

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.6

Funding Support Requests February 2020

Council

Presenter: Katrina McKenzie, General Manager City Economy and Activation

25 February 2020

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek direction from Council as to whether recent requests for funding should be funded from the discretionary fund.
2. In July 2013, the Future Melbourne Committee considered the process for funding items of a discretionary nature and resolved that, from 31 July 2013, only the following items would be considered:
 - 2.1. Those items that are received with a lead time of greater than 90 days to the date of the event (except for table sponsorships).
 - 2.2. Those items ineligible for funding from existing programs.
3. The recent request for funding (refer Attachment 2) is outside the normal Event Partnership Program, Business Events, Community Grants and Art Grants funding cycle. In summary, this is:
 - 3.1. A request from the Council to Homeless Persons to support five Walk In My Shoes sessions to the value of \$10,000.

Key issues

4. Management's comments on the merits or otherwise, of the funding request have been included in Attachment 3.

Recommendation from management

5. That Council approves the funding to support five Walk In My Shoes sessions to the value of \$10,000.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 4)
2. Request for funding (Page 3 of 4)
3. Outline of Funding/Support Requests (Page 4 of 4)

Supporting Attachment**Legal**

1. No direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. The funding requests would, if approved, be paid from Council's 2019–20 Budget, which includes discretionary funding of \$250,000 with a breakdown as follows:
 - 2.1. \$150,000 for Council support for various charitable, community and other eligible organisations and activities, via cash sponsorships.
 - 2.2. \$70,000 for Council support of same via use of the Melbourne Town Hall venue.
 - 2.3. \$30,000 for Council support of same via purchase of table sponsorships.
3. If Council approves the recommendation as listed in this report, the effect on the 2019–20 discretionary budget would be as follows:

| Type | 2019–20 Annual Budget | Year to Date Committed Expenditure | Recommended funding in this report | Remaining funds if recommendations approved |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Sponsorships | \$ 150,000 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 120,000 |
| Town Hall usage | \$ 70,000 | \$ 1,326 | \$ 0 | \$ 68,674 |
| Table sponsorships | \$ 30,000 | \$ 20,037 | \$ 0 | \$ 9,963 |
| Total | \$ 250,000 | \$ 41,363 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 198,637 |

Conflict of interest

4. No other member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

5. In developing this proposal, no Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

6. No external consultation has been undertaken as this is an internal matter.

Relation to Council policy

7. The report is consistent with overall strategies contained in the Council Plan.

Environmental sustainability

8. There is no significant impact on environmental sustainability.

Table 1: FUNDING SUPPORT REQUESTS

| Criteria | A request to support five Walk In My Shoes sessions |
|---|--|
| <i>Date Funding Support Request received</i> | 22 January 2020 |
| <i>Could applicant have submitted their request as part of a grant application process or is it eligible under a grant process?</i> | No |
| <i>Is Management supportive of request for funding?</i> | Yes |
| <i>Is there significant support from one or more of the Councillors, in particular if it relates to their portfolio or if it supports a Council goal?</i> | Yes |
| <i>Amount of Fee waiver or Funding requested</i> | \$10,000 |
| <i>Amount of Fee Waiver or Funding recommended</i> | \$10,000 |
| <i>Council/Committee Date</i> | 25 February 2020 |

Outline of Funding / Support Requests

1. A request to support five Walk In My Shoes sessions to the value of \$10,000

A request has been received from the Council to Homeless Persons to support their Walk In My Shoes community sessions to transition from a pilot program to an ongoing program.

In 2018 the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) worked with Justice Connect and officers from Victoria Police to develop a pilot program aimed at improving interactions with, and outcomes for, people sleeping rough in the Melbourne CBD. The project involves connecting Victoria Police officers and members of CHP's Peer Education Support Program (PESP), a team who have had the experience of not having a home. The pilot program successfully built understanding of people experiencing homelessness through encouraging dialogue and understanding and provided benefits to all participants. The sessions are designed for small groups and build understanding through constructive opportunities for engagement, this is particularly important for people who work with homeless people on a daily basis.

The CHP is now seeking to establish a series of sessions to extend the reach and build capacity and understanding. CHP has been successful in sourcing donations from community members. The request for \$10,000 would directly support an additional five Walk In My Shoes community sessions. Dates for the planned sessions are yet to be established.

Management Recommendation

Management is supportive of providing funds for the five Walk In My Shoes sessions to the value of \$10,000.