

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 16 November 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 10.4 – Grants and Sponsorship - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and Innovation and Ideas Grants

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

This memo provides additional information in relation to grant recommendations for the Innovation and Ideas Grant Program.

Background

At the meeting of the Resilient Communities and Economy Committee on 6 November 2023, further information was sought on the following:

Recommended grant to Startup Muster Pty Ltd - information received prior to Committees

Startup Muster Pty Ltd have been recommended for \$25,000 in cash funding per year for three years through the Innovation and Ideas Grant Program to undertake a survey collecting data from local startup founders and startup support organisations.

The 2023 Startup Muster report was released on 30 October 2023 and included an all-male list of 'Australia's most recommended mentors'. As a result, there was widespread criticism from the startup ecosystem about the lack of women represented in this list. As a result, an updated mentors list featuring both men and women was compiled and published one day after the original report was released.

The report also now includes a stronger statement about the need for greater gender diversity and more representation from mentors that are not male within the startup ecosystem.

The Startup Muster survey will provide the City with important data and analysis on the startup ecosystem within our Local Government Area. This will assist the City in identifying issues and developing suitable actions to support and grow the local startup ecosystem.

City staff recommend the grant application to Startup Muster Pty Ltd be approved with the following condition:

The City is engaged in the development of survey questions to ensure that gender issues within the startup ecosystem are identified and addressed.

Recommended grant to the NSW Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade

The Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade has been recommended for \$15,000 in cash funding each year for three years through the Innovation and Ideas Grant Program to deliver a program to welcome international students to Sydney, including the Sydney Airport International Welcome Desk.

Sydney's international students contribute to the City's economic, social and cultural life, the return of international students is vital to the functioning of our economy and City and it is crucial that the City supports its international student community by providing connections to local organisations who can support them, refer them to essential services and open opportunities for collaboration.

The City receives a range of grant applications from government departments and agencies, such as local schools seeking venue hire support and government departments and agencies wishing to partner with the City to deliver projects to support our diverse communities, including support for NSW Government's Vivid Sydney event.

When funding government departments and agencies City staff ensure that only projects which deliver significant benefit to local communities and business are recommended to Council for grant funding.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

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Approved

P. M. Barone

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Chief Executive Officer