why the changes are proposed.

Options

23. There are a number of options available to Council:

Review of the Planning Decisions Committee Structure – Committee structure

Option 1 – "Committee of the whole"

Recommended

Makeup:	A Committee comprising all nine Councillors, with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor appointed as the chair.
Members:	9 Councillors

Quorum:	5 Councillors
Meetings:	11 meetings (one per month separate to Council Meetings)
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides best practice governance by way of all Councillors present to determine planning decisions • Consistent with the membership approach undertaken by a majority of other Councils identified via the benchmarking. • Guarantees that one of the decision makers will be the ward Councillor for the subject site.

24. This option is the model recommended for Council's endorsement.
25. This option is recommended because it:
- Achieves best practice governance, as all decisions are resolved by up to 9 Councillors and ensures that all major decisions are made with an absolute majority of Councillors present;
 - Responds to the need to change the structure of the Committee;
 - Is consistent with the membership structure approach adopted by a majority of the Councils benchmarked;
 - the removal of the current roster membership structure of Committee (as determined by the CEO) removes any potential uncertainty regarding the application of delegation by Council to the Committee; and
 - ensures that every meeting of the committee includes an evenly distributed geographic spread of Councillor members.

Option 2 – “5+5”

Not recommended

Makeup:	Two groups of five Councillors each. Mayor in both groups and chair of all meetings. Membership of each group to be set out in the Instrument of Delegation.
Members:	5 Councillors (Mayor plus 4 additional Councillors)
Quorum:	3 Councillors
Meetings:	6 meetings (except the Mayor, who will attend 11 meetings) (one per month separate to Council Meetings)
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership groups designed to ensure an even geographic spread of Councillors and determined based on which ward the Mayor represents. • Councillors will be required to attend two more meetings than the current commitment.

26. This option is not recommended based on a number of factors:
- It is not consistent with findings of integrity agency reports including Operation Sandon on ensuring a membership structure which promotes based practice and integrity in delegated committee decision-making; and
 - It is not consistent with the outcomes of the benchmarking undertaken by officers.

Option 3 – No Planning Decisions Committee

Not recommended

27. Under the Option all items would be referred to the appropriate Ordinary Council meeting.
28. This option is not recommended because it could unduly impact the functioning of Ordinary Council meetings. In addition, the consideration of statutory planning matters is specifically regulated by the Planning and Environment Act, and planning is a speciality area of decision making.
29. Further, there are differences in Governance Rules for Council meetings and Planning Decisions Committee meetings. The Planning Decisions Committee follows a different set of meeting procedures to that of Council meetings to allow for applicants and objectors addressing the Committee and to consider planning specific requirements. The meeting procedures of the Planning Decisions Committee is found under Chapter 3 of the Governance Rules. Should the Planning Decisions Committee be disbanded, the structure of the meetings under Chapter 3 will be void and planning related matters will need to be structured to that of other regular business reports to Council.
30. Typically, this option is used by Councils with less planning matters that need to be determined by Council. I.e., the majority of M9 Councils do not take this approach. This is because a large amount of planning decisions can disrupt the flow and duration of meetings.
31. For these reasons, this option is not recommended.

Community and stakeholder engagement

32. Benchmarking of other Councils with an equivalent Planning Decisions Committee and their membership structure was undertaken by officers to assist in the review. The result of the benchmarking is as follows:

Council	PDC (or equivalent) membership structure:
Port Phillip	All Councillors
Boroondara	All Councillors
Darebin	All Councillors
Merri-bek	All Councillors (Merri-bek adopts an alternative approach to determining planning matters in that an alternate scheduled Ordinary Council meeting called the Planning and Related Matters Meeting is held)
Stonnington	No Planning Decisions Committee in place
Melbourne City Council	All Councillors
Hobsons Bay	All Councillors

Maribyrnong	All Councillors
Kingston	All Councillors
Banyule	No Planning Decisions Committee in place
Whitehorse	No Planning Decisions Committee in place
Bayside	All Councillors
Moonee Valley	No Planning Decisions Committee in place

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective six - Democracy and governance

6.4 Practice good governance, transparency and accountable planning and decision-making

Climate emergency

33. Not applicable to this report.

Community and social implications

34. The revised Instrument of Delegation promotes greater transparency amongst Council decision-making for planning related matters and is consistent with the recommendations of the Operation Sandon report.

Economic development implications

35. No economic development implications are presented in this report.

Human rights and gender equality implications

36. No human rights or gender equity implications are presented in this report.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

37. Not applicable to this report.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

38. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

39. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Risks Analysis

40. The proposed Instrument of Delegation addresses risk factors of the previous model, including structure, conflict of interest and quorum requirements.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

41. The Instrument of Delegation will come into effect upon the resolution of Council

Communication

42. Not applicable.

Report attachments

1. 7.1.1 Instrument of Delegation to the Planning Decisions Committee - Proposed changes November 2024
2. 7.1.2 Protocols for the use of delegated authority - Proposed Changes November 2024
3. 7.1.3 Explanation of changes to Planning Delegations and Protocols

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Instrument of Delegation

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION BY THE COUNCIL TO THE PLANNING DECISIONS COMMITTEE

In exercise of the power conferred by section 11(1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020 and section 188 (1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, the Yarra City Council ("Council") delegates to the members of the Planning Decisions Committee, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation, and declares that:

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on **26 November 2024**;
2. the delegation
 - 2.1 comes into force immediately;
 - 2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
 - 2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 2.4 remains in force until **26 October 2028** or Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

The Common Seal of the Yarra City Council was affixed hereto in the presence of:

Cr **XXX** Mayor
Yarra City Council Date **XXXX**

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer Yarra City Council

Instrument updated **26 November 2024**

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SCHEDULE

The power to:

1. consider planning applications which require formal consideration (and an opportunity for community consultation) but do not require referral to the Council;
2. consider planning applications:
 - 2.1 that involve planning applications which are subject to 15 or more objections from different properties and where the recommendation from officers is for support, except in the case of the following applications, which would be considered and determined by officers:
 - 2.1.1 extension to a dwelling and or construction of up to 3 dwellings on a lot inclusive of any permission required pursuant to the heritage overlay;
 - 2.1.2 buildings and works in a Commercial zone up to the value of \$1 Million;
 - 2.1.3 buildings and works in an Industrial zone up to the value of \$2 Million;
 - 2.1.4 liquor licence applications that comply with the hours of operation outlined within clause 13.07-1L-02 of the Yarra Planning Scheme and do not propose more than 200 patrons;
 - 2.1.5 all signage applications

The above exceptions at 2.1.1 – 2.1.5 are not overruled by provisions 2.2 – 2.10 below.

- 2.2 where building height exceeds the preferred maximum height by more than one storey (not including plant equipment and roof terraces) specified in a Design and Development Overlay;
- 2.3 that are within **Heritage Overlay – Schedule 361 (World Heritage Environs Area Precinct)** and propose works that are taller than the highest point of the existing / approved building on the subject land, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application;
- 2.4 that where a matter requires settlement at a compulsory conference at the **Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT)** or a consent order with 15 or more parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, the Appeals Advocate, or Manager, emails the **Mayor, deputy Mayor and ward Councillor** and outlines the agreement reached at the compulsory conference/consent order and **Instrument of Delegation to the PDC** seeks Councillor consent to sign the terms of settlement / consent order on behalf of Council within a timeframe of 48 hours and where there is no objection received from the **majority of the above mentioned Councillors** within this 48 hour period to the settlement of the matter on the agreed terms, then the above officers would sign and settle the matter;
- 2.5 that where a planning application falls into an application type under 2.2, 2.3, 2.8 or 2.9 and has not been considered by a PDC (i.e. because it was refused or a refusal position was formed) and subsequently requires settlement at a compulsory conference at the VCAT or a consent order, with less than 15 parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, the Appeals Advocate, or Manager, emails the **Mayor, deputy Mayor and ward Councillor** and outlines the agreement reached at the compulsory conference/consent order and seeks Councillor consent to sign the terms of settlement / consent order on behalf of Council within a timeframe of 48 hours and where there is no objection received from the majority of the above mentioned Councillors within this 48 hour period to the settlement of the matter on the agreed terms, then the above officers

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would sign and settle the matter;

2.6 that where a matter has been considered by a PDC where it was determined to support the application and subsequently requires settlement at a compulsory conference at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the settlement does amend or delete a condition imposed by the Planning Decisions Committee (excluding inconsequential or trivial changes), the Appeals Advocate, or Manager, emails the Mayor, deputy Mayor and ward Councillor and outlines the agreement reached at the compulsory conference/consent order and seeks Councillor consent to sign the terms of settlement / consent order on behalf of Council within a timeframe of 48 hours and where there is no objection received from the majority of the above mentioned Councillors within this 48 hour period to the settlement of the matter on the agreed terms, then the above officers would sign and settle the matter;

2.7 that are lodged under section 87A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to the VCAT and fall into an application type specified at 2.2, 2.3, 2.8 or 2.9;

2.8 that are relevant to electronic gaming machines;

2.9 that involve **upper level** street setbacks to a heritage building that do not meet the preferred minimum setback requirements specified in a Design and Development Overlay; or

2.10 that have been called up by two or more Councillors and must include a brief written explanation why the item is being called up to the Planning Decisions Committee.

3 determine on town planning applications received pursuant to the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

4 consider Heritage Victoria referrals that have been called up by two or more Councillors and must include a brief written explanation why the item is being called up to the Planning Decisions Committee.

Conditions and Limitations

1. Membership

All nine Yarra City Councillors are appointed to the Planning Decisions Committee.

2. Voting

Voting by the Planning Decisions Committee members shall be in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

3. Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee is five Councillors.

4. Meeting Frequency

Meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee shall be convened as determined by Council.



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Title	Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)
Description	A guide to Officers within Council's Statutory Planning Branch as to the proper exercise of powers and duties delegated to them by Council's Instrument of Delegation to Staff.
Category	Planning
Type	Policy
Approval authority	Council
Responsible officer	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Approval date	26 November 2024
Review cycle	Every four years
Review date	26 November 2028
Document Reference	XXX
Human Rights compatibility	This policy has been assessed and is compatible with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights of Responsibilities

1. Introduction

These protocols form a guide to Officers within Council's Statutory Planning Branch as to the proper exercise of powers and duties delegated to them by Council's Instrument of Delegation to Staff. More specifically, the protocols provide guidance in relation to the exercise of powers of Council under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, which have been delegated to those Officers.

Importantly these Protocols must be read in conjunction with the Council's:

- Instrument of Delegation to Staff (as amended from time to time)
- Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Planning Decisions Committee (as amended from time to time).

In any instance where this Protocol appears to contradict the Instrument of Delegation to Staff or the Instrument of Delegation to the by the Council to the Planning Decisions Committee (PDC), the relevant Instrument of delegation takes precedence.

In essence:

- the Instrument of Delegation to Staff allows Council to formally confer powers and duties upon specific officers
- this Protocol allows Council to set further guidelines upon the use of those delegated powers.

2. Operation of these Protocols

If a legislative power has been delegated by Council to a member of staff via the Instrument of Delegation to Council Staff and the conditions or limitation on that power require reference to these Protocols, the following procedures for the relevant category of application must be followed in the decision making process.

Where the decision making process includes more than one category of application, the category requiring the higher level of delegation must be followed in determining an application.



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

General Note: any reference in this document to an application in respect of which no objections have been received includes an application that is exempt from notice requirements in the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or as application when Council's delegate has determined that notice is not required to be given in order to comply with section 52 of that Act.

3. Definitions

In these protocols:

Group A	means	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy Manager Statutory Planning Senior Coordinator Statutory Planning Coordinator Statutory Planning Appeals Advocate
Group B	means	Group A Principal Planner Senior Planner Subdivision Planner
Group C	means	Group B Statutory Planner
DAP	means	The Development Assessment Panel
PDC	means	The Planning Decisions Committee

4. Categories of application

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
Heritage Overlay Detailing	
Applications for road side changes, furniture and detailing	Group B
Applications for development where development proposed is taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding applications which qualify as a VicSmart application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Areas [WHEA] of the Yarra Planning Scheme; and within the area designated as the 'Buffer Zone' in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area 	PDC
Heritage Victoria Referrals	



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
<p><u>Process</u></p> <p>All Heritage Victoria referrals received are listed on the Council's website.</p> <p>All Heritage Victoria referrals including Council's responses to Heritage Victoria Referrals are published on Council's website.</p> <p>All Heritage Victoria referrals are emailed to all Councillors by the Manager Statutory Planning or delegate as soon as heritage advice has been received from Council's Heritage Advisors.</p> <p>Councillors have the authority to request any Heritage Referral be dealt with by the Planning Decisions Committee within three working days of receiving notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.</p>	
Response to <i>Heritage Victoria referrals</i> where no request has been received from a Councillor within three working days of the email notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.	Manager Statutory Planning
Response to <i>Heritage Victoria referrals</i> where a request has been received from a Councillor within three working days of the email notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.	PDC
Notification to Heritage Victoria where Council intends to make a submission within the allotted 14 day period but this will not be possible as the matter needs to be considered by the Planning Decisions Committee.	Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Council Applications	
<p><u>Process</u></p> <p>Where a matter is before the Heritage Council, the Manager Statutory Planning or delegate will advise Councillors of this in writing, including advice regarding the future conduct of the Heritage Council hearing.</p> <p>Councillors have the authority to request a Heritage Council report be dealt with by the Planning Decisions Committee within three working days of receiving notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.</p>	
Consideration of <i>Heritage Council applications</i> where no request has been received from a Councillor within three working days of the email notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.	Manager Statutory Planning
Consideration of <i>Heritage Council applications</i> where a request has been received from a Councillor within three working days of the email notification from the Manager Statutory Planning.	PDC
Additions to buildings	
Applications for <i>urban conservation detailing</i> with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>urban conservation detailing</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>urban conservation detailing</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Applications for <i>residential additions</i> with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>residential additions</i> with any number of objections.	DAP
New Residential	
Applications for <i>one house</i> with no objections	Group B
Applications for <i>one house</i> with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for <i>multi unit</i> (after advertising) with no objections.	Group A



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
Applications for <i>multi unit</i> (after advertising) with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for up to 3 dwellings (after advertising) with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for 4 or more dwellings (after advertising) with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Discretionary uses in residential zones	
Applications for <i>discretionary uses</i> with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>discretionary uses</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>discretionary</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Demolition in heritage overlay areas	
Applications for <i>partial demolition</i> with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>whole demolition</i> with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>partial or whole demolition</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>partial or whole demolition</i> and construction of up to 3 dwellings (after advertising) and any number of objections	DAP
Applications for <i>partial or whole demolition</i> and construction of 4 or more dwellings (after advertising) with 15 or more objections from different properties	PDC
Commercial / Industrial	
Applications for <i>additions / new development</i> with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>additions / new development</i> up to \$1 million for commercial and \$2 million for industrial and with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for <i>additions / new development</i> above \$1 million for commercial and \$2 million for industrial and with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>additions / new development</i> above \$1 million for commercial and \$2 million for industrial and with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Built form within a Design and Development Overlay	
TYPE A - Applications for <i>additions and or new works</i> that exceed the preferred maximum height controls by more than one storey (not including plant equipment and roof terraces) with any number of objections.	PDC
TYPE B - Applications for <i>additions and or new works</i> with street setbacks to a heritage building that do not meet the preferred minimum setback requirements outlined within the Design and Development Overlays with any number of objections.	PDC
Applications for <i>additions and/or new works</i> that are not TYPE A or TYPE B with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>additions and/or new works</i> that are not TYPE A or TYPE B or with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
Applications for <i>additions and/or new works</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Change of use from one discretionary use to another	
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Non conforming uses	
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with no objections	Group A
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>change of use</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Liquor Licences	
TYPE C – Planning permit applications for <i>liquor licence</i> that comply with the hours of operation outlined within Clause 13.07-1L-02 of the Yarra Planning Scheme and do not propose more than 200 patrons with any number of objections	DAP
Planning permit applications for <i>liquor licence</i> that are not TYPE C with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Planning permit applications for <i>liquor licence</i> with 1 to 14 (inclusive) objections from different properties.	DAP
Planning permit applications for <i>liquor licence</i> with no objections.	Group A
Electronic Gaming Machines	
Planning permit applications regarding Electronic Gaming Machines	PDC
Outdoor Advertising	
Applications for <i>under verandah height</i> signage (approx. 3 metres) with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>under verandah height</i> signage (approx. 3 metres) with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for <i>above verandah height</i> signage with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>above verandah height</i> signage with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for <i>Major Promotion Signs</i> with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>Major Promotion Signs</i> with any number of objections.	DAP
Applications for <i>Signage in Road Reservations and / or Public Spaces</i> that generally comply with policy and with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>Signage in Road Reservations and / or Public Spaces</i> that generally comply with policy and with any number of objections.	DAP
Subdivision	
Applications for <i>existing buildings</i> where the subdivision complies with the development plan and with no objections.	Group B
Applications for <i>existing buildings</i> where the subdivision complies with the development plan and with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
Applications for <i>existing buildings</i> where the subdivision does not comply with the development plan and/or with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Applications for <i>new subdivisions</i> with no objections.	Group A
Applications for <i>new subdivision</i> with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
Applications for <i>new subdivision</i> with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Application for <i>certification</i> of plans of subdivision / other associated approvals such as Statement of Compliance.	Group C
Applications for permission to <i>remove or vary an easement / restriction</i> where the following circumstances exist: (i) The application has been advertised or referred to the benefited party and no objection is received, and (ii) In the case of an <i>easement / restriction in favour of a public authority</i> , the authority that has benefit of the easement has advised the Council in writing that no service exists within the easement and/or is no longer required, and/or (iii) In the case of an <i>easement / restriction in favour of other lot owners</i> , no lot benefiting from the easement objects to its removal or variation and the service may be or has already been provided to that lot by another route or the easement physically cannot be of benefit to the lot.	Group B
Applications to <i>re-align a boundary</i> where the application has been advertised and no objection has been received.	Group B
Other applications	
All other <i>application types</i> not specified with no objections.	Group A
All other <i>application types</i> not specified with 1 to 14 objections (inclusive) from different properties.	DAP
All other <i>application types</i> not specified with 15 or more objections from different properties.	PDC
Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal – Compulsory Conference	
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Statutory Planning Department decision</u> with no parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, for applications under section 79 (failure appeal with position of support), section 80 (conditions appeal), section 82 (objector appeal) and section 87A (amend permit).	Group B
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Statutory Planning Department decision</u> with 1 to 14 parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, for applications under section 79 (failure appeal with position of support), section 80 (conditions appeal), section 82 (objector appeal) and section 87A (amend permit).	Group A
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Statutory Planning Department decision</u> with 0 to 14 parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, for applications under section 77 (refusal) and section 79 (failure appeal with position of refusal).	DAP



Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

Categories of application	Officer or body empowered to make decision or recommendation
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Statutory Planning Department decision</u> with 15 or more parties in addition to Council and the Applicant.	PDC
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle applications under section 77 (refusal appeal) and 79 (failure appeal with position of refusal) whereby the Planning Decisions Committee are the body empowered to approve the application regardless of the number of objections (eg. where building height exceeds the preferred maximum height by more than one storey specified in a Design and Development Overlay).	PDC
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Planning Decisions Committee decision</u> with no parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, and the settlement <u>does not</u> amend or delete a condition imposed by the Planning Decisions Committee (excluding inconsequential or trivial changes).	Group B
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Planning Decisions Committee decision</u> with 1 to 14 parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, and the settlement <u>does not</u> amend or delete a condition imposed by the Planning Decisions Committee (excluding inconsequential or trivial changes).	Group A
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Planning Decisions Committee decision</u> and the settlement <u>does</u> amend or delete a condition imposed by the Planning Decisions Committee (excluding inconsequential or trivial changes).	PDC
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Planning Decisions Committee decision</u> with 15 or more parties.	PDC
Where a matter relates to a Compulsory Conference before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter seeks to settle or part settle a <u>Planning Decisions Committee decision</u> with 0 to 14 parties in addition to Council and the Applicant, for applications under section 77 (refusal) and section 79 (failure appeal with position of refusal).	DAP
Where a matter relates to an application under section 87A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and would otherwise be considered by the PDC based on the Instrument of Delegation.	PDC
Where a matter relates to an application under section 87A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal and would not otherwise be considered by the PDC based on the Instrument of Delegation, including proceedings where there are 15 or more parties.	DAP

Changes to Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Planning Decisions Committee

It is necessary to update the Instrument of Delegation by the Council to the Planning Decisions Committee, primarily to align it to the updated Planning Decisions Committee structure which is the result of having to respond to the new Ward configuration.

A copy of the proposed updated Instrument is attached, with proposed changes shown in red.

In addition to updating it to align to the updated PDC structure, a number of other generally minor changes are proposed to the wording to address known issues. The table below contains a summary of the proposed changes and a discussion about why the changes are proposed.

Proposed change	Discussion
Various changes to first page	To reflect new Instrument being adopted.
Update to policy reference at 2.1.4	The reference to Council’s local licensed premises policy has been updated from 22.09 to 13.07-1L-02. This is required because all local policy references were updated in the Yarra Planning Scheme through Planning Scheme Amendment C269 which came into effect on 21 December 2023.
Inclusion of words ‘The above exceptions at 2.1.1 – 2.1.5 are not overruled by provisions 2.2 – 2.10 below’ at 2.1	Section 2.1 of the instrument was drafted with the intention of exempting certain applications from being considered at a PDC. However, over the past year, the language within the Instrument has been queried, and so this change is proposed to make this intention clear.
Change to wording at 2.3	It is proposed to update the language at section 2.3 to improve the clarity of how it operates. There is no impact on the outcome of what the PDC can consider.
Change to wording at 2.4	Section 2.4 was drafted to enable consent positions to be reached on matters that would otherwise require PDC approval. Various changes to language are proposed to improve the clarity of how the section operates. There is no impact on the outcome of what the PDC can consider. The provision previously referred to obtaining consent from the ward Councillors. As there is no only one Councillor per ward, this has been changed to obtaining consent from the Mayor, deputy Mayor and ward Councillor, by majority agreement.
Inclusion of new section 2.5	Section 2.5 has been included to account for situations where PDC has not considered an application under application types 2.2, 2.3, 2.8 or 2.9 (either because it was refused or a refusal position was formed, or in the less likely

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

	<p>scenario that it did not qualify as an application type set out in this instrument – but now would) but it now requires settlement at VCAT and would otherwise require PDC consideration. It applies when there are less than 15 parties.</p>
<p>Inclusion of new section 2.6</p>	<p>Section 2.6 has been included to account for situations where PDC has supported an application, but the terms of agreement at VCAT specifically affect a condition imposed by PDC.</p> <p>It enables Officers to email the Mayor, deputy Mayor and ward Councillor where a consent position has been reached.</p> <p>This is necessary to ensure that prompt resolution of matters where consent positions have been reached by all parties, in accordance with VCAT’s timeframes and to avoid prejudicing any party.</p>
<p>Inclusion of new section 2.7</p>	<p>The protocol is currently silent on s87A VCAT Amendment application scenarios and it has been unclear how these should be dealt with.</p> <p>A s87A VCAT amendment application can arise when an applicant makes an application directly to VCAT to amend a planning permit that VCAT issued. Council is not the decision maker on these application, but we are required to form a position and present that position to VCAT.</p> <p>The inclusion of section 2.7 is to address this application scenario. It makes it clear that Amendment applications lodged at VCAT that would otherwise need to be considered by the PDC based on the application characteristics should be considered by the PDC.</p> <p>In addition, that applications lodged with VCAT to amend a VCAT issued permit would need to be considered by the PDC not based on number of parties but in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation which requires PDC to consider certain application types. This has been added for clarity as previously it has been unclear how these applications should be dealt with given that Council is not the decision-maker on the application.</p>
<p>Amend wording at 2.9 to include ‘upper – level’</p>	<p>The words ‘upper level’ have been included to be consistent with the design intentions and language used within the most recent Design and Development Overlay provisions. These are drafted to reference upper level setbacks from heritage buildings and not ground level setbacks from heritage buildings.</p>

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	This change is proposed for clarity in terms of how this provision operates.
Remove reference to 'ward' Councillors at section 2.10	As there is now only one Councillor per ward, the reference to two ward Councillors is obsolete.
Remove reference to 'ward' Councillors at section 4	As there is now only one Councillor per ward, the reference to two Ward Councillors is obsolete.
Various changes to 'Conditions and Limitations' section	Required to align operation of Instrument to updated Planning Decisions Committee structure recommended to be adopted by Council

Changes to the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols)

In addition to updating the Instrument, it is also necessary to update the Protocols for the Use of Delegated Authority (Planning Protocols). The Planning Protocols enable Council to set further guidelines upon the use of delegated powers, and is read in conjunction with the relevant Instruments of delegation.

It is necessary to update the Planning Protocols to make minor changes to address known issues and improve clarity.

A copy of the proposed updated Planning Protocols is attached, with proposed changes shown in red.

The table below contains a summary of the proposed changes and a discussion about why the changes are proposed.

Proposed change	Discussion
Changes to dates & document reference in head table	To reflect document being updated
Update to policy reference at 'Liquor licenses'	The reference to Council's local licensed premises policy has been updated from 22.09 to 13.07-1L-02. This is required because all local policy references were updated in the Yarra Planning Scheme through Planning Scheme Amendment C269 which came into effect on 21 December 2023.
Inclusion of s87A VCAT Amendment application scenarios	The protocol is currently silent on s87A VCAT Amendment application scenarios. A s87A VCAT amendment application can arise when an applicant makes an application directly to VCAT to amend a planning permit that VCAT issued. Council is not the decision maker on these applications, but are required to form a position and present that position to VCAT.

	<p>These application type scenarios are proposed to be introduced to make it clear that they will be dealt with consistently with the existing Instrument and Protocols i.e. they will be determined by either PDC or DAP, in order for Council to form a final position.</p> <p>The reason for excluding these applications from going to PDC where there are 15 or more parties is that there is insufficient time to take a s87A Amendment to PDC to form a position after parties can join the appeal. I.e. Council has limited time to form a position ahead of hearings, and typically, parties can join close to the VCAT compulsory conference date. This means that Council does not know whether 15 or more parties will join an appeal at the time it needs to prepare for a PDC meeting. It will avoid the scenario where Council does not have a position at the VCAT compulsory conference.</p>
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7.2. Governance Report - November 2024

Author Patrick O'Gorman – Senior Governance Coordinator

Authoriser General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Service

Executive Summary

The Governance Report is prepared as a periodic report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance related matters

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Appoint Jeff Rigby as external member to the Audit and Risk Committee for the period 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2027.
2. Receive the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report from 1 January 2024 to 31 July 2024.
3. Adopt the dates for Ordinary Council meetings for 2025 to be held at 6.30pm as set out in Attachment three.
4. Adopt the dates for the Planning Decisions Committee meetings for 2025 to be held at 6.30pm as set out in Attachment three.
5. Adopt the dates for Extraordinary Council meetings for 2025 to be held at 6.30pm as set out in Attachment three.
6. Appoint the following Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee for 2025:

Committee	Appointments for 2025
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor (or alternative Councillor) Cr _____

7. Appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committees listed below until 30 June 2025:

Advisory Committee	Appointments for 2025
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Active Transport Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Business Advisory Group	Cr _____ ...

Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	All Councillors
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Environment Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Family and Children's Services Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Heritage Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Multicultural Advisory Group	Cr _____
Rainbow Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

8. Appoint the following Councillors to the external bodies for 2025:

Organisation or body	Appointments for 2025
Australian Local Government Women's Association	Cr _____
Collingwood Children's Farm Management Committee	Cr _____
Friends of Baucau	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Mayors for Peace	Cr _____
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr _____
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
The M9	Mayor Cr _____
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr _____
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)

9. Notes that Division 2 of Part 2 of the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024 and Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024 came into force on 26 October 2024.

History and background

1. This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.
2. To ensure compliance with the Act and in accordance with best practice and good governance principles, transparency and accountability, this standing report consolidates a range of governance and administrative matters.

Appointment of independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee

3. The Audit and Risk Committee is established under section 53 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report

4. Section 54(5) of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that an Audit and Risk Committee:

“prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes its findings and recommendations; and provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.”

Council Meeting Schedule 2025

5. The City of Yarra Governance Rules state that:

“the dates and times of Ordinary Council Meetings will be fixed by Council from time to time”;

“Council may by resolution call, an Extraordinary Council Meeting”

Appointment of Committee Members and Delegates

6. Each year, Councillors are appointed to various committees in order to assist the Council to undertake its extensive range of functions.

Amendments to the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2024

7. On 19 June 2024, the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024 was passed by Parliament and was given Royal Assent on 25 June 2024, which introduced amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 and accompanying Regulations. Amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 were primarily in response to the outcomes of Operation Sandon, an investigation by the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) into allegations of corrupt conduct involving Councillors and property developers in the City of Casey. It also examined the adequacy of Victoria’s current systems and controls for safeguarding the integrity of the state’s planning processes. The final report was released in July 2023.
8. A report was provided to Council on 15 August 2023, providing an overview of the IBAC report and the government’s preliminary response.

Discussion

Appointment of independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee

9. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide independent and objective assurance and assistance to the Yarra City Council and its Chief Executive Officer on Council's risk management, control and compliance framework, and its external financial and performance accountability and responsibilities. In addition, the Committee provides advice to Council that will assist Council in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities.
10. The Committee comprises five members:
 - (a) The Mayor or an appointed alternative Councillor;
 - (b) One other Councillor; and
 - (c) Three independent members.
11. Clause 3.7 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter states: "Appointment of independent Committee members will be made by Council, following a publicly advertised expression of interest process managed by the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate). New appointments shall be for a term of three years (or in the case of a casual vacancy, until the expiry of the departing member's term) or any other timeframe at the Council's sole discretion."
12. A public Expression of Interest (EOI) was advertised from 16 August to 30 August 2024. During this period Council received 42 applications.
13. Based on the outcomes of the recruitment process, it is recommended that Jeff Rigby be appointed to the Committee for a period of 3 years.
14. Jeff Rigby carries extensive experience in Audit and Risk Committee membership across other Victorian Councils and previous career experience in the public and private sectors provides the necessary skills and qualifications across the responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee:
 - (a) Financial and Performance Reporting;
 - (b) Internal Control Environment;
 - (c) Risk Management;
 - (d) Fraud Prevention Systems and Controls;
 - (e) Internal & External Audit; and
 - (f) Compliance.
15. Jeff Rigby's response to Council's Expression of Interest can be found in Confidential Attachment one.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report

16. Tabling of a biannual activity report provides transparency on the operation of the committee, as well as highlighting the high-level considerations of the Committee.
 17. A copy of the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2024 can be found at Attachment two.
 18. In the period 1 January to 30 June 2024, neither the Committee nor the Committee Chair requested that the Chief Executive Officer table a report at a Council meeting.
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Council Meeting Schedule 2025

19. In developing a proposed meeting schedule, consideration has been given to the Council meetings that need to be accommodated:
 - (a) Ordinary Council Meetings (in 2024 held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm);
 - (b) Meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee (in 2024 held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm); and
 - (c) Extraordinary Council meetings to:
 - (i) Hear submissions for the 2025/2026 Budget; and
 - (ii) Elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2025/26.
20. The exception to this cycle is January, where no Ordinary Council Meeting and Planning Decisions Committee will be held to accommodate the summer break.
21. Officers have provided two alternative meeting date schedules depending on whether Council determines to retain the monthly Ordinary Meeting schedule or move to a fortnightly Ordinary Meeting Schedule. Officers have recommended that the monthly Ordinary Meeting schedule be retained for 2025.
22. Attachment three sets out the proposed meeting dates for 2025 based on one Ordinary Council meeting per month and one Planning Decisions Committee per month.
23. Attachment four sets out the proposed meeting dates for 2025 based on two Ordinary Council meetings per month and one Planning Decisions Committee per month.

Appointment of 2025 Committee Members and Delegates

24. In order to assist the Council to undertake its extensive range of functions, Council has a range of committees that require Councillor appointments.
25. An outline of the purpose, function and Councillor membership numbers of each committee can be found in Attachment five of this report.
26. Council's Advisory Committees will be reviewed in accordance with Council's Committee Policy to ensure that the advisory committees respond to the new Council Plan. It is recommended that the review of Council's advisory committees reflect Council's priorities in the development of the Council Plan. The policy will be presented to Council prior to 30 June 2025.

Amendments to the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2024

27. On 26 October 2024, the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2024 came into effect, including provisions that relate to the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, Mayoral and Councillor training & amendments to the internal arbitration process.

Mandatory training for Councillors and Mayors

28. The amendments set out a mandatory training program for Councillors by requiring:
 - (a) Councillor induction training to be completed within 4 months of taking the oath or affirmation of office. The content of the training to be delivered to Councillors as outlined in the changes to regulations are:
 - (i) working together in a Council;
 - (ii) decision making, integrity and accountability;

- (iii) community representation;
 - (iv) strategic planning and financial management;
 - (v) conduct;
 - (vi) land use planning;
 - (vii) any other matter relating to the role of a Councillor which the Chief Executive Officer has determined should be addressed;
- (b) professional development training to be completed by all Councillors each year of their term, beginning in the full calendar year following their election;
- (c) Mandatory training to be completed by all Mayors, Deputy Mayors and acting Mayors (if their appointment is for 1 month or more) within 1 month of appointment. The content to be delivered to Mayors as outlined in the amendments to the regulations are:
- (i) roles and responsibilities;
 - (ii) chairing meetings;
 - (iii) engagement and advocacy;
 - (iv) leadership; and
 - (v) any other matter relating to the role of the Mayor which the Chief Executive Officer has determined should be addressed.

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

29. Section 139 of the LGA 2020 now requires Councillors to observe a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code), as prescribed in the regulations.
30. The Model Councillor Code of Conduct prescribed in the regulations provides a set of updated standards of conduct that replaces the previous standards outlined in the 2020 regulations. The Model Councillor Code of Conduct outlines standards that Councillors are expected to observe in their performance of a Councillor across the following themes:
- (a) Performing the role of a Councillor;
 - (b) Behaviours of conduct;
 - (c) Good governance;
 - (d) Integrity;
 - (e) General clause outlining that the Model Councillor Code of Conduct does not limit robust public debate.
31. Noticeable amendments include –
- (a) Expanding behavioural expectations of Councillors;
 - (b) “Councillors must not engage in demeaning, abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour, including where the behaviour is of a sexual nature; and
 - (c) not engage in behaviour that intentionally causes or perpetuates stigma, stereotyping, prejudice or aggression against a person or class of persons;”
32. Expectation to support the Council that when applying Council’s community engagement policy, to “develop respectful relationships and partnerships with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal community controlled organizations and the Aboriginal community”
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33. The requirement for Councillors to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and take care reasonable care that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons by –
 - (a) adhering to applicable systems and policies put in place by the Chief Executive Officer to manage risks to health and safety in the workplace; and
 - (b) complying, so far as the Councillor is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the Chief Executive Officer to manage risks to health and safety.
34. Councillors must act with integrity, exercise reasonable care and diligence and take reasonable steps to avoid any action which may diminish the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of local government, including by not deliberately misleading the Council or the public about any matter related to the performance of their public duties.
35. Councillors must act with integrity, exercise reasonable care and diligence and take reasonable steps to avoid any action which may diminish the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of local government, including by not making Council information publicly available where public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest.
36. The Model Code provides consistent and uniform standards of behaviour for all Councillors across the state. A breach of the Model Code will be considered misconduct and will be grounds for an application to be made for an internal arbitration process.
37. As the Model Code is prescribed by regulations, Council will no longer be required to adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct. However, Councillors will continue to be required to commit to abide by the Model Code when taking the oath or affirmation of office and councils will be required to publish the Code on their website.
38. Councils must implement and adopt an internal resolution procedure that may be followed by Councillors to deal with alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. The internal resolution procedure must –
 - (a) Include a conciliation process (generally conducted by the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor or another Councillor if the Mayor cannot perform the role) which provides a clear process for the management of the conciliation process, including an outline of the role, functions, duties and responsibilities of each party involved in the process, any support provided by Council and the form and availability of any outcome of the process;
 - (b) Detail how a matter is to be dealt with that is the subject of an alleged breach of the Model Code of Conduct; and
 - (c) Detail how a Councillor can access the internal resolution procedure and how a Councillor may initiate a request to begin an internal resolution procedure.
39. Council must adopt this internal resolution procedure by 1 July 2025. Officers will progress this in early 2025.

Amendments to the Internal arbitration application process

40. In accordance with the amendments to clause 141 (1) of the Act, an internal arbitration process applies to any alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Other amendments

41. The amended regulations now include a further provision that exempts a Councillor from a conflict of interest under sections 127 & 128 of the Principal Act, being the adoption of policies by the Council in relation to good governance under section 54A of the Act.
42. The Oath and Affirmation of Office was slightly amended, by making reference to the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

Options

Option 1 – One Council meeting and one Planning Decisions Committees meeting per month

43. Option 1:
 - (a) Reflects the current meeting schedule of one Council meeting and one Planning Decisions Committee meeting per month; and
 - (b) Provides a balance for Councillors meeting commitments with other meetings, i.e. advisory committee, external committee and community engagement commitments.

Option 2 – Two Council meetings and one Planning Decisions Committees per month

44. Option 2:
 - (a) Provides more opportunity for community participation in Council meetings;
 - (b) Provide opportunities for matters to be presented to Council more frequently; and
 - (c) Is consistent with meeting schedules of five other Metropolitan 9 (M9) Councils.
45. In addition to the above, option 2 will result in additional costings – please see *Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies* section of this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

Appointment of independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee

46. The Expression of Interest advertisement period opened on 16 August 2024 and closed on 30 August 2024. The Expression of interest was advertised in the Saturday Age newspaper, City of Yarra website, Seek and LinkedIn.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective six - Democracy and governance

- 6.4 Practice good governance, transparency and accountable planning and decision-making
47. The presentation of a Governance Report provides an opportunity to provide updates on key organisational matters both to the Council and the community.

Climate emergency

48. Ongoing appointment and support to the Environment Advisory Committee and Northern Greenhouse Action Special Committee gives effect to *Strategic Priority 1 – Mobilise and enable the community in Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.*

Community and social implications

49. The revised Instrument of Delegation promotes greater transparency amongst Council decision-making for planning related matters and is consistent with the recommendations of the Operation Sandon report.

Economic development implications

50. No economic development implications are presented in this report.

Human rights and gender equality implications

51. No human rights or gender equity implications are presented in this report.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

Appointment of independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee

52. Independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee receive an allowance in accordance with section 53(6) of the Local Government Act 2020. A provision for this allowance has been made in Council's budget.

Council Meeting Schedule 2025

53. An increased frequency of Council meetings will result in:
- (a) Additional costs relating to staffing requirements; and
 - (b) The need to improve Council internet and streaming capabilities should alternative locations of Council meetings be endorsed.

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

54. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.
55. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Appointment of independent member to the Audit and Risk Committee

56. The Local Government Act 2020 provides that a majority of members of the committee cannot be Councillors or members of Council staff. Following David Ashmore's resignation, the appointment of a further external committee member is required in order to comply with this legislative requirement.

Appointment of 2024 Committee Members and Delegates

57. The recommendations of this report have been structured to ensure that where necessary, committee members to Delegated Committees, the Audit and Risk Committee and external organisations are lawfully appointed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the body.

Risks Analysis

58. The proposed Instrument of Delegation addresses risk factors of the previous model, including structure, conflict of interest and quorum requirements.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

59. All matters to be implemented following adoption at the Council meeting.

Communication

60. Council's website will be updated with information in relation to each item (where necessary) addressed in the report.

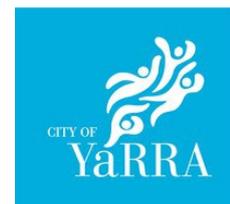
61. All external bodies will be notified of the Councillors appointments to their committees.

Report attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL -7.2.1 Appointment of Independent Member to Audit and Risk Committee - Jeff Rigby
2. 7.2.2 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report - January to June 2024
3. 7.2.3 2025 Yarra Council Proposed Meeting Dates
4. 7.2.4 2025 Yarra City Council Proposed Meeting Dates Option 2
5. 7.2.5 Appointment of 2025 Committee Members and Delegates

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report

January to June 2024



The Audit and Risk Committee

The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) is set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, adopted by Council on 18 August 2020.

The Committee provides independent and objective assurance and assistance to the Yarra City Council and its Chief Executive Officer on Council's risk management, control and compliance framework, and its external financial and performance accountability and responsibilities. In addition, the Committee provides advice to Council that will assist Council in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities.

The Committee does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated authority. The Committee does not have any management functions and is therefore independent of management.

The Council has authorised the Committee, within the scope of its role and responsibilities to:

- obtain any information it needs from any employee and/or external party;
- discuss any matters with the external or internal auditor, or other external parties;
- request the attendance of any Council Officer, Councillors, and/or the internal and external auditors;
- request that Council Officers obtain external legal or other professional advice, as the Committee considers necessary to meet its responsibilities, at Council's expense;
- require reports from Council Officers, the internal auditors and external auditors on any significant proposed regulatory, accounting or reporting issue, to assess the potential impact upon the Council's financial reporting process; and
- request that the Chief Executive Officer table a report from the Committee at a meeting of the Council.

Purpose of the biannual activity report

This report meets the reporting requirements to Council as required by section 54(5) of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act).

The report provides Council and the community with a summary of the matters that the Audit and Risk Committee has addressed in the reporting period in discharging its responsibilities under its Charter and under the Act. Further, the report provides Council with the Committee's findings and recommendations for the period.

This report provides an overview of the activity of the Audit and Risk Committee from 1 January to 30 June 2024.

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report January to June 2024

Committee Membership

The Committee comprises five members, three of which are independent members and two Councillors.

Current Members

Kylie Maher (Chair)

Kylie Maher has expertise in governance, risk, and compliance, spanning various sectors including education, health, and government. As a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and graduate of the Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), Kylie has formerly served in Partner/Director capacities at Moore and KPMG, leading internal audit and assurance services. She has a wealth of governance experience serving on boards, audit and risk committees, presently occupying 5 roles across local government (City of Port Phillip, Wyndham and Yarra), the Federal Accounting and Auditing Standards Board and Education Services Australia. Additionally, Kylie serves as a non-executive Director for RMIT Council and IPC Community Health, ensuring she remains abreast of leading practices she also has ongoing involvement in risk management and compliance projects as an independent consultant.

Lisa Tripodi

Lisa Tripodi is a former Partner accounting and assurance services and Director IT project services with over 25 years' business experience with oversight and management of five business units and over 100 staff providing assurance, accounting, risk, governance, and IT services in both the public and private sectors including state and local government, education, health, and banking sectors. Lisa serves on 12 audit and risk committees, including 10 in the local government sector.

David Ashmore

David Ashmore is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountant and was in public practice working predominately as an Audit Partner. He is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia. Mr Ashmore has for the past 15 years been appointed to a variety of Audit Committees mainly for Local Government entities and also has an appointment as Chairman for an ASX listed public Company.

Cr Edward Crossland

Cr Edward Crossland was elected to Yarra City Council in October 2020. Cr Crossland was appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee in November 2023.

Cr Herschel Landes

Cr Herschel Landes was elected to Yarra City Council in October 2020. Cr Landes was appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee in November 2020.

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report January to June 2024

Committee Attendance

The Committee met three times during the period.

Current Members	Meetings attended
Kylie Maher	3 out of 3
David Ashmore	2 out of 3
Lisa Tripodi	2 out of 3
Cr Edward Crossland	2 out of 3
Cr Herschel Landes	3 out of 3

In addition to the appointed members, all Councillors receive Audit and Risk Committee meeting papers and have a standing invitation to attend meetings as an observer. No Councillors took up this opportunity during the period.

Committee Activity

The tables below set out the activity of the committee during the period of this report, including a summary of the matters discussed and any recommendations made by the Committee to the Council.

4 April 2024

Matter considered	Summary
2024 Workplan Progress Report	The Committee received an update on progress against the Audit and Risk Committee workplan
Report by the Chief Executive	The CEO provided an update on the progress by management toward ongoing financial sustainability, including the adoption by Council of a Financial Sustainability Strategy and preparation of a balanced draft 2024/25 budget.
Quarterly Risk and Safety Report	The Committee received a quarterly risk review, providing an update on the Risk Management Framework Review, and notable matters of interest including risk matters regarding the Fitzroy Town Hall Precinct and Learning Bank.
External Audit – Presentation of the Audit Strategy memorandum	The Audit Strategy memorandum was presented for year ending 30 June 2024.

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report January to June 2024

Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2023-2025	The audit plan was endorsed by the Committee, subject to the changed timing of two audits.
Internal Audit – Status Report	Management presented a status report which provided a summary of internal audit activities completed and internal audit reviews in progress.
Internal Audit Report – Review of Development and Public Open Space Contributions Framework	Management presented the Review of Development and Public Open Space Contributions Framework internal audit.
Internal Audit Report – Compliance with Child Safe Standards	Management presented the review of compliance with Child Safe Standards and noted the recommendations outlined in the report.
Internal Audit Report – Follow up review	The Committee noted the follow-up review of completed actions from internal audit reports.
Review of actions arising from previous internal audits	The Committee reviewed the status of the implementation of agreed management actions arising from previous internal audits.
Quarterly Community Report	Management presented the Quarterly Community Report which included updates on the quarterly financial results, progress of the capital works program and progress against the City of Yarra Annual Plan.
Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report	Management presented the biannual activity report for the committee’s review. The Committee endorsed the report and provided it to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next available Council meeting, together with a recommendation from the Committee.
Financial Sustainability Strategy Update	The Committee noted the progress of the implementation of the Financial Sustainability Strategy, particularly the development of service planning and review principles.
Business Continuity Plan Update	The Committee noted the updated on the current process of Council’s Business Continuity Plan
Recent Reports and Publications – Management Response	The Committee noted the management responses provided in this report.

16 May 2024

Matter considered	Summary
Independent review	This matter is confidential under section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020.

20 June 2024

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report January to June 2024

Matter considered	Summary
Annual workplan progress report	The Committee noted the progress against the endorsed workplan and authorized the changes to the annual workplan as recommended.
Report by the Chief Executive Officer	The Acting CEO provided a verbal report on matters of Council.
Review of actions arising from previous meetings	The Committee reviewed the status of actions arising as a result of matters raised at previous Committee meetings and authorised the removal of completed items for future reports.
Quarterly risk and safety update	The Committee received a quarterly risk review, focusing on the organizational risk profile and key risk and safety activities.
Risk Management Framework Review	The Committee noted the review of the Risk Management Framework review and risk appetite statement.
External Audit Progress Report	The Committee noted the verbal report from management on the progress of the external audit and made recommended changes to the internal audit workplan.
Internal Audit – Status Report	The Committee received the Internal Audit Status Report and to recommendations to assist with future planning for internal audit projects
Review of actions arising from previous internal audits	The Committee reviewed the status of the implementation of agreed management actions arising from previous internal audits.
Fair value of council assets 30 June 2024	The Committee noted the methodology and outcomes of the 2024 fair value assessment of property, infrastructure assets, plant and equipment
Draft Internal Audit Project Scope – Review of Cyber Security (Essential 8) and Data Governance	The Committee noted and approved the draft internal audit project scope.
Quarterly community report	The Committee noted the report.
Financial Sustainability Strategy and Annual Budget Update	The Committee noted the progress of the Financial Sustainability Strategy and the development of the 2024/25 Annual Budget
Legislative Compliance Assurance	The Committee noted the report
Councillor and staff gift register	The Committee noted the report
Management response to recent report and publications	The Committee noted the report

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report
January to June 2024

Meeting with the internal auditor	The Committee met with the internal auditors in the absence of management.
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City of Yarra Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report January to June 2024

Recommendations to Council

The Audit and Risk Committee's oversight role is primarily discharged by providing advice and direction to Council's Chief Executive Officer and senior management, particularly those within the finance, risk management and governance portfolios. That said, it is recognised that there may be rare circumstances where the Committee may wish to provide advice direct to the Council, without relying on management.

There are three mechanisms for the committee to provide this advice:

- Firstly, the Council has authorised the Audit and Risk Committee through its Charter to request that the Chief Executive Officer table a report from the Committee at a meeting of the Council;
- Secondly, the Local Government Act 2020 provides that the Chief Executive Officer must table a report of the Committee at a meeting of the Council where requested by the Committee Chair; and
- Thirdly, the Local Government Act 2020 provides that a Committee may make formal recommendations to Council in this biannual activity report.

In the period 1 January to 30 June 2024, neither the Committee nor the Committee Chair requested that the Chief Executive Officer table a report at a Council meeting.

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

2025 Proposed Meeting Dates

(including 1 Council Meeting per month and 1 Planning Decisions Committee per month)

Date	Day	Meeting
February		
11 February 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
25 February 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
March		
11 March 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
25 March 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
April		
8 April 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
22 April 2024	Fourth Tuesday	Extraordinary Council (2025/2026 Draft Budget and Council Plan)
29 April 2025	Fifth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
May		
13 May 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
27 May 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
June		
3 June 2025	First Tuesday	Extraordinary Council (for hearing of submissions for the 2025/2026 Budget)
17 June 2025	Third Tuesday	Ordinary Council
24 June 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
July		
8 July 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
22 July 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
August		
12 August 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
26 August 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
September		

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

9 September 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
23 September 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
October		
14 October 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
28 October 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
November		
11 November 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
12 November 2025	Second Wednesday	Extraordinary Council – Mayoral election
25 November 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
December		
9 December 2025	Second Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
16 December 2025	Third Tuesday	Ordinary Council

2025 Proposed Meeting Dates

(including 2 Council Meetings per month and PDC's on the third Tuesday)

Date	Day	Meeting
February		
11 February 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
18 February 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
25 February 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
March		
11 March 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
18 March 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
25 March 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
April	Note: Easter Monday on 21 April and Friday 25 April is Anzac so no meetings have been scheduled in that week.	
8 April 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
15 April 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
29 April 2025	Fifth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
May		
13 May 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
20 May 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
27 May 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
June		
3 June 2025	First Tuesday	Extraordinary Council
10 June 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
17 June 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
24 June 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
July		
8 July 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
15 July 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
22 July 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
August		

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

12 August 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
19 August 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
26 August 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
September		
9 September 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
16 September 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
23 September 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
October		
14 October 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
21 October 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
28 October 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
November		
11 November 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
12 November 2025	Second Wednesday	Extraordinary Council
18 November 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee
25 November 2025	Fourth Tuesday	Ordinary Council
December		
9 December 2025	Second Tuesday	Ordinary Council
16 December 2025	Third Tuesday	Planning Decisions Committee

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

Council and External Committee details

Delegated Committee	Purpose	Nominees required
Planning Decisions Committee	<p>The Planning Decisions Committee has the power to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider planning applications; and • consider Heritage Victoria Referrals <p>in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation from Council dated 18 August 2020.</p>	All Councillors
Advisory Committee	Purpose	Nominees required
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	To provide information, support and advice to Council on the needs, interests and well-being of people aged 50+.	One Councillor
Active Transport Advisory Committee	In recognition of the climate emergency, to provide Council with advice to support its objective of reducing car dependency in the community and increasing the use of active transport throughout the municipality.	Two Councillors
Arts Advisory Committee	To provide a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation in arts and cultural planning and development.	Two Councillors
Business Advisory Group	Create and maintain a forum for business representatives to provide Council with feedback and practical advice regarding ways in which Council can engage with and further assist key sectors within the business community.	One or more Councillors
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	To support the Council in the performance management process for the Chief Executive Officer and, where required, the employment of a new Chief Executive Officer.	All Councillors
Disability Advisory Committee	To provide information, advice and guidance to Council at both a strategic and operational level on universal access and mainstream participation of people with disability and ongoing support to Council in ensuring that disability rights are integrated into the core business of Council.	Two Councillors

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

Advisory Committee	Purpose	Nominees required
Environment Advisory Committee	To represent interests pertaining to all aspects of urban environmental sustainability including (but not limited to) climate change; resource efficiency across water, waste and energy; urban greening and natural capital; local food systems; and the built environment, by providing advice to Council on policy, strategy and other strategic opportunities to progress the organisation's response to these issues.	Two Councillors
Families and Children Advisory Committee	To providing advice and feedback on Yarra's strategic planning, policy, service provision and advocacy for families and children, providing advice to Council to achieve its commitment to community engagement and consultation and acting as a conduit for the exchange of information and views between community, Council and other representative bodies on issues relevant to children and their families.	Two Councillors
Heritage Advisory Committee	To provide advice to Council on heritage matters including Yarra's natural, built and cultural heritage.	Three Councillors
Multicultural Advisory Group	To provide a structure for on-going communication and consultation between multicultural communities and Yarra City Council across a broad range of issues impacting on those communities.	One Councillor
Rainbow Advisory Committee	To provide information, support and advice, and a mechanism for communication and consultation between LGBTIQ+ communities and Council, on issues affecting the LGBTIQ+ community.	Two Councillors
Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	A partnership between Yarra City Council and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.	One Councillor
Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	To provide advice on issues relating to public library services across the City of Yarra.	Two Councillors
External committees	Purpose	Nominees required
Australian Local Government Women's Association	To promote participation and representation by women in Local Government	One Councillor

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 26 November 2024

External committees	Purpose	Nominees required
Collingwood Children's Farm Management Committee	To oversee management of the Collingwood Children's Farm.	One Councillor
Friends of Baucau	To promote governance and friendship to the city of Baucau in East Timor.	One Councillor plus one substitute Councillor
Mayors for Peace	An international organisation of cities dedicated to the promotion of peace.	One Councillor
Merri Creek Management Committee	A not-for-profit organisation, established to ensure the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, and the ecologically sensitive restoration, development and maintenance of the Merri Creek and tributaries, their corridors and associated ecological communities.	One Councillor
Metropolitan Transport Forum	To develop recommendations pertaining to transport in Melbourne, with particular emphasis on advocating for improved public transport.	One Councillor plus one substitute Councillor
Municipal Association of Victoria	A peak representative and lobbying body for Victorian Councils which provides leadership to Councils by supporting them to achieve the highest levels of respect and recognition through improved performance.	One Councillor plus one substitute Councillor
Metropolitan 9 (M9)	M9 is an alliance of the nine inner Melbourne councils that work cooperatively and collectively advocate for issues and projects of mutual interest. M9 includes the cities of Melbourne, Darebin, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Merri-bek, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, and Yarra.	The Mayor plus one substitute Councillor
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	To promote community understanding and support for Greenhouse actions.	One Councillor
Victorian Local Government Association	A peak local government body which aims to promote good governance and sustainability by supporting local governments through programs of advocacy, training, information provision and support.	One Councillor plus one substitute Councillor

7.3. Annual Grants 2025

Author Michael Van Vliet – Community Grants Team Leader

Authoriser General Manager Community Strengthening

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the recommendations proposed by the community grant panels for the awarding of 2025 Annual Grants program.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Annual Grants 2025 community grant panels' recommendations as listed in Attachment 1 to award 130 grants totalling \$1,316,468;
2. Approves the awarding of the 2025 Yarra Art Fellowship;
3. Thanks the members of the community grants panels for their time, deliberation, and commitment to Yarra's Annual Grants program; and,
4. Notes that Council will host an event in April 2025 to acknowledge the funding recipients and celebrate their efforts in enabling positive community impact and fostering local initiatives that align with Council's vision and objectives.

History and background

1. This matter concerns a previous Council report, namely "Community Grants FY2025 Initiation Report" on 14 May 2024.
2. At its meeting held on 14 May 2024, it was resolved that Council:
 - (a) endorses the following Community Grants streams to be initiated in 2024/25, subject to the final approval of the 2024/25 Council budget:
 - (i) 2025 Annual Grants;
 - (ii) 2024/25 Small Project Grants;
 - (iii) 2024/25 Room to Create Responsive Grants;
 - (iv) 2024/25 Sustainability Arts Grants; and
 - (v) 2024/25 Arts Fellowship Arts Grants.
 - (b) endorses the following proposed allocations of funds totalling \$1,536,794, subject to the final approval of the 2024/25 Council budget:
 - (i) \$1,366,899 for the 2025 Annual Grants Program;
 - (ii) \$95,520 for the 2024/25 Small Projects Grants;
 - (iii) \$30,000 for the 2024/25 Youth-Led Grants;
 - (iv) \$24,375 for the 2024/25 Room to Create Responsive Grants;

- (v) \$10,000 for the 2024/25 Sustainability Arts Grants; and,
- (vi) \$10,000 for the 2024/25 Arts Fellowship Grants.
- (c) notes that The Arts and Culture Annual Grants will revert to one round per year after trialling two rounds in 2023/24;
- (d) notes that no new multi-year grants will be initiated (given the current review of the Community Grants Program) and endorses the following alternative arrangements:
 - (i) The funds usually allocated to the Investing in Community stream will be diverted to the Annual Grants through a Major Community Projects stream, with an allocation of \$306,380 for the fiscal year 2024/2025; and
 - (ii) The 41 culturally and linguistically diverse and seniors' groups that have previously received Organisational Support Grants will be awarded a one-year funding extension, contingent on their ongoing eligibility, with a funding allocation of up to \$150,000 for 2024/2025.
- (e) endorses a \$150,000 funding allocation to aid YEF in its transition to self-sufficiency, and notes that this will be the Council's final financial contribution towards the operational expenses of YEF; and,
- (f) notes that the report outlining the findings and recommendations from the Community Grants Program Review will be presented to the Council for consideration later this year.

Discussion

Initiation of the Community Grants for FY2025

3. Yarra City Council's Community Grants Program is a significant investment in the community. It is one of Victoria's leading local government grant programs, through which Yarra has established a reputation for its strong support for the community.
4. The Community Grants Program aims to:
 - (a) develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve Council's strategic directions;
 - (b) direct resources to both the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups; and
 - (c) develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues.
5. Support local groups, activities and community connectedness; and,
 - (a) support community organisations in developing skills and increasing community participation.
6. The Annual Grants program forms part of the overall Community Grants Program and is one of the primary avenues of support by Council for community-led projects and activities. The grants provide funding to a wide range of activities by Yarra's not-for-profit organisations and grassroots community organisations, as well as to individual artists.
7. On 14 May 2024, Council approved the Annual Grants 2025 objectives, guidelines, assessment process and budget in the Community Grants Initiation Report. The Annual Grants were open for applications for seven weeks between 10 June and 31 July 2024.

8. A total of 230 applications were received across eleven grant streams, with 130 applications recommended for \$1,316,468 in funding.
9. The Annual Grants are divided into eleven funding streams namely: Arts, Climate Action, Community Celebrations, Community Housing, Community Strengthening, Community Support, Family and Early Years, Major Projects (formerly known as Investing in Communities Grants), Social Enterprise, Sport and Recreation and Youth and Middle Years.
10. The multi-year organisational support grants for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Seniors' Groups were extended into the 2024/2025 budget year. A total of 42 groups receiving funding under the Community Strengthening stream will receive a further year of funding subject to their ongoing eligibility.
11. The Annual Grants are subject to regular review to improve program administration and accessibility for applicants. Feedback provided by previous grant applicants, Council officers and other local government grant makers has been incorporated into the current Program.
12. Consultation and engagement activities were undertaken to support access to the grants program. Applicants were advised to contact Council officers before submitting their application to discuss project ideas and gain assistance with the application process. Multiple grant information sessions were held for the community throughout the application period, in-person and online, and with multilingual language support.
13. The arts stream of grants was highly oversubscribed, with 77 applications requesting more than \$1m. A total of 34 applications have been recommended.
14. An artist has been recommended for the 2025 Yarra Arts Fellowship, which includes a \$10,000 grant. Chosen from a field of 23 applicants, the Yarra Arts Advisory Panel selected this leading artist for their strong connection to the local area and outstanding application (refer to Confidential Attachment 4).
15. In accordance with the Grants Administration Guidelines, six community panels were assembled to evaluate grant applications and provide recommendations. Each panel consisted of individuals with expertise specific to their respective areas, comprising:
 - (a) Community Strengthening;
 - (b) Arts and Culture;
 - (c) Family, Children, and Youth;
 - (d) Climate Action;
 - (e) Sports and Recreation; and,
 - (f) Community Housing.
16. A total of 24 community representatives served on these panels, assessing the grants and making recommendations to the Council after thorough deliberations. Officers acknowledge and thank the panellist's knowledge, expertise, time, and dedicated service to the community.
17. Applicants will be informed of the outcomes of their applications once Council has endorsed the recommendations.
18. In April 2025, the Council will host an event to acknowledge the funding recipients and celebrate their efforts in enabling community participation, enriching cultural experiences,

supporting youth and family initiatives, tackling climate change and supporting the environment, promoting physical activity, and enhancing community housing and homelessness housing programs. This event will be held during Cultural Diversity Week, where we celebrate the diverse cultures that enrich our community.

Options

19. Council has the following options:
- (a) **Option 1:** to approve the officer's recommendations as per this report, or;
 - (b) **Option 2:** not approve the recommendations, noting that the recommendations of the community panels have generally been endorsed by the Council.

Community and stakeholder engagement

20. The Annual Grants are a competitive grant round. As per the Yarra Grants Administration Guide, the assessment process comprises the following stages:
- (a) Stage 1: Eligibility Check conducted by Council officers to confirm applicant and project eligibility. Ineligible applications are not advanced;
 - (b) Stage 2: Application Review by Council officers, who review applications against the advertised criteria and provide commentary for assessors. This includes evaluating the capacity of the applicant to deliver project outcomes, the clarity of project aims, the completeness and realism of the budget, and alignment with Council funding priorities;
 - (c) Stage 3: Assessment and Recommendation by community panels, consisting of external assessors and some Council officers with relevant expertise. The panels review all eligible applications and determine the final recommendations for funding. Deliberations are documented, including panel members' names and relevant experience; and
 - (d) Stage 4: Decision-Making and Council Endorsement where Council officers record the outcomes of panel assessments within the grants administration system and prepare a report listing the recommended applications.
21. Council officers from the Sustainability, Family, Youth and Children, Sport and Recreation, Arts and Culture and Community Partnerships teams are actively involved in the grant assessment process. Officers from each area assist with reviewing the grant criteria and support the recruitment of the panels responsible for making grant recommendations.
22. Feedback and consultation on the grants program from the community and council officers is a continuous evaluation and improvement process.

Strategic Analysis

Alignment to Council Plan

Strategic Objective One - Climate and environment

- 1.2 Lead and support the community, business and industry to take urgent climate action and transition towards net zero emissions and a circular economy.

Strategic Objective Two - Social equity and health

- 2.2 Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing.
 - 2.3 Support vulnerable communities and residents of public housing to thrive in the community.
 - 2.5 Celebrate and respect culturally vibrant and socially diverse communities
- 23. The Climate Action and Environment stream of grants is one of the ways in which Council supports community to undertake projects that address climate change issues and help lead the transition towards net zero emissions and a circular economy.
 - 24. The Community Development stream of grants helps to build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community through community-led projects.
 - 25. Many of the supported projects address the needs of public housing residents – 47 of the 96 community development applications occur in one or more of the public housing estates. Also, the Community Housing stream of grants aims to support these vulnerable residents.
 - 26. The Community Support, Strengthening and Celebration grant streams directly support our culturally diverse communities and prioritise their applications.

Climate emergency

- 27. The criteria for the Climate Action and Environment grants reflect the Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and the grants support projects that directly address this plan's priorities.
- 28. The grants support local community groups through community education and engagement in environmental sustainability. These grants help celebrate, enable, and promote a climate-safe, sustainable, and just society.

Community and social implications

- 29. Yarra's Annual Grants Program aims to address numerous social needs across areas such as arts and culture, sustainability, community development, sport and recreation, family, children, and youth. The following social objectives are addressed within the grants program as they build a sense of community through:
- 30. Cultural activities (community celebrations, observance of traditional celebration days, cultural festivals and events):
 - (a) recognition of diversity (projects that strengthen Yarra's diverse community or celebrate and recognise diversity);
 - (b) social cohesion (projects that seek to bring people together and support the development of communities with shared aims and aspirations);
 - (c) promoting and improving community health and wellbeing through:
 - (i) recreation opportunities (sports, social recreation, walking and improving access to recreational activities); and
 - (d) improving health and wellbeing (food insecurity, nutrition, skills development, health information, social engagement and support):
 - (i) promoting community safety through diversionary or preventive projects.

31. The community grants provide a flexible and responsive source of funds to support projects and initiatives within the not-for-profit community sector. The Program also supports community organisations within the recreational and sporting sector, to encourage greater participation and strengthen their capacity to deliver additional activities for the wellbeing of the whole Yarra community.
32. The grants program promotes access to services, including education, housing, employment and health that support our commitment to increasing the community's wellbeing.
33. The program is underpinned by social justice and social inclusion principles and provides vital funding to community organisations based in Yarra's public housing estates priority communities, due to the increase in barriers faced by these communities.

Economic development implications

34. The Annual Grants program strengthens the community by providing a flexible and responsive source of funds to community-based not-for-profit organisations. Funding is used to support projects that deliver objectives outlined within the Council Plan and target the areas of highest need within the community. The aim is to improve the long-term outlook for local families and businesses, strengthen the capacity of the local not-for-profit sector and generate economic activity.
35. The festivals and events funded by the Grants Program bring economic benefits and assist with branding Yarra as a destination city. There is a direct economic benefit from projects that support new arrivals, young people and families through skills development.
36. The grants support a stream that provides funding and support to social enterprise small businesses within the City of Yarra. In 2025, \$30,000 will be awarded to two social enterprises through this stream. Additionally, many locally based individual artists are supported through the grants.

Human rights and gender equality implications

37. The Annual Grants Guidelines align with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and actively support people to participate in and contribute to their community.

Finance and Resource Impacts and Interdependencies

38. A total of \$1,316,468 has been recommended for 130 grants.
39. Applicants were asked to specify the total cost of their project and the amount requested from Council. More than \$3.3m was requested for projects worth more than \$17m.
40. The grants program creates greater value than solely the funds provided by Council.
41. For example, if the total cost of a project is \$10,000 and \$2,000 is requested, with the remaining \$8,000 to be raised by the community or provided through in-kind donations or other grant funding, then Council's \$2,000 enables a \$10,000 community benefit.
42. The table below illustrates that \$1.15 million in Council funding facilitates projects with a total value exceeding \$7 million. This figure does not account for the substantial social value these projects also generate as well as the voluntary effort.

Overall spending on Grants by Council	Overall project value that Council has enabled	Leverage potential of Granting
\$1.3m	\$7.4m	\$1 spent: \$7.00 value

Legal and Legislative obligations

Conflict of interest disclosure

43. Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.
44. Under Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020, members of Council staff and contracted advisors (e.g., members of the community panels) must disclose any conflicts of interest related to the matters on which they advise the Council.
45. The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff involved and community panellists, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised concerning in the recommendation of grants recipient made in this report.

Risks Analysis

46. The risks associated with any grant program include:
 - (a) Financial risks involve potential mismanagement, fraud, or misuse of funds, which may impact the grant's financial integrity;
 - (b) Programmatic risks encompass situations where funded projects fail to deliver on promised outputs or are misaligned with the organisation's values and objectives;
 - (c) Operational risks arise from challenges related to inadequate systems or processes, which can lead to inefficiencies in grant administration;
 - (d) Compliance and legal risks stem from potential failures to comply with laws, regulations, and grant agreements, potentially resulting in legal challenges; and
 - (e) Reputational risks relate to negative public perception or stakeholder dissatisfaction, which could harm the organisation's standing and trust within the community.
47. The grants program was audited in early 2022 by HLB Mann Judd Advisory and Accounting, which concluded that: "... The Council has established an appropriate CGP Framework that meets the needs of the Council," while also identifying "a number of opportunities for improvement ... (So as) to enhance the relevant practices."
48. The recommended enhancements were subsequently implemented and included updates to the operations manual, further enhancements to conflict-of-interest processes, inclusion of grantmaking in the Council's Operational Risk Register and Council's Instrument of Delegation, and publication a Grants Administration Guide.
49. On 15 August 2023, Council resolved to review the Community Grants Program.

50. Expert advice was received on further minimising fiduciary and conflict of interest risks, demarcating of activities funded through the grant program, and understanding what constitutes best practice in grant making, including benchmarking, data analysis and estimating funding impacts. Stakeholders of the Program were also consulted.
51. Recommendations pertaining to the administration and governance aspects of the Program were endorsed at the Council's Audit and Risk Committee in September 2025.
52. The enhancements are refining assessment tools, streamlining conflict of interest procedures, implementing targeted training for panel members, documenting responsibilities and actions in assessing and treating declared or identified conflicts of interest, regularly rotating panel membership, and continuing periodic audits.
53. As part of this review, expert advice was sought on the current policy settings of the community grants program. This included: an analysis of different funding durations; the number of sub-programs and streams; ways to maximise the social, cultural, and environmental impact generated through this financial investment in the community; and achieving optimal alignment with the strategic objectives of the Council Plan and Community Vision.
54. Upon adoption of the next Council Plan 2025-2029 and updated Community Vision, officers will report to Council on strategic options to realise these goals.

Implementation Strategy

Timeline

55. The grant outcomes will be announced on 27 November 2024 and funding agreements will be issued to successful applicants. The grants will be paid in December/January with the projects set to commence in January and be completed before the end of 2025.

Communication

56. The outcomes of the 2025 Annual Grants will be published as a news item on the Council's website and promoted through social media, e-newsletters, and Yarra News.
57. Throughout the year, selected projects will be highlighted on Council's social media channels to highlight grant outcomes, share positive community stories, raise awareness of the grants program, and encourage future applications. Promotions will align with key dates in the grants calendar, such as the opening of new grant rounds, and will be consistent with Council's communications strategies and Council Plan objectives.

Report attachments

1. 7.3.1 Community Grants AG25 Basic Details Recommended
2. 7.3.2 Annual Community Grants 2025 Recommended Report
3. CONFIDENTIAL -7.3.3 Annual Community Grants 2025 Not Recommended Report
4. CONFIDENTIAL -7.3.4 Recipient of the 2025 Yarra Arts Fellowship

Attachments 3 and 4 are confidential information for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 for the following reason:

- (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

- (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—relates to trade secrets; or if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Alphabetical list of grant recommendations

Applicant	Project Title	Stream	Grant Amount
3CR Community Radio (Auspice:)	3CR Community Radio Local Connections	Major Projects	\$22,500.00
Ms Maria Dimopoulos (Auspice: Super Cro Incorporated)	Art Responsive Techniques (A.R.T.) - 4 C Art Project	Community Support	\$3,000.00
Abbotsford Convent Foundation (Auspice:)	Convent Kids 2025	Major Projects	\$20,000.00
Al Mawada Eritrean Women's Group (Auspice: Fitzroy Learning Network)	Social, cultural and educational activities for Eritrean women living in the City of Yarra	Community Strengthening	\$3,000.00
Alex Makes Meals (Auspice:)	City of Yarra Fresh Meal Food Relief Project	Community Support	\$5,000.00
Ariels VCNA (Auspice:)	Ariels VCNA School Netball Outreach Program	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
Arts Projects 3065 (Auspice: Fitzroy Learning Network)	Arts Projects 3065	Community Strengthening	\$2,500.00
Australian African Community Development Inc. (AACD) (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	African youth curriculum support program	Youth & Middle Years	\$10,000.00
Australian Vietnamese Women's Association Inc (Auspice:)	Brighter Futures Program	Youth & Middle Years	\$9,990.00
Bent Twig Alliance (Auspice: Switchboard (Victoria) Inc)	Bent Twig Alliance Membership Initiative	Community Strengthening	\$3,100.00
Breath Circle - auspice by Matthew Shawcross, Sacred Heart Primary (Auspice: Sacred Heart Primary School)	Breath Circle Programs	Youth & Middle Years	\$10,000.00
Carringbush Adult Education (Auspice:)	African Women's Group	Major Projects	\$20,000.00
CHEAC (Collingwood Housing Estate Arts Committee) (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	Yarra Gala Ball	Community Support	\$6,000.00
CHINESE GOOD VOICE (MELBOURNE) INC. (Auspice:)	Venue Hire Fee Coverage for 2025	Community Celebrations	\$2,184.00
Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di North Fitzroy (Auspice:)	The Ginnastica per Pensionati Exercise Program for Italian Seniors	Community Support	\$6,000.00
Clemente Fitzroy (Auspice: Australian Catholic University)	Clemente Fitzroy	Community Support	\$4,000.00
COHEALTH (Auspice:)	Supporting Community Resilience	Community Support	\$6,000.00
COHEALTH (Auspice:)	Eid and community celebration 2025	Community Celebrations	\$2,900.00

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COHEALTH (Auspice:)	Social participation via cafe meals for people transitioning to NDIS.	Community Support	\$8,000.00
Collingwood Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc (Auspice:)	Collingwood	Community Support	\$9,000.00
COLLINGWOOD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB (CCFC) (Auspice:)	COLLINGWOOD EAGLES INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
Collingwood College (Auspice:)	Collingwood Doll's House Community Hub	Community Strengthening	\$8,000.00
Collingwood Toy Library Inc (Auspice:)	Community Fun Days for Abbotsford and Fitzroy Toy Libraries	Family & Early Years	\$6,500.00
Collingwood Toy Library Inc (Auspice:)	Board Games Series: Inclusive events for neurodiverse young people to socialise, connect and engage.	Youth & Middle Years	\$7,410.00
Community Free Haircuts (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	Community Free Haircuts	Community Support	\$5,000.00
Community Pop-Up Markets Ltd, trading as The Community Grocer (Auspice:)	Grocer Gift Cards - dignified food access for Yarras' multicultural community at The Community Grocer	Community Support	\$7,500.00
Condell Growers and Sharers Community Garden (CG&S) (Auspice:)	Indigenous Pollinating Garden: Garden for climate action, community partnerships and OHS compliance	Climate Action and Environment	\$4,995.00
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY INC. (Auspice:)	CALD including Deaf and Hard of Hearing Work Ready Resource Library	Community Support	\$8,000.00
Dadfit Community Ltd (Auspice:)	Dadfit - supporting healthy, safe and gender equal families in Yarra	Family & Early Years	\$6,620.00
EcoPawsitive (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	HighRise Paradise by EcoPawsitive	Social Enterprise	\$9,500.00
EDINBURGH CRICKET CLUB (Auspice:)	Social Sixes - casual midweek cricket for women and girls	Sports & Recreation	\$4,500.00
Electrify Yarra Inc (Auspice:)	Electrify Yarra Energy Neighbours Project	Climate Action and Environment	\$5,000.00
Ethical Interactions (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	My Sensory Space	Community Support	\$5,000.00
Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club (Auspice:)	Safeguarding George Knott Reserve Conditions During Winter	Sports & Recreation	\$3,700.00
Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club (Auspice:)	FLSC - Soccer Skills are Life Skills	Family & Early Years	\$10,000.00
Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club (Auspice:)	FLSC - Ramadan iftar	Sports & Recreation	\$4,500.00
Fitzroy North Primary School (Auspice:)	Fitzroy North Primary School 2025 Fete	Community Celebrations	\$2,000.00
Fitzroy Primary School (Auspice:)	Fantastic Fete	Community Celebrations	\$2,000.00

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Fitzroy Scout Group (Auspice: Scouts Victoria)	Fitzroy Scouts Equitable Access Project	Youth & Middle Years	\$10,000.00
Footscape Inc. (Auspice:)	Foot Care Kits	Community Support	\$8,000.00
Free Massage Project Group (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	Free Massage Project	Community Support	\$5,000.00
Friends of Baucau Incorporated (Auspice:)	Strengthening community connections between Yarra and Baucau	Community Strengthening	\$2,500.00
Friends of Merri Creek Labyrinth (Auspice: Friends of Merri Creek Incorporated)	Merri Creek Labyrinth Environs: Stage 5 - Ecological Restoration of Merri Creek Riparian Habitat	Climate Action and Environment	\$4,900.00
GR8M8S Foundation (Auspice:)	Yarra Challenge Cups	Community Strengthening	\$4,000.00
GR8M8S Foundation (Auspice:)	Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps (TASC)	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
GR8M8S Foundation (Auspice:)	Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball, Leadership & Development Program	Youth & Middle Years	\$5,000.00
Greek Elderly Club North Fitzroy and North Carlton (Auspice:)	Weekly activities for the Greek community	Community Support	\$4,000.00
Ilbijerri Theatre Company (Auspice:)	ILBIJERRI Youth ENSEMBLE - Creating career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth	Major Projects	\$22,500.00
Kids Space in Yarra (Auspice: Fitzroy Learning Network)	Holidays program	Community Strengthening	\$3,000.00
Kids Space in Yarra (homework club (Auspice: Fitzroy Learning Network)	Homework Club	Family & Early Years	\$10,000.00
Launch Housing Limited (Auspice:)	Yarra Zero Establishing and Sustaining Tenancies Pilot Project	Community Housing	\$40,000.00
Life Saving Victoria (Auspice:)	Inclusive Communities: An Aquatic Inclusion Project for CALD, Seniors, and People with Disabilities	Community Support	\$9,995.00
Melbourne Comhaltas (Auspice:)	Comhaltas St Patrick's Celebrations	Community Celebrations	\$1,000.00
Melbourne Irish Festival Committee (Auspice:)	St Patrick's Family Fun Day	Community Celebrations	\$2,000.00
Melbourne Swimming Club (Auspice:)	Child Safety Education	Sports & Recreation	\$1,000.00
North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	Early Childhood Developmental Screening and Education	Family & Early Years	\$9,468.00
North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	NRCH OT School Holiday Group	Youth & Middle Years	\$6,500.00
North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	Innovating Traditional Models of Clinical Care – Group Medicine Initial Pilot	Community Support	\$9,900.00

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North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	The Economic Empowerment of Cultural Catering Community Cooks	Social Enterprise	\$15,000.00
North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	Tai Chi and Qi Gong Exercise Group	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
North Richmond Community Health (Auspice:)	Chair Based Exercise Group	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
Northcote United Cricket Club (Auspice:)	Women's & Girls' Cricket Initiatives	Sports & Recreation	\$3,877.00
Northcote United Cricket Club (Auspice:)	Junior Cricket Equipment	Sports & Recreation	\$840.00
ORO World Taekwendo (Auspice: North Richmond Community Health)	Taekwendo on the estate	Youth & Middle Years	\$7,350.00
Oromo Community Women's Group in the City of Yarra Inc (Auspice:)	Social and cultural activities for Oromo women and their families in the City of Yarra	Community Support	\$4,000.00
Oromo Community Women's Group in the City of Yarra Inc (Auspice:)	Celebration of Muslim festival, Eid Al Adha, Festival of Sacrifice	Community Celebrations	\$3,000.00
Positive Attitude Inc (Auspice:)	Supporting and nourishing our community	Community Support	\$8,500.00
Reading Out of Poverty Inc (ROOP) (Auspice:)	Pop-Up Libraries	Family & Early Years	\$6,000.00
Richmond Churches Food Centre (Auspice:)	Defibrillator purchase	Community Support	\$1,699.00
Richmond Harriers Inc (Auspice:)	Obtain portable defibrillator for our club events	Sports & Recreation	\$1,000.00
Richmond Skippers Netball Club (Auspice: Yarra Netball Association)	RICHMOND SKIPPERS NETBALL CLUB	Sports & Recreation	\$1,000.00
Sacred Heart Primary School (Auspice:)	UBUNTU - I am, because you are!	Family & Early Years	\$7,000.00
SalamFest Incorporated (Auspice:)	SalamFest Islamic Art Workshops	Community Support	\$5,000.00
Scout Victoria Richmond Branch (Auspice: Scouts Victoria)	Cultural Walks with Wurundjeri Educators for the children of Richmond	Community Strengthening	\$4,355.00
Sunrise women group (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	Sunrise Women Group	Community Strengthening	\$6,000.00
The Kitchen Project (Auspice: Fitzroy Learning Network)	2025 Meet and Eat Kitchen Project	Community Support	\$4,000.00
The Red Tag Fly Fishers' Club (Auspice:)	Catch a Rainbow - Get Hooked on Fly-fishing with Red Tag Fly-fishers	Sports & Recreation	\$5,000.00
The Rotary Club of Richmond Inc (Auspice:)	RC Richmond Next Step Program	Youth & Middle Years	\$10,000.00
THE SALVATION ARMY (VICTORIA) PROPERTY TRUST (Auspice:)	The Anchorage Outreach	Community Housing	\$7,000.00
The Up Community (Auspice:)	The Up Community	Climate Action and Environment	\$5,000.00

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The Venny Inc (Auspice:)	Cubbies Productive Food Garden Phase 2	Climate Action and Environment	\$2,000.00
The Venny Inc (Auspice:)	Project Name Cubbies 50th birthday celebration	Community Celebrations	\$3,000.00
Thorne Harbour Health Ltd (Auspice:)	LGBTQ+ Multicultural & Faith Events Program 2025	Major Projects	\$20,000.00
Timorese Breakfast Club (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	East Timorese Breakfast Group	Community Celebrations	\$4,000.00
Traffic Design Studios T/As Local Utopia (Auspice:)	FLICK THE FLYING FOX - A little bat's journey home	Climate Action and Environment	\$5,000.00
Twilight Market events group (Auspice: Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House)	Richmond Twilight Markets	Community Celebrations	\$8,500.00
Miss Lizzy Eden (Auspice:)	Home Sweet Home	Community Housing	\$7,000.00
University of the Third Age Yarra City Inc (U3A Yarra City) (Auspice:)	U3A Mixed Park Soccer	Sports & Recreation	\$1,000.00
Vacro (Auspice:)	Second Chance Cycles	Major Projects	\$25,000.00
VicSES Heidelberg Unit (Auspice:)	Storm Preparedness Project	Climate Action and Environment	\$4,989.00
Victorian Skateboard Association (VSA) (Auspice:)	Promoting Yarra Skateable Spaces	Community Support	\$6,000.00
Vietnamese-Australian Social Support Group (Auspice: COHEALTH)	Yarra social support for Vietnamese community	Community Strengthening	\$3,800.00
Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective (Auspice:)	Zero Waste Food Relief-WUC comes to the City of Yarra!	Social Enterprise	\$14,680.00
Yarra Chinese Friendship Association (Auspice:)	Yarra Chinese Friendship Association weekly meet ups	Community Support	\$4,000.00
YOUNG ASSETS FOUNDATION LTD (Auspice:)	Fitzroy Youth Homework Club	Major Projects	\$20,000.00
Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Inc (Auspice:)	Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra - Breast Care Cushions and Bags	Community Support	\$3,000.00

Summary of recommended recipients of the 2025 Annual Grants

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Stream: Arts and Culture

ACG25-001: **Agency**

UNTOLD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Talk Series

Project Description: A dedicated First Nations talk series in the City of Yarra featuring inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from diverse creative fields. Tailored for audiences interested in the process of ideas that shape our surroundings and experiences, UNTOLD brings people together to talk and listen and to share their intangible capital: knowledge, experience, histories, culture and ideas.

Total Project Cost: \$23,068

Amount Requested: \$16,900 **Minimum Required:** \$12,900

Recommendation: \$16,900

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

ACG25-002: **Mr Timothy Loveday**

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$21,676.97

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,000

Recommendation: \$9,000

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

ACG25-011: **Ms Pamela Bain**

Astral Botanical: a multi-sensory voyage into nature

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

Total Project Cost: \$18,500

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$7,000

Recommendation: \$7,000

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

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

ButohBAR 番狂わせ OUT of ORDER II

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

Total Project Cost: \$69,960

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

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

CODED: A NIGHT OF QUEER STORYTELLING

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

Total Project Cost: \$16,050

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

ACG25-035: **Mx Jessi Ryan**

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$16,975

Amount Requested: \$6,875 **Minimum Required:** \$6,875

Recommendation: \$6,875

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

ACG25-039: **un Projects**

un Projects: un Talks

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

Total Project Cost: \$18,047.80

Amount Requested: \$18,000 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$18,000

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

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

LuliePalooza 2025

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

Total Project Cost: \$15,765

Amount Requested: \$25,000 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

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

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

SiDAS 2025

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

Total Project Cost: \$82,285

Amount Requested: \$19,800 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$19,800

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

ACG25-045: Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces Inc

Gertrude Glasshouse Program 2025: 10 Years of Glasshouse

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

Total Project Cost: \$18,2995

Amount Requested: \$12,000 **Minimum Required:** \$12,000

Recommendation: \$12,000

Panel Comments: This proposal outlines an ambitious project with impact that supports both community and artists. As a celebration of an anniversary and recognition of the significance of this

organisation, this project has the capacity to draw greater audiences than in previous years, benefiting artists, organisations, and community. The proposal aligns well with Council's key priorities of artists, which are essential to a thriving Yarra.

ACG25-047: **Bakehouse Studios**

The Bakehouse Art Project Reboot

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

Total Project Cost: \$100,289

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$14,500

Recommendation: \$20,000

Panel Comments: The panel thought this a detailed application that meets Yarra's priorities of artists as essential to a thriving Yarra by supporting many creatives. This project connects a new generation of artists to a significant part of Yarra's cultural history and offers opportunities for reinterpretation and responsiveness from studio users. Bakehouse's position as a valued and respected part of the Yarra music scene will ensure great interest in the project. The applicant demonstrates a commitment to accessibility and ecological practice. Multiple funding sources have been secured.

ACG25-048: **Dancehouse**

Dancehousing 2025

Project Description: Dancehousing invites eight self-organising dance communities including: street dancers, voguers, krumpers, and contact improvisers to practice, share, and build community every Monday night at Dancehouse. Each group is allocated studio time and self-determines how they want to use the space through 'Housekeeping' meetings. Communities also curate and hold annual events that highlight their practices and work with the public.

Total Project Cost: \$62,048

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

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

Moonlite

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

Total Project Cost: \$34,411

Amount Requested: \$17,041 **Minimum Required:** \$14,341

Recommendation: \$17,041

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

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

Urban Campfire 2025

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

Total Project Cost: \$46,920

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$19,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

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

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

Project Description: Yarra Sculpture Gallery (YSG), in partnership with Arts Access Victoria (AAV), will offer 6 Artists participating in AAV's mentorship program a two-month residency opportunity. Along with traditional 3D media practice, artists seeking to extend their practice to explore audio-visual, digital projection and new technologies will be encouraged to participate. Residencies will culminate in an exciting YSG exhibition.

Total Project Cost: \$27,784

Amount Requested: \$15,922 **Minimum Required:** \$12,000

Recommendation: \$15,922

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

ACG25-068: **Mr Pol McMahon**

Little Book of Fitzroy

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

Total Project Cost: \$7,500

Amount Requested: \$7,500 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$7,500

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

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

NEW WORKS: FIRST NATIONS PRESENTATIONS

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

Total Project Cost: \$63,600

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$17,000

Recommendation: \$17,000

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

ACG25-078: Rawcus Theatre Company Inc

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

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

Total Project Cost: \$30,378

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$19,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

ACG25-081: Ms Dina Bassile

Groove Tunes 2025: The Future of Music is Accessible

Project Description: The 2025 Groove Tunes music festival, run by Tibi Access in partnership with the iconic Corner Hotel, aims to educate and inform on accessibility best practices in the music industry. This event is scheduled for Saturday, 29 March 2025, showcasing how simple decisions can transform venues into accessible spaces, celebrating the City of Yarra as a Victorian leader in inclusive music initiatives.

Total Project Cost: \$68,752.93

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$7,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

ACG25-082: Dr Jo Scicluna

Where The River Take Us

Project Description: 'Where The River Takes Us' proposes a co-authored limited-edition photo-sculptural publication and affiliated cultural forum, involving project participants at a Yarra library.

Building upon established collaborative working relationships with Wurundjeri Elders, collaged explorations will interpret specific sites along Birrarung that have altered the river course. Text derived from on-Country conversations conducted with Elders will be visually interwoven throughout the publication.

Total Project Cost: \$33,955

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,500

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

ACG25-085: **Seventh Gallery**

Seventh's 2025 Exhibition Program

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

Total Project Cost: \$80,508

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

ACG25-087: **Centre For Projection Art Inc**

Centre for Projection Art Residency

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

Total Project Cost: \$105,040

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$15,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

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

ACG25-088: **Mr Will Huxley**

Bad Sports

Project Description: A visual art exhibition looking at the way a sports-dominated country impacts on queer people at odds with the athletic mania that grips the nation. Anyone who's ever felt

excluded from sport because of gender, sexuality, culture or disability— will get to live out epic sports fantasies, as part of a series of unique photographs staged by The Huxleys.

Total Project Cost: \$18,600

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

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

Candy Suite : First Nations Women in Music production mentoring program

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

This project will support our First Nations women's stories and songs and provide professional and capacity-building skills for the future of our music. An all-First Nations Naarm team will lead it.

Total Project Cost: \$36,570.40

Amount Requested: \$17,000 **Minimum Required:** \$12,000

Recommendation: \$17,000

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

ACG25-094: **Ms Karlia Cook**

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$16,460

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$6,000

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

ACG25-099: **Ms Christine McFetridge**

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

Project Description: This project will result in the production of two online issues of Co- Unfolded: 'Anti-manifesto for Hospitality' by Haneen Martin & 'Failure' by Samara Hersch; and the facilitation of a "working group for artist-parents"—a public program to offer creative space for Yarra artists who are parents, hosted at Seventh Gallery. **Total Project Cost:** \$8897

Amount Requested: \$3797

Recommendation: \$3,797

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

ACG25-104: **Mx Teneille Clerke**

House of Fast Fashun

Project Description: Fast Fashun presents House of Fast Fashun, an interactive and durational installation and performance that engages the community in climate action in a fun and accessible way. Participants are invited to make haute couture looks out of clothing waste. They are then encouraged to present their work in a runway show every hour on the hour.

Total Project Cost: \$27,025

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

ACG25-106: **OFFICE AU limited**

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$83,840

Amount Requested: \$15,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

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

ACG25-107: **The Boite Vic Inc**

Portfolio

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

Total Project Cost: \$45,600

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

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

Healing Ceremony - A Tribute to Black Deaths in Custody

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

Total Project Cost: \$60,252

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$20,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

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

Conduit Workshop Series by Youth Dance Makers Initiative

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

Total Project Cost: \$11,350

Amount Requested: \$7,600 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$7,600

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

ACG25-114: **Women's Art Register**

Women's Art Register 50th Anniversary Exhibition Programme

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

Total Project Cost: \$74,833

Amount Requested: \$19,620 **Minimum Required:** \$16,820

Recommendation: \$19,620

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

ACG25-118: **Midsumma Festival Inc**

Pride KINnection

Project Description: The Pride KINnection project will explore pride, kinship, and connection through multi-artform presentations at Victoria's Pride in February 2025. It will feature diverse artistic expressions including dance, drag, theatre, and visual art. A key element will be a collaborative

performance with emerging LGBTQIA+SB Yolŋu artists and local artists. The project promotes unity, visibility, and cultural representation through various established platforms.

Total Project Cost: \$52,259

Amount Requested: \$20,000 **Minimum Required:** \$18,525

Recommendation: \$18,525

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

ACG25-130: **West Space**

West Space—Community Engagement Programs 2025

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

Total Project Cost: \$141,470

Amount Requested: \$19,700 **Minimum Required:** \$17,000

Recommendation: \$19,700

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

Stream: Climate Action and Environment

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

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

Project Description: We want to: "Garden for Climate Action" and propose planting Indigenous pollinating plants to increase the diversity of pollinator insects, butterflies and birds in the Garden. CG&S has developed this proposal with the support of local Aboriginal organisations, MAYSAR, Blak Pearl and a tele-consult with Elders from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop a culturally respectful project.

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

Total Project Cost: \$16,967

Amount Requested: \$4,995 **Minimum Required:** \$4,995

Recommendation: \$4,995

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

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

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

Project Description: Our 2025 grant proposal represents the fifth phase of an extensive, multi-year project to rejuvenate the Labyrinth's surroundings as an exemplary climate action initiative. This undertaking is pivotal in our ongoing collaboration to improve the Merri Creek Labyrinth and its surrounding landscape.

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,208

Amount Requested: \$4,900 **Minimum Required:** \$4,100

Recommendation: \$4,900

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

AG25-050: The Up Community

The Up Community

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$35,550

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$4000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

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

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

Project Description: The activities I am planning to undertake are as follows:

1. Complete my illustrated children's book about the rescue of a flying fox pup and her return to the Yarra Bend colony.
2. Adapt my artwork and book contents to an online and offline marketing campaign promoting the

plight of our Flying Foxes.

3. An initial small print run or 'prototype' of the book for local storytime/educational sessions to garner feedback that can be used to refine it before incurring the significant printing costs associated with a wider release.

4. Develop basic educational support materials for the book for story time, science activities and guided art classes at public libraries, primary schools and kindergartens.

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

Total Project Cost: \$15,758

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3500

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-114: The Venny Inc

Cubbies Productive Food Garden Phase 2

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

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

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

Establishing a thriving and productive garden impacts the lives of disadvantaged children and young people (and their families) as they benefit season after season with access to free healthy, and nutritious food.

Being able to produce our own food is environmentally and economically sustainable.

Total Project Cost: \$9,910

Amount Requested: \$2,000 **Minimum Required:** \$1500

Recommendation: \$2,000

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

AG25-136: Electrify Yarra Inc

Electrify Yarra Energy Neighbours Project

Project Description: Electrify Yarra is the primary volunteer community group in the City of Yarra, and it has a clear message of energy electrification to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas

emissions. We have collaborated with the City of Yarra and Yarra Energy Foundation on information events. We seek financial support to run more events throughout the City of Yarra. These events will provide information on why and how to improve and electrify your home. We will explain what we do and how we would like to involve people in their own neighbourhood in the City of Yarra.

Total Project Cost: \$175,100

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$4000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-147: VicSES Heidelberg Unit

Storm Preparedness Project

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$11,507

Amount Requested: \$4,989 **Minimum Required:** \$2,614

Recommendation: \$4,989

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

Stream: Community Celebrations

AG25-016: Fitzroy Primary School

Fantastic Fete

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

parent volunteers, we hope this event will promote community connectedness and social cohesion in the heart of Fitzroy.

Total Project Cost: \$26,100

Amount Requested: \$3,000 **Minimum Required:** \$1000

Recommendation: \$2,000

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

AG25-023: Melbourne Comhaltas

Comhaltas St Patrick's Celebrations

Project Description: The aim of the project is to celebrate St Patrick's Day, a day of special cultural significance for the Irish community. This is an Irish festival but is now known and celebrated all over the world, enjoyed by many cultures. St Patrick's Day is always on 17th March. In 2025 this will be on a Monday. We will hire St Philip's Hall on Hoddle Street.

Our night will consist of Irish cultural activities, such as music, dancing, storytelling and poetry. We will have activities and games for the children, prizes for the children dressed in green and prizes for children who wish to show their talents in music or dance. We will have a nice supper and tea and coffee will be available all night. It will be a real family night, where grandparents will be partying with their grandkids. It is a night when young and old come together to celebrate their culture and preserve the traditions.

Total Project Cost: \$5,732

Amount Requested: \$1,500 **Minimum Required:** \$500

Recommendation: \$1,000

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

AG25-034: Melbourne Irish Festival Committee

St Patrick's Family Fun Day

Project Description: The open-air festival in Edinburgh Gardens, Fitzroy, welcomes approximately 8,000 attendees annually. This festival has been running in Melbourne for over 100 years, in different forms but usually on a Sunday afternoon just before or after St Patrick's Day. To date it is the only free family focused, outdoor festival in Melbourne celebrating Irish heritage and culture. Entry is free, and families come from all over to picnic on the grass and enjoy catching up with friends, sharing Irish culture, music, dance, and sporting events with the children. Food vendors are present, but no alcohol is sold. It is a real family day, enjoyed by young and old. Our Festival always attracts large numbers of people from all cultures. Everyone is happy to be Irish for St Patrick's Day.

Our festival includes:

- Five hours of musical acts and dance displays, all by local Melbourne performers, usually five musical acts and three Irish dance schools.
- Sporting activities, including Gaelic football and races, are held behind the stage for children and parents.
- A range of food truck vendors selling traditional Irish fare and other local cuisine offerings.
- A large children's marquee providing entertainment which includes a magician, storyteller, Bubble Artist, face painting, arts and crafts activities including weaving, building and painting projects.

Total Project Cost: \$47,020

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$2,000

Recommendation: \$2,000

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$4680

Amount Requested: \$3,000 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

AG25-117: COHEALTH

Eid and community celebration 2025

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$5,304

Amount Requested: \$3,000 **Minimum Required:** \$2,900

Recommendation: \$2,900

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

AG25-125: The Venny Inc

Project Name Cubbies 50th birthday celebration

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

The event will take place on a weekend afternoon when we will open our gates to the whole community. Speakers, entertainment, music, food, and, of course, lots of opportunities for play will be featured. The event will be culturally diverse and representative of the local community.

The event will be a celebration of all the amazing things that adventure playgrounds provide; social connections, physical activity, resilience building, developing life skills, cross cultural connection, fun, friendships, belonging, food, connecting with nature, emotional wellbeing, skill development and of course risk-taking play.

Total Project Cost: \$7,710

Amount Requested: \$3,000 **Minimum Required:** \$2,500

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

AG25-128: Fitzroy North Primary School

Fitzroy North Primary School 2025 Fete

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$53,528

Amount Requested: \$3000 **Minimum Required:** \$2000

Recommendation: \$2,000

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

Stream: Community Housing

AG25-093: UNISON

Home Sweet Home

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$10,000

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$7,000

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

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

The Anchorage Outreach

Project Description: The Anchorage Outreach project has been operating for 2 years providing a weekly forum for residents of The Anchorage Housing complex to gather for food and conversation. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual support, this outreach has provided good referral pathways for residents into local primary health care services (mainly North Richmond Community Health), external social groups (within the City of Yarra), financial assistance (Salvation Army), case management, and support for addiction issues including gambling harm.

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,000

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$7,000

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

AG25-211: Launch Housing Limited

Yarra Zero Establishing and Sustaining Tenancies Pilot Project

Project Description: This pilot project employs a worker to oversee the transition of people on the Yarra By-Name List (BNL) into social housing. It acts as a bridge into downstream supports, necessary because of waiting lists into programs like MS2H and Tenancy Plus and mindful of their limitations. For example, Tenancy Plus usually only meets the person once housing is allocated. The role does pre-housing preparation work with people still homeless, systematizing the process of housing preparation and planning. The worker oversees the transition into housing when an offer is made. In most cases, the worker does this work, but they also act as a support to any existing workers who have the relationship with the person on the BNL; for example, Assertive Outreach, St Mary's House of Welcome, North Richmond Community Health, Ngwala Willumbong and so on. Importantly, the worker remains involved until the right medium and long-term support can be put in place for the person, which may be several months. This is a critical time in any new tenancy when people who are sleeping rough may continue to sleep out for some of the time and when the pull of their street community can be greatest. The pilot has been operating since June 2024 and without additional funding will conclude in October 2024. It has already led to better transition management, sustained tenancies, and we hope that in time, greater confidence among Housing Allocations and Assessment Team members in DFFH to allocate to people on the BNL.

Total Project Cost: \$180,381

Amount Requested: \$50,000 **Minimum Required:** \$40,000

Recommendation: \$40,000

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

Stream: Community Strengthening

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

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

Project Description: We plan to run a range of social events and celebrations where Eritrean women and their children can form networks and friendships, relax and enjoy each other's company, share food, spend time in the outdoors and celebrate the two important Muslim festivals of Eid Al Fitri and Eid Al Adha. Social activities will include regular informal get-togethers at Atherton Gardens, BBQs or picnics in local parks, and possibly trips to other parts of Melbourne. We will also explore opportunities for skills development, such as learning Auslan to communicate with deaf children in the community, typing, and sewing.

Total Project Cost: \$14,920

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3000

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

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

Bent Twig Alliance Membership Initiative

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$22,900

Amount Requested: \$3,100 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$3,100

Panel Comments: This is important intersectional work for the ageing LGBTQIA+ community in Yarra. The Bent Twig Alliance have been coming together in the City of Yarra for some time now and

is one of the only groups of its kind in Victoria. Their regular meetings provide an opportunity for often isolated ageing queer people to come together.

AG25-096: **GR8M8S Foundation**

Yarra Challenge Cups

Project Description: We have already rolled out the plan to rotate the 'Challenge Cup', which is an eight-a-side soccer program, whereby approximately 200 children and youths (5-18yrs) from Fitzroy, Richmond and Collingwood public high rises train and compete 4 times per year in a friendly tournament. This has proved a great success with each of the Estates getting the opportunity to host the Cups on their home turf. This gives the Children and their families the chance to have easier access when the Cup is held local to them.

The YCC offers children the opportunity to participate in teams made up of various demographics from their local community. The Cups are assisted by other services in Yarra and feature a Showcase Exhibition Game at each cup. This game is made up of local service providers, volunteers and local young people. Their chosen sport will bring them together to enjoy the opportunities to play and establish new social connections, benefiting their physical and mental health.

We have been very fortunate to have been funded by the grant last year to conduct the 2024 Cups. For 2025, although we are doing our very best to raise the required funding through other fundraising means, we are once again seeking the help of Council as all help will be beneficial for us to achieve our aims for the program.

Total Project Cost: \$25,502

Amount Requested: \$4,600 **Minimum Required:** \$3,800

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

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

Yarra social support for Vietnamese community

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

1. We emphasise the importance of building resilience, social integration, and fostering a sense of connection and support within our community to combat feelings of isolation and reduce stigma.
2. We regularly host sessions with guest speakers who contribute to language and cultural exchange, present and discuss a wide range of social and health-related topics.
3. Our group encourages open discussions on food, cooking, health, wellbeing, and family issues. Members provide mutual support, share ideas and thoughts, and offer feedback and insights to one another.
4. Cultural Activities and Celebrations: We take immense pride in showcasing our rich cultural heritage through singing and cultural performances, promoting harmony and celebrating our traditions with a trained volunteer.
5. We observe important cultural dates such as the Lunar New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival, and Vu Lan Le to honour wandering souls.

Total Project Cost: \$12,800

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,800

Recommendation: \$3,800

Panel Comments: A great project for cultural preservation, enhanced social connection, skill development and collective resilience. This project looks to deliver various engagement and

activities for the Vietnamese community in Collingwood for people living on the public housing estate.

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

Arts Projects 3065

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

Ceramic tile wall:

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

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

Stitching our story:

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

Bridges to Harmony Park Makeover:

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,916

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$2500

Recommendation: \$2,500

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

AG25-160: Friends of Baucau Incorporated

Strengthening community connections between Yarra and Baucau

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$27,620

Amount Requested: \$3000 **Minimum Required:** \$2500

Recommendation: \$2,500

Panel Comments: A valuable project that strengthens ties amongst the Timorese community, honouring 50 years of settlement in Yarra and fostering intergenerational connections.

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

Holidays program

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

Total Project Cost: \$9,520

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,800

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

Stream: Community Support

AG25-003: Footscape Inc.

Foot Care Kits

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$11,840

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$2,500

Recommendation: \$8,000

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

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

Free Massage Project

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

Since April 2022 we have developed partnerships with a number of programs to provide free haircuts and massage to those in need. We want to extend our services and increase the number of free massages we can provide. We see a strong need for this service for those disadvantaged in our community. We have a strong track record and excellent relationships with charities who work on the frontline in Yarra helping those in public housing and those experiencing disadvantage. We also work with organisations that run Yarra's free community events.

We provide services to those experiencing homelessness, ill-health and mental illness, social isolation, drug addiction and the elderly amongst others - especially those living in public housing. So far, we have provided 380 free massages in Yarra over the last year (up from 234 last year). With this funding we would be able to continue to grow the number of free massages in Yarra in 2025 through established organisations and events.

Total Project Cost: \$14,436

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$5,000

Panel Comments: This well-established project provides free massages to those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community, particularly those living in public housing and unable to afford

self-care. They have developed community connections so will be able to find participants easily. Detailed budget with many letters of support.

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

My Sensory Space

Project Description: My Sensory Space creates sensory spaces at events and conferences. These are spaces for people who thrive in a different kind of sensory environment - away from bright lights, echoing voices and hundreds of people. Our spaces are carefully designed to respond to and support folks' 7 key sensory systems. Our aim is to improve the accessibility and inclusion of events in the community. My Sensory Space supports all members of our vibrant community and is specifically tailored to Neurodivergent people and those with sensory and psychosocial disabilities. We hope to use City of Yarra funding to facilitate My Sensory Space at the following events: SPACE concert, Collingwood Toy Library Sessions, Clifton Hill Primary School Annual Fete and the Abbotsford Convent Music Gig 2025.

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$14,587.50

Amount Requested: \$9,987.50 **Minimum Required:** \$1,938.75

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

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

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

Project Description: We propose to run the following activities:

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

Total Project Cost: \$19,700

Amount Requested: \$9620 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$4,000

Panel Comments: This is a great project that will empower women to take active roles in community events like Eid celebrations. It not only strengthens their involvement but also enriches the community as a whole.

AG25-048: Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra Inc

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

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

over the shoulder to cover the drainage bag post-surgery. Cushions are sewn and assembled by Zonta members and friends in their homes. We have been relying on donated fabric, donations from members and friends, and club fundraising activities for many years. The need for cushions has increased over the years from 50 in 2005 to 709 in 2023. This year, in 2024 we delivered 565 to 30 June. This grant would provide a viable financial platform for cushion and bag production to meet this growing need. Each breast care cushion and bag costs \$8 - \$10 to produce with volunteer labour of club members. The need will be approximately 1000 cushions in 2025. Cushions are mainly distributed in the City of Yarra to the following hospitals: Epworth Richmond and Epworth Freemasons.

Total Project Cost: \$43,200

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,000

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

AG25-053: Clemente Fitzroy (Auspiced by Australian Catholic University)

Clemente Fitzroy

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$98,334

Amount Requested: \$8,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

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

Yarra Gala Ball

Project Description: The Yarra Gala Ball aims to bring together residents from Collingwood and Richmond housing estates for an unforgettable evening of elegance and community spirit. This formal event will feature a diverse range of activities designed to cater to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Guests can enjoy a sumptuous selection of food, engaging

entertainment, and dance activities that promise to create lasting memories. The ball is not just a celebration of diversity but also a platform for fostering bonds and unity within the community

Total Project Cost: \$11,890

Amount Requested: \$7000 **Minimum Required:** \$5000

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

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

Collingwood

Project Description: The Collingwood Project has multiple aims:

1) To process the wool fleece of the sheep at the Collingwood Children's Farm into yarn that can be used for a number of initiatives and prevent the fleece from being discarded in the trash. We will use the wool to create knitted, crocheted and woven items to sell at our market stalls. We will also sell some skeins of wool to other knitters at our market stalls. We will donate some wool to SisterWorks who use the wool to support their knitting and crochet programs. If there is excess yarn, we will reach out and donate wool to other community groups who support women and children within the City of Yarra and the various neighbourhood houses throughout the City of Yarra that have yarncraft groups.

Total Project Cost: \$17,658.53

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,000

Recommendation: \$9,000

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

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

Community Free Haircuts

Project Description: We want to provide free haircuts to those experiencing disadvantage in the Yarra community, particularly those living in public housing. Since April 2022 we have developed partnerships with a number of programs to provide free haircuts and massage to those in need. We want to extend our services and increase the number of free haircuts we can provide. We see a strong need for this service for those disadvantaged in our community. We have a strong track record and excellent relationships with charities who work on the frontline in Yarra helping those in public housing and those experiencing disadvantage. We also work with organisations that run Yarra's free community events. We provide services to those experiencing homelessness, ill-health and mental illness, social isolation, drug addiction and the elderly amongst others - especially those living in public housing. So far, we have provided 380 free haircuts in Yarra over the last year (up from 234 last year). With this funding we would be able to continue to grow the number of free haircuts in Yarra in 2025 through established organisations and events.

Total Project Cost: \$14,268

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-080: SalamFest Incorporated

SalamFest Islamic Art Workshops

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$14,400

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-083: COHEALTH

Supporting Community Resilience

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$25,080

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,500

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

AG25-085: Circolo Pensionati Italiani Di North Fitzroy

The Ginnastica per Pensionati Exercise Program for Italian Seniors

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

important because the pensioner members can have a traditional home cooked meal and socialise, which is particularly important for the widows and widowers who live alone.

Total Project Cost: \$64,432

Amount Requested: \$6,000 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

AG25-087: Yarra Chinese Friendship Association

Yarra Chinese Friendship Association weekly meet ups

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

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

Being able to connect with other community members relieves loneliness and encourages positive mental and physical health. We also wish to help members improve their English in terms of listening, speaking, reading and writing to be able to communicate in daily conversation and build vocabulary. The Grant will cover the venue hire cost.

Total Project Cost: \$10,668

Amount Requested: \$4,300 **Minimum Required:** \$4000

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$5,900

Amount Requested: \$5,650 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$3,000

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

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

Sunrise Women Group

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

Total Project Cost: \$20,376

Amount Requested: \$15,000 **Minimum Required:** \$13,000

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

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

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

Project Description: The Community Grocer (TCG) runs a weekly affordable, culturally relevant fruit and vegetable market every Tuesday at the Atherton Gardens public housing estate and are planning to introduce a new market in Yarra at the Richmond public housing estate in early 2025. Each week, we serve nearly 100 customers in Fitzroy, with $\frac{1}{3}$ of our customers coming from multicultural backgrounds and living on the estate. We expect to serve similar numbers in Richmond given the size of the estate.

With the increasing cost of living putting pressures on households living on a low-income, we are hearing about the challenges in purchasing enough food to ensure food security for both individuals and families. Sometimes this means people go without, or they come to rely on local emergency food relief programs. Often these programs are not able to provide high quality, fresh and culturally relevant produce for the multicultural community living on the estate.

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

Total Project Cost: \$87,900

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$7,500

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

AG25-100: CULTIVATING COMMUNITY INC.

CALD including Deaf and Hard of Hearing Work Ready Resource Library

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

organizations to work alongside our interpreters and participants from community to develop these and use them to improve our diversity and inclusion as well as share with those that need them.

Total Project Cost: \$19,000

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$8,000

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

AG25-131: Positive Attitude Inc

Supporting and nourishing our community

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$28,055

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$7,000

Recommendation: \$8,500

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

AG25-133: North Richmond Community Health

Innovating Traditional Models of Clinical Care – Group Medicine Initial Pilot

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$18,290

Amount Requested: \$9,990 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$9,900

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

AG25-134: Life Saving Victoria

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$34,727

Amount Requested: \$9,995 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$9,995

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

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

Richmond Twilight Markets

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

During 2025, 10 Twilight Markets will be held, with themed cultural events for the community celebrations. This may include for example Lunar New Year, Eid, NAIDOC and Refugee Week. Each market will be curated by a team of local residents and aim to celebrate the different cultures across City of Yarra, such as Vietnamese, Timorese, South Sudanese, Chinese and Somali. The events will invite other local organisations and services to attend, including Yarra City Council, Yarra Libraries, North Richmond Community Health and Mind Australia. Music, arts and food will be the central theme of the events.

Total Project Cost: \$35,160

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,500

Recommendation: \$8,500

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

AG25-142: Victorian Skateboard Association (VSA)

Promoting Yarra Skateable Spaces

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

such the Fitzroy Cubbies, Richmond Hub, Collingwood English Language School, Fitzroy High School and Abbotsford Primary School.

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

Total Project Cost: \$23,172

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$4,000

Recommendation: \$6,000

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

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

HighRise Paradise by EcoPawsitive

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

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

Why: Community request based on resident survey conducted in North Richmond (current project currently has ongoing funding by North Richmond Precinct Grant) where it was explicitly expressed that due to lack of community garden plots for residents living in high rise towers without a balcony, the ones who are keen gardeners felt left out and unable to nurture their passion. **What:** A series of gardening workshops for apartment living residents, requiring minimal space - miniature planters and kokedema.

Total Project Cost: \$17,200

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9500

Recommendation: \$9,500

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

AG25-149: Alex Makes Meals

City of Yarra Fresh Meal Food Relief Project

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

The grant will be used to procure fresh produce that will enable the production of 4,672 meals by our dedicated kitchen volunteer teams that will be directly distributed to vulnerable people experiencing disadvantage through our network of local community partners in the City of Yarra.

Our partner organisations then go on to provide additional targeted support services that meet the individual needs and circumstances of people needing assistance.

Total Project Cost: \$156,960

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

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

East Timorese Breakfast Group

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

Our breakfast group has formed a strong connection among us. Each week, we not only share a meal but also sing and practice songs together. Music, a significant part of our cultural heritage, fills our gatherings and creates a vibrant atmosphere that brings us all together, rather than being at home on our own.

Additionally, our group has extended its presence into the broader community by performing at local events. These performances have allowed us to showcase our culture and talents, bringing pride and visibility to our community. For example, we have performed at Twilight Markets and the Boogie Man Bar on Hoddle St.

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

Total Project Cost: \$21,240

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,000

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

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

Venue Hire Fee Coverage for 2025

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

Total Project Cost: \$2,184

Amount Requested: \$2,184 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$2,184

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

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

Weekly activities for the Greek community

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,316

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

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

Cultural Walks with Wurundjeri Educators for the children of Richmond

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$10,007

Amount Requested: \$5,975 **Minimum Required:** \$4355

Recommendation: \$4,355

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

AG25-188: COHEALTH

Social participation via cafe meals for people transitioning to NDIS.

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

- waiting for NDIS plan approval/plan review, to include meal services/meal support

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

Total Project Cost: \$90,000

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,000

Recommendation: \$8,000

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

AG25-194: Collingwood College

Collingwood Doll's House Community Hub

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

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

To realise this vision, we need to do minor repair work to the Doll's House to bring it back to its former glory. We have engaged skilled carpenters to come and assess the structure which they say is a two-week job for two people.

Total Project Cost: \$43,839.80

Amount Requested: \$10,560 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$8,000

Panel Comments: The Doll's House is a well-known historical building in Collingwood. Bringing the building back to life with a community focus will be a great outcome.

AG25-203: Richmond Churches Food Centre

Defibrillator purchase

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

Total Project Cost: \$1951

Amount Requested: \$1699 **Minimum Required:** \$1200

Recommendation: \$1,699

Panel Comments: This is a clear and concise grant application for a defibrillator located at a busy food bank which needs access to a defibrillator. The church has funded First Aid courses, so people have already been trained to use one.

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

2025 Meet and Eat Kitchen Project

Project Description: In 2025, we want to:-

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

The Community Lunches will be prepared and held at the 125 Napier Street Community Kitchen or 198 Napier Street. They will be co-hosted by the Kitchen Project and English Language Classes and a group of social housing residents. The Community Dinners are a collaboration with Fitzroy Learning Network hosted at 198 Napier Street. One dinner will be held on the Atherton Gardens Housing Estate. The dinners are a feature of the annual calendar and bring people from Atherton Gardens as well as the Collingwood Estate. These events invest in social capital and community wellbeing. They provide a platform for cultural exchange, sharing culture through food and building social cohesion. The timing of events is programmed to play a role in community celebrations such as Eid, to celebrate our culturally and linguistically diverse community and are vital to building community cohesion. This project funding will support the employment of community members who are passionate about sharing food and culture.

Total Project Cost: \$16,124

Amount Requested: \$4,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,200

Recommendation: \$4,000

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

Stream: Family and Early Years

AG25-065: North Richmond Community Health

Early Childhood Developmental Screening and Education

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

The screenings involved:

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

Total Project Cost: \$10,512

Amount Requested: \$9,468 **Minimum Required:** \$6,000

Recommendation: \$9,468

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

AG25-071: Collingwood Toy Library Inc

Community Fun Days for Abbotsford and Fitzroy Toy Libraries

Project Description: Our organisation has experience hosting highly successful free community activities for Yarra families, including messy play days, our 30th Birthday Party in 2022 attended by over 300 community members and our Community Fun Day in 2024 attended by over 480 people. In 2025, we wish to leverage our profile and connection with the community to host three free family-friendly events, one at Abbotsford and two at our Fitzroy branch.

Community Fun Day - Abbotsford: Adopting a similar format to our highly successful 2024 event, we will utilise the Bob Rose carpark at Victoria Park for a free community celebration of play. To engage families, we will have interactive performers, engaging facilitated activities and dedicated quiet and baby/toddler play spaces. The primary aims of this event are to strengthen our connection with and between our local community members, promote the benefits of play, and showcase our role in the community as being broader than just toy borrowing.

Community Fun Day - Fitzroy Stay and Play: We will host two events that reflect the relatively recent establishment of our Fitzroy library and are tailored to the needs of families in Atherton Gardens.

Total Project Cost: \$16,268

Amount Requested: \$7850 **Minimum Required:** \$6,500

Recommendation: \$6,500

Panel Comments: This application has a clearly articulated project plan, needs and anticipated outcomes. Collingwood Toy Library has proven experience to deliver on projects such as this. The activities proposed at the recently established Fitzroy branch will benefit vulnerable/CALD/economically disadvantaged children and families and provide promotional opportunities.

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

Pop-Up Libraries

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

The project will set up 4 mobile Pop-Up Libraries in the housing estates to increase access and availability to books for children. We seek to engage the children in reading and early literacy activities.

ROOP will collaborate with each of the housing estate management to ensure the Pop-Up Libraries are well-utilised by the local residents.

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

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

Our research highlights nearly 67% of children in the Housing Estates of Richmond, Carlton and Collingwood have never visited a public library and 54% don't own a single book! We seek to bring books closer to them and introduce a love of reading in their early years.

Total Project Cost: \$23,750

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8,500

Recommendation: \$6,000

Panel Comments: This is clearly articulated and evidenced based. Well established organisation with proven program delivery, great to see this expanding into Yarra and already consulting with local housing teams.

AG25-167: Dadfit Community Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,450

Amount Requested: \$9,930 **Minimum Required:** \$6620

Recommendation: \$6,620

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

AG25-199: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club

FLSC - Soccer Skills are Life Skills

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$148,206.58

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$10,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

Panel Comments: This is a good initiative to include children from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The grant application meets funding priorities and builds on existing well-regarded program with high buy-in from community, supporting young people from a vulnerable cohort.

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

Homework Club

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

Total Project Cost: \$70,392

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,500

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

Stream: Major Projects

AG25-013: Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Convent Kids 2025

Project Description: Abbotsford Convent Foundation's (ACF) annual Convent Kids program of free/low-cost arts and cultural experiences enables children/families to explore, learn and participate in quality arts/cultural programs. Since 2018, 60+ events for 25,000+ children and

families have been delivered. Audiences have increased by 25% in the past year, reporting a 95% satisfaction rating.

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$185,693.88

Amount Requested: \$49,591 **Minimum Required:** \$39,500

Recommendation: \$20,000

Panel Comments: Convent Kids 2025 will support neurodivergent children's participation through sensory programs created by artists skilled in neurodivergent arts practice. It has a detailed and comprehensive Project Plan outlining the purpose and objectives with activities identified, the target audience and timeline, marketing and promotion strategy.

AG25-037: Thorne Harbour Health Ltd

LGBTQ+ Multicultural & Faith Events Program 2025

Project Description: Thorne Harbour Health (THH) will devise a program of events over 12 months to improve the social and emotional health outcomes of LGBTQ+ community members from multicultural and multifaith LGBTQ+ backgrounds in the City of Yarra. This will be done by creating and working alongside community partners to develop a range of forums, workshops, events and social catchups, each of which:

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$120,528.16

Amount Requested: \$45,000 **Minimum Required:** \$30,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

AG25-042: Vacro

Second Chance Cycles

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

Second Chance Cycles provides Yarra residents with:

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

The project was established with a dual purpose:

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$279,900

Amount Requested: \$50,000 **Minimum Required:** \$40,000

Recommendation: \$25,000

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

AG25-069: Ilbijerri Theatre Company

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

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

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$131,300

Amount Requested: \$50,000 **Minimum Required:** \$45,000

Recommendation: \$22,500

Panel Comments: Strong application overall, that shows clear and measurable outcomes. Good supporting material and very reputable group with high quality partnerships such as BlakDance.

AG25-078: 3CR Community Radio

3CR Community Radio Local Connections

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

1. Beyond the Bars 2025

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

2. Disability Day 2025

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

3. Local Connections

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

4. 3CR Open Days

We will run two free Open Days in 2025 - inviting the community to visit our unique and dynamic community radio station. As the neighbourhood changes, we want to invite engagement, participation and knowledge about our important community work and the opportunities for participation and listening.

Total Project Cost: \$112872.80

Amount Requested: \$50000 **Minimum Required:** \$45000

Recommendation: \$22,500

Panel Comments: This is a diverse initiative. This application is clear, detailed, well written and is thoroughly thought out in the ways it elevates and enhances Yarra's community engagement and access. Beyond the Bars offers enhanced understanding of Indigenous incarceration, which is a rare insight in Yarra (and in Australia as a whole) The Disability Day is a great program to showcase the disability community. They will be able to achieve all aims of the project as they have run these programs in previous years.

AG25-115: Carringbush Adult Education

African Women's Group

Project Description: This project will provide on-going support for African women in the City of Yarra through the African Women's Group (AWG). The AWG is a long-standing community group of vulnerable women from African background who are predominantly refugees and migrants. The AWG is facilitated by a local resident woman of African background, led by Carringbush and supported by MiCare, City of Yarra Family Services and the Neighbourhood Justice Centre.

This project will support the AWG to host monthly meetings and workshops that deep-dive into a requested topic such as, but not limited to, parenting, citizenship, financial education, health information sessions, education, increased skills, or practical skills such as swimming lessons. Each meeting has child-minding, interpreters, and food to ensure accessibility. The project aims to assist the women with connection to community and celebrate culture and religion, with all our meetings being culturally safe. This project also aims to support women with participating in the wider community of Yarra and feeling confident with contributing in return. The project operates by

building the women's capacity and empowering them to lead, by sharing their voices in the group and leading the direction of the group.

Total Project Cost: \$59838

Amount Requested: \$45138 **Minimum Required:** \$25000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

By focusing on cultural safety, engagement, and support, this project can play a crucial role in connecting women from diverse backgrounds with their community and creating a more inclusive and supportive environment. It also great to see that this project will leverage strong partnerships with local service providers which can significantly enhance the effectiveness and reach of the project. Very worthy project with several connection points over the course of a year with the African community; a local project lead/facilitator.

AG25-165: YOUNG ASSETS FOUNDATION LTD

Fitzroy Youth Homework Club

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$158,000

Amount Requested: \$50,000 **Minimum Required:** \$35,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

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

Stream: Social Enterprise

AG25-001: Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$19,120

Amount Requested: \$14,680 **Minimum Required:** \$12,714

Recommendation: \$14,680

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

AG25-139: North Richmond Community Health

The Economic Empowerment of Cultural Catering Community Cooks

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

NRCH covers overhead costs such as electricity, rent, accounting, and order management but lacks resources for marketing and business support. This gap prevents Cultural Catering from fully realising its potential. To align with NRCH's strategic priorities of enabling affordable and sustainable healthcare solutions and advocating for the rights of North Richmond Housing Estate residents, and Yarra's strategies outlined in the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2023 and Yarra Volunteering Strategy 2019-2023, further support is needed.

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

Total Project Cost: \$158,104

Amount Requested: \$15,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

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

Stream: Sports and Recreation

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

RICHMOND SKIPPERS NETBALL CLUB

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$19,594

Amount Requested: \$4000 **Minimum Required:** \$2,000

Recommendation: \$1,000

Panel Comments: This project is a well-established program with a strong record of supporting local girls, fostering confidence, and addressing financial barriers to participation.

AG25-058: Northcote United Cricket Club

Women's & Girls' Cricket Initiatives

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

To address this imbalance, we will offer a range of female only cricket initiatives to break down barriers. The range of initiatives will include: - A Women & Girls in Cricket Carnival Day, aimed at attracting new or existing players for a range of activities including introductory cricket skills to new participants via a Social Sixes format &/or Woolworths Blast format. At the carnival, we will also promote a free 3 x session workshop to further develop skills. This workshop approach was successful in establishing our Social Sixes program. The workshop will allow us to continue to work with keen females beyond the carnival. We propose holding a wrap up afternoon tea at the workshop conclusion & will endeavour to coincide with International Women's Day.

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

Total Project Cost: \$12,677

Amount Requested: \$3,877 **Minimum Required:** \$3,500

Recommendation: \$3,877

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

AG25-059: Richmond Harriers Inc

Obtain portable defibrillator for our club events

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

Total Project Cost: \$17,100

Amount Requested: \$1,000 **Minimum Required:** \$600

Recommendation: \$1,000

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

AG25-067: Melbourne Swimming Club

Child Safety Education

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$3,420

Amount Requested: \$1,000 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$1,000

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

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

U3A Mixed Park Soccer

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$1,924

Amount Requested: \$1,000 **Minimum Required:** \$300

Recommendation: \$1,000

Panel Comments: This is a great social sport initiative, addressing the stream priorities and the 'participation' funding category.

AG25-097: GR8M8S Foundation

Toolangi Adventure Sports Camps (TASC)

Project Description: We would like to request funding to run the Toolangi Adventure Sports Camp (TASC) for 2025, a four-day camp run during the school holidays to bring together teenagers from around the Yarra City High Rise Housing Estates to broaden their experiences and help them integrate better in the Yarra City community.

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$94,188

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$4000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-135: The Red Tag Fly Fishers' Club

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$21,700

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,500

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-141: North Richmond Community Health

Tai Chi and Qi Gong Exercise Group

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

Tai Chi is effective in reducing the risk of falls (Monash University Research Institute 2013) and supports people with chronic complex health conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis and back pain. As well as improving balance and reducing falls risk, it has been shown to provide positive benefits related to relaxation, fitness and overall health for people in a group environment (Sherrington et al. 2011).

Tai Chi exercise is a powerful system of healing and energy, an integration of physical postures, breathing techniques and focus. The slow gentle movements of most Qi Gong forms can be easily adapted even for client groups with reduced balance or other physical limitations.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5000

Recommendation: \$5,000

Panel Comments: This application is strong and the project has been run successfully for many years.

AG25-150: North Richmond Community Health

Chair Based Exercise Group

Project Description: Funding is sought to continue the successful operation of a chair-based exercise program that runs at North Richmond Community Health Centre. The program targets older (over 65 years) members of the community who reside in the Richmond Housing Estate who are frail and experience mobility issues, many of whom are also socially isolated. The majority of the current participants are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds particularly East Timor, Vietnam and China. The program provides weekly one hour chair based gentle exercise sessions aiming to maintain and increase their strength, coordination and fitness as well as providing opportunities for social connection to members of the community who would otherwise be inactive and isolated. The exercises are delivered by a qualified fitness instructor who is experienced in older people's fitness training. Participants are encouraged to stay after the sessions to have a cup of tea and socialise with one another to increase social connectedness. The group is seen by participants as a key social and physical activity in their week.

Total Project Cost: \$8,360

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$5000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-152: COLLINGWOOD CITY FOOTBALL CLUB (CCFC)

COLLINGWOOD EAGLES INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL

Project Description: The Collingwood Eagles program is a soccer skills training program for children and young people and adults with an intellectual or physical disability. The aims of the program include to provide children and young people with an opportunity to learn soccer skills in a safe and welcoming environment where the players' abilities and progress is valued, to improve player physical fitness, to prepare children for integration with other teams as appropriate, to support players who wish to compete in the FV All Abilities competition, and to contribute to the further development of the Football Victoria All Abilities competition.

The program also supports families of children with special needs by providing recreational/ sporting opportunities for their children and inclusion in a community club, being the Collingwood City Football Club.

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

Total Project Cost: \$18,717

Amount Requested: \$5,982 **Minimum Required:** \$5,982

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-169: Northcote United Cricket Club

Junior Cricket Equipment

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$17740

Amount Requested: \$840 **Minimum Required:** \$600

Recommendation: \$840

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

AG25-185: Ariels VCNA

Ariels VCNA School Netball Outreach Program

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$15,910

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3,500

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

AG25-187: EDINBURGH CRICKET CLUB

Social Sixes - casual midweek cricket for women and girls

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$13,280

Amount Requested: \$4,500 **Minimum Required:** \$3000

Recommendation: \$4,500

Panel Comments: This has a strong connection to the community and the stream objectives.

AG25-193: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club

Safeguarding George Knott Reserve Conditions During Winter

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$66,005

Amount Requested: \$5,000 **Minimum Required:** \$3700

Recommendation: \$3,700

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

AG25-204: Fitzroy Lions Soccer Club

FLSC - Ramadan iftar

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$21,886

Amount Requested: \$4,500 **Minimum Required:** \$3,500

Recommendation: \$4,500

Panel Comments: This is a fantastic initiative which celebrates diversity, promotes inclusion while supporting sport participation.

Stream: Youth and Middle Years

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

Breath Circle Programs

Project Description: Breath Circle 6-week School Programs:

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$16,216

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,900

Recommendation: \$10,000

Panel Comments: This is a valuable program, with prior experience working in partnership with Yarra schools. It would be good to see this expanded to other schools in Yarra and the program reach is great. This application has clearly articulated need and benefit via research and data and have included a research evaluation report. They have also cited feedback from previous programs they have conducted. In their project, they have included an 'education training component' (involving parents and teachers, offering scholarships to train youth) which can make it sustainable once the project is completed.

AG25-017: Sacred Heart Primary School

UBUNTU - I am, because you are!

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

This project aims at giving the 9 & 10 year old students the opportunity to develop the essential societal and community based skills they lack, so that they can work together collaboratively in both work and play. We aim to create a collaborative play space in an unused area at the side of the school - which has both passive and active play areas which focus on building social cohesiveness and collaborative skills. We will purchase specific equipment and work with students using this equipment to build collaboration.

Total Project Cost: \$25,400

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum**

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

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

African youth curriculum support program

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

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

- Assist primary and secondary students with their studies in a friendly and supportive environment
- To provide safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate learning environment outside of school hours
- To improve literacy, numeracy and communication skills
- To improve social connectedness and the emotional and mental development of participants
- Develop students positive attitude towards learning
- Improve students skills to become independent learners and critical thinkers
- Create opportunities for parents who bring their children to the homework session. This includes practising public speaking.

Total Project Cost: \$25,230

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$9,500

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

AG25-098: GR8M8S Foundation

Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball, Leadership & Development Program

Project Description: Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball, Leadership & Development Program (YWBLDP) will have more or less 50 young participants to train on Sunday evenings and participate in 2 friendly tournaments. This community basketball program also allows the young locals to increase their skills and live out their basketball passion with others in their community. In 2025 we intend for the squads to participate in two tournaments, in July and December subject to available funding.

The Yarra Wild Beasts Basketball Program (YWBLDP) was developed in 2010 in relation to community consultation held in line with the GR8M8S / Home Ground Hub (HGH), weekly sports and recreation programs evaluation process. An aspiration for a dedicated local African youth basketball team was evident. Being part of the Wild Beasts Basketball Team (WBBT) allows local young people (13-25 years) to connect with other friends whilst participating in the various tournaments each year (often providing opportunities to interstate events such as the Adelaide Easter Classic).

Total Project Cost: \$83,160

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$8000

Recommendation: \$5,000

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

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

Taekwondo on the estate

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$120,350

Amount Requested: \$7,350 **Minimum Required:** \$4,000

Recommendation: \$7,350

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

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

Fitzroy Scouts Equitable Access Project

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

Building on previous support from City of Yarra to establish a Scout-age section, this grant funding will be used to embed and further enhance this program delivery.

Total Project Cost: \$156,278

Amount Requested: \$10,000 **Minimum Required:** \$6,500

Recommendation: \$10,000

Panel Comments: This is a well written application with clearly articulated project plan and outcomes and is valuable to provide equitable access to Scouting services. It meets funding priority

areas and focuses on young people from public housing estate and CALD/refugee backgrounds, and builds on existing subsidised participation.

AG25-109: The Rotary Club of Richmond Inc

RC Richmond Next Step Program

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

The Career Advisor case manages and mentors the young people; helps them to identify short and long term career goals and develop plans to achieve their nominated goals. Students have the opportunity to participate in targeted activities such as:

- Two-day Smith Family Work Inspirations Workshop (last year at Origin Energy)
- Attend the Trades & Tech Fit Expo for females and non-binary students
- Extra assistance with Class Assessments - e.g. Curriculum Vitae and other job application documents
- Extra assistance with finding relevant work experience positions
- Rotary mentoring
- Financial Literacy workshop

Total Project Cost: \$21680

Amount Requested: \$10000 **Minimum Required:** \$10000

Recommendation: \$10,000

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

AG25-113: North Richmond Community Health

NRCH OT School Holiday Group

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

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

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

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

Total Project Cost: \$17,517

Amount Requested: \$6,500 **Minimum Required:** \$5,000

Recommendation: \$6,500

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

AG25-122: Australian Vietnamese Women's Association Inc

Brighter Futures Program

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

Total Project Cost: \$25,910

Amount Requested: \$9,990 **Minimum Required:** \$

Recommendation: \$9,990

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

AG25-161: Collingwood Toy Library Inc

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

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

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

- 10 sessions in total (2 x 2 hour sessions over 5 separate days) over the school holidays

- We will provide a selection of board games, puzzles and Lego sets suitable for different skill levels and interests

Total Project Cost: \$11,590

Amount Requested: \$7,410 **Minimum Required:** \$4,860

Recommendation: \$7,410

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

8. Notices of Motion

8.1. – Notice of Motion No.19 of 2024 - New Direction for Yarra

Author Councillor Jolly

I, Councillor Jolly, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 26 November 2024:

Motion

1. That Council acknowledges the community desire for change as expressed in the recent election. This motion is aimed at launching a new direction for Yarra.
2. That Council resolves:

Democracy

3. To reduce the number of objections required for a planning item to be referred to the Planning Decisions Committee from 15 to 6 or more.
4. That a report be presented to the December 2024 Council meeting to commence community engagement to amend the Governance Rules to repeal the requirement for residents to submit a question in advance for public question time at Council meetings in Rule 53.
5. That from 2025, Council returns to fortnightly meetings, with two at RTH to be followed by two at FTH and so on.

E-scooters and E-bikes

6. That a report be presented to the December 2024 Council meeting to include:
 - (a) an update on the existing E-scooter contract and any future contract noting that:
 - (i) Yarra City Council intends to ensure that geo-fencing technology is implemented by e-scooter and e-product operators to restrict users from ending their journeys on footpaths narrower than 1.5 metres within the City of Yarra;
 - (ii) This initiative aims to uphold and enforce existing regulations surrounding the use and parking of e-scooters and e-products within the City of Yarra, ensuring that footpaths remain accessible and free of obstructions for all residents and visitors, particularly those with disabilities; and
 - (iii) To facilitate this, the Council will provide e-scooter and e-product operators with data on streets where footpaths are less than 1.5 metres wide, enabling operators to apply “no parking” geo-fences on these designated pathways. Council expects that implementation of this geo-fencing technology is to commence as soon as possible, with the objective of being fully operational within the next three months;

- (b) Council owned land designated e-scooter parking zones to be identified by Officers; and
- (c) Off market rate fees for the leasing of these zones to e-scooter operators.

Celebrating all our multicultural community

- 7. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle, outlining the 2025 civic events calendar inclusive of all major events for all major multicultural communities represented in Yarra, including Arabic, Jewish, Christian, Vietnamese, Chinese and the various African and LGBTIQA+ communities represented here in Yarra.
- 8. That in the immediate period, Officers are requested to adequately decorate Yarra's Richmond Town Hall and activity centres and shopping strips with Christmas decorations as appropriate.

Brunswick Street Oval Redevelopment

- 9. That Council agrees to expedite this redevelopment project and complete the current consultation with the community with respect to the latest design proposal without unnecessary delay.
- 10. That Council notes that a report is to be presented to the December 2024 Council meeting providing a full accounting of the funds expended to date, including Victorian State government funding, to provide full transparency of the development of this community asset.

Elizabeth St cycle lane

- 11. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle to consider options and costs in relation to:
 - (a) Modifying the Elizabeth St, North Richmond cycle lane to:
 - (i) allow both dedicated bike lanes and parking on both sides of Elizabeth St, until Council forms an opinion on its future; and
 - (b) Providing advice on:
 - (i) bike lane widths east and west of Lennox St;
 - (ii) buffer widths east and west of Lennox St;
 - (iii) traffic lane widths east and west bound on Lennox St; and
 - (iv) parking lane widths noting the curb to curb widths of Lennox St; and
 - (c) The report is to include traffic engineering advice and costings to make the adjustments for the trial and costing for the works to be permanent and any required approvals from the Department of Transport and Planning.

Coppin Street 'bike-friendly' pop-ups

- 12. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle to consider options and costs in relation to:
 - (a) the removal of the 'bike-friendly' pop-ups in Richmond so as to modify the Coppin Street, Richmond cycle lanes to:
 - (i) Remove the bike-friendly pop-up barriers in Richmond at the intersection of Coppin Street and Swan Street, both north and south of this intersection, removing the traffic bottlenecks currently occurring; and

- (ii) Remove the 'bike-friendly' pop-up barriers in Richmond at the intersection of Coppin Street and Bridge Road, both north and south of this intersection, removing the traffic bottlenecks currently occurring; and
- (b) Detail the amount currently in Council's Victorian Government Safe Local Roads and Streets Program and a projection for funds expected in 2025/2026. This data should be broken down into projects and zones.

Napier St field

13. That a report be presented to the March 2025 Council meeting cycle on the options and costs in relation to for the 2025/26 budget for an all-weather futsal stadium similar to the one recently built at the North Richmond public housing estate on this land and a fence being erected for safe off-leash dog exercise elsewhere on the field.

Bin collection and waste charge

14. That a report be presented to the December 2024 Council meeting outlining the options available for Council in relation to reviewing separate waste charges including any processes required for changes to the current system and the financial impacts to be considered in developing the 2025/26 budget. In addition this report should also include financial impacts and the process to:
- (a) introduce weekly recycling collection and processing;
 - (b) commence a community consultation in close co-operation with all Councillors for the introduction of street-based bin collection for some bins for some terraced streets and the introduction of communal glass bins; and
 - (c) end the Abbotsford Alternate Collections Area and immediately restore weekly collection of waste (red lid) bins.

Charlotte St Park

15. That Council:
- (a) Determines not to proceed with the delivery of a park at Charlotte Street, ceases the current tender to construct the park and ceases any work to pursue or gazette the discontinuance of the road;
 - (b) Advises the community/submitters of Council's decision;
 - (c) Note that the allocated project funds will be retained in the Public Open Space Reserve;
 - (d) Seeks a report to be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle to:
 - (i) Provide options and costs in relation to an alternative site for this park in Cremorne including off-lease dog exercise areas.; and
 - (ii) Detail the amount currently in the Open Space Reserve and a projection for funds expected in 2025/26. This data should be broken down into zones.

Citizens Park

16. That a report be presented to the March 2025 Council meeting cycle on the options and costs in relation to for the 25/26 budget for the establishment of a safe off lead dog exercise area elsewhere from Citizens Park.

Angled Parking

17. That given Council believes that the removal of angled parking should only occur if there is strong community support that all proposals for the removal of angled parking be presented to a Council meeting for a decision.
18. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle to update the Transport Strategy and Action Plan to specify this intent.

Housing

19. That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CEO and relevant officers seek discussions with State and Federal governments to reopen the plans for a social housing project on the Council-owned land near Collingwood Town Hall and any other appropriate land Council owns and further that the CEO report back to Council on this as soon as possible.

Animal Faeces

20. That a report be presented to the February Council Meeting cycle to provide an update on the removal of animal faeces around City of Yarra and compliance with Clause 16 of the General Local Law and details of a proposed education campaign with the aim of reducing non-compliance of Clause 16.3.

Meals

21. That Council ends the practice of providing meals prior to Council meetings. Further that Councillors can claim an individual meal allowance in accordance with the Councillor Support Policy for evening meetings (only) to be spent at local business in Yarra excluding food delivery services.

Advisory Committees

22. That Council establish three new Advisory Committees (AC) to be chaired by a Councillor(s) and a public expression of interest process be implemented to seek resident volunteers for the ACs;
 - (a) Housing AC;
 - (b) Planning AC; and
 - (c) Financial Sustainability AC.
23. That draft terms of reference be prepared for the three committees to be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle for Council consideration.

Safety at Pedestrian Crossings

24. That Council notes that the pedestrian crossing near the corner of Peel and Langridge Streets, Collingwood and at the north end of Nicholson St, Abbotsford near Johnston St require a street lighting review to enhance perceptions of community safety.
25. That officers investigate this matter (including advice in relation to third party approvals) as a priority and that consideration of this matter be referred to the mid-year budget review in February 2025.

Flood overlay

26. That an update be provided on the state of the community's stormwater drain network and the progress towards updating the Asset Plan.
27. That Council defer consideration of the 'Keeping Yarra Flood Resilient' agenda item due in February 2025.

Parking

28. That a report be presented to the March 2025 Council meeting cycle detailing:
- (a) Costings for the proposal for 1-hour of free parking at Yarra's activity centres;
 - (b) Costings for the first eligible parking permit for free for residents of wider Richmond and the eastern corridor of Yarra which incorporates Boulevard, Lennox, Melba and Langridge wards;
 - (c) Opportunities for the introduction of a Yarra wide residential short term user pays multi-pass, discount bulk purchase packs to provide cost effective short visitation options for visitors to families and friends in Yarra; and
 - (d) Information for the period from January to December 2024 parking enforcement requests, parking ticket complaints by residents and local traders, enforcement revenue and costs, tickets issued on 'Big Game Nights' and other major events, and holiday periods such as Christmas Day and Australia Day. This data should be broken down into zones and also include (but not limited to) residential street permit only zones, disabled parking, Swan Street, Bridge Road and Victoria Street shopping strips, (2) two and (4) four hour and all day zoned parking areas within the wider Richmond and eastern corridor region of Yarra which incorporates Boulevard, Lennox, Melba and Langridge wards.

Pocket Park Community Maintenance

29. That Council acknowledges that significant expertise in gardening and horticulture exists in the community and that a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle detailing options for enabling community-led planting and maintenance of pocket parks and garden beds that can be performed by community members interested in doing so, including the provision of funding to support planting.

Proactive discriminatory and offensive materials monitoring and removal

30. Acknowledges that it prides itself on the City of Yarra being a tolerant, diverse and accepting community, and acknowledges an increase in discriminatory and offensive stickering (esp. racial discrimination) of community assets throughout the City of Yarra.
31. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle identifying 'hot spots' for this material (such as the streets surrounding Victoria Park) and opportunities and costs to conduct regular, proactive sweeps of these areas to identify and remove the materials.

Working group to address illegal raves along the Yarra River

32. That it be noted that Council values the beauty of the Yarra River and the benefits it brings to our community, and believes this precious natural feature requires protection from unauthorized and illegal raves/dance parties, and residents deserve to be free of the excessive noise pollution and disturbance that significantly affects their wellbeing.
33. That Officers form a working group with relevant stakeholders (such as Parks Victoria and Victoria Police and affected community members) to establish clear accountabilities and processes for preventing and shutting down the raves when they occur.

Climate action

34. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle outlining:
- (a) the current state of heating in Yarra's leisure centres and options to convert from gas heating to electric heat pump;
 - (b) the current state of the community battery in Fitzroy North; and

- (c) the current state of plans to implement on-street EV charging for Yarra households.

Sportsgrounds Fees and Charges

35. To pause the process to invoice the 2024 winter clubs for use of Yarra's sportsground and facilities.
36. That a report be presented to the February 2025 Council meeting cycle outlining options to review Council's Recreation Fees and Charges for use of Yarra's sportsgrounds and facilities.

Report attachments

Nil

9. Petitions and Joint Letters

A petition containing xx signatures has been received in relation to xx

10. Questions without Notice

11. Delegates Reports

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to table or present a Delegate's Report.

12. General Business

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to raise items of General Business for Council's consideration.

13. Urgent Business

An opportunity is provided for the Chief Executive Officer to introduce items of Urgent Business.

14. Confidential Business Reports

Nil.