

**Management report to Council**

**Agenda item 6.7**

**Funding support requests August 2019**

**Council**

**Presenter:** Katrina McKenzie, Director City Economy and Activation

**27 August 2019**

**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, these are:
  - 3.1. Purchase a table of ten through sponsoring the Hong Kong Australia Business Association Business Award Gala Dinner (3 October 2019) (\$4000).
  - 3.2. Sponsorship of the Mental Health Foundation Australia for their 'Mental Health Month' launch at the Town Hall (\$2222).
  - 3.3. Purchase of a table of ten to the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Dinner (26 October 2019) (\$4000).
  - 3.4. Purchase of a table of ten to The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc.'s Annual Charity Function (14 September 2019) (\$1550).

**Key issues**

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

**Recommendation from management**

5. That Council approves:
  - 5.1. The purchase of a table of ten through sponsoring the Hong Kong Australia Business Association Business Award Gala Dinner on 3 October 2019 to the value of \$4000 on the basis that the dinner will be held within the City of Melbourne municipality.
  - 5.2. Funding towards the catering for the launch of Mental Health Foundation Australia's 'Mental Health Month' at the Melbourne Town Hall to the value of \$1690 and a banner fee waiver of \$532.
  - 5.3. The purchase of a table of ten to the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Dinner on 26 October 2019 to the value of \$4000.
  - 5.4. The purchase of a table of ten to The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc.'s Annual Charity Function on 14 September 2019 to the value of \$1550.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 5)
2. Requests for funding (Page 3 of 5)
3. Outline of Funding/Support Requests (Page 4 of 5)

**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 recommendations 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	\$ 0	\$	\$ 150,000
Town Hall usage	\$ 70,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,690	\$ 68,310
Table sponsorships	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 9,550	\$ 20,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 11,240</b>	<b>\$ 238,760</b>

4. Waiving of banner hire fees and facility hire fees as per the recommendation would not involve incurring direct expenditure but does result in less income. In determining the budget for banner fees a level of expected fee waivers and underutilised capacity is determined over the year. It is expected that the level of fees related to this support request would not impact on the achievement of overall budget for these items in 2019-20.
5. The attendance at events by Councillors or officers will attract Fringe Benefits Tax.

**Conflict of interest**

6. 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**

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

**Stakeholder consultation**

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

**Relation to Council policy**

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

**Environmental sustainability**

10. There is no significant impact on environmental sustainability.

**Table 1: FUNDING / SUPPORT REQUESTS**

Criteria	Purchase a table of ten through sponsoring the Hong Kong Australia Business Association Business Award Gala Dinner	Sponsor the Mental Health Foundation Australia for their 'Mental Health Month' launch at the Town Hall	The purchase of a table of ten to the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Dinner	The purchase of a table of ten to The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc.'s Annual Charity Function
<i>Date Funding Support Request received</i>	4 June 2019	24 June 2019	24 July 2019	1 July 2019
<i>Could applicant have submitted their request as part of a grant application process or is it eligible under a grant process?</i>	No	No	No	No
<i>Is Management supportive of request for funding?</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	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	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Amount of Fee waiver or Funding requested</i>	\$4000	\$2222	\$4000	\$1550
<i>Amount of Fee Waiver or Funding recommended</i>	\$4000	\$2222	\$4000	\$1550
<i>Council/Committee Date</i>	27 August 2019	27 August 2019	27 August 2019	27 August 2019

## Outline of Funding / Support Requests

### **1. Purchase a table of ten through sponsoring the Hong Kong Australia Business Association Business Award Gala Dinner (3 October 2019) (\$4000)**

Council has received a request from Hong Kong Australia Business Association (HKABA) to purchase a table (for ten people) through sponsoring its annual Business Award Gala Dinner. The purpose of the HKABA is to reinforce economic ties between Hong Kong and Australian.

The event is being held on Thursday 3 October, likely at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

Along with the table of ten, the sponsorship has a range of benefits including advertising and recognition of the City of Melbourne as a sponsor of the event in supporting material to members and the media.

Purchasing a table to this event demonstrates Council's support of the effort to enhance business and investment opportunities in and through Hong Kong. This aligns with the Prosperous City Council Goal: Melbourne prospers through global business relationships and investment attraction.

#### **Management recommendation**

Management is supportive of Council purchasing a table at the HKABA Business Award Gala Dinner (for ten people) to the value of \$4000 on the basis that the dinner will be held within the City Of Melbourne municipality.

### **2. Sponsorship of the Mental Health Foundation Australia for their 'Mental Health Month' launch at the Town Hall (\$2222)**

A sponsorship request has been received by City of Melbourne to support Mental Health Month 2019 – a series of events and activities taking place across Australia during October 2019. The sponsorship request is for

- Financial contribution towards the official launch event taking place at Melbourne Town Hall on 7 October 2019 (cost for catering through Epicure is \$1690).
- Banner fee waiver as part of the City of Melbourne banner program.

With the challenges of rising rates of mental illness across Australia, the Foundation has advanced plans to expand the reach of Mental Health Month from 1 October to 31 October 2019. During the month, various activities will be organised to promote mental health and wellbeing including: a national launch in Canberra, a Victorian launch, eight regional forums, a Victorian Mayoral Symposium, a multicultural festival in Queensbridge Square, a wellbeing walk, a youth and future leaders conference and educational seminars and workshops.

Councillors should note that fees for the use of Queensbridge Square (on 5 October) for the multicultural festival have been waived and organisers have been encouraged to register the event via the What's On website. The total fee waiver received is \$2911 for this event.

The cost for the banner fee waiver is \$532 excluding GST, and does not include the hard costs of installation and removal of the banners

Supporting the Mental Health Foundation Australia for Mental Health Month aligns with Council's Goal: A City for People with the relevant outcome: People are healthy and well.

**Management recommendation**

Management is supportive of the sponsorship request from the Mental Health Foundation Australia for \$1690 towards the catering for the official launch at the Melbourne Town Hall, and the banner fee waiver of \$532 excluding GST.

**3. The purchase of a table of ten to the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Dinner on 26 October 2019 to the value of \$4000**

Council has received a request from the Father Bob Maguire Foundation to purchase a table (for ten people) to a dinner to raise funds for the foundation.

The event is being held on Saturday 26 October at the Kelvin Club.

For close to five decades the Father Bob Maguire Foundation has been providing an exceptional level of care to thousands of displaced, homeless, vulnerable and impoverished Melburnians.

Increasingly this includes many clients from the indigenous community.

Each year Father Bob's delivers more than 24,000 meals, 7000 food hampers, financial and literacy education in the community, job search training and support in community housing and animal based therapy to those in need.

Supporting this event aligns with Council's Goal: A City for People: People are supported to find pathways out of homelessness, People are safe, and People are healthy and well, with direct support from the Father Bob Maguire Foundation offered to members of the indigenous community and homeless.

**Management recommendation**

Management is supportive of Council purchasing a table at the Father Bob Maguire Foundation Dinner (for ten people) to the value of \$4000.

**4. The purchase of a table of ten to The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc.'s Annual Charity Function on 14 September 2019 to the value of \$1550**

Council has received a request from The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc (TSAA) to purchase a table (for ten people) to their annual charity dinner to raise funds for the charity 'Very Special Kids'.

The event is being held on Saturday 14 September at the Park Hyatt.

TSAA promotes the Sicilian Culture and its contribution, through migration, in the development of the wonderful multi-cultural tapestry that is Australia and particularly Melbourne.

In addition to supporting a charity, Council is showing support for the many small business owners and retailers in the municipality who are members of TSAA, as well as members who are strong participants of the precinct associations, and is therefore relevant to Council Goal: A Prosperous City: Melbourne prospers through global business relationships and investment attraction, Melbourne supports new businesses and a vibrant start up economy.

**Management recommendation**

Management is supportive of Council purchasing a table at The Sicilian Association of Australia Inc Annual Charity Function (for ten people) to the value of \$1550.