

MARRICKVILLE council

**SUPPLEMENTARY
BUSINESS PAPER**

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for

**COUNCIL
MEETING
09/06**

**6.30 PM, TUESDAY,
17 OCTOBER, 2006**

Distributed 17 October, 2006

SUPPLEMENTARY PRECIS

The following report appears as a late item with Mayoral approval as Council was advised of the receipt of funding by letter dated 11 October 2006 and is required to sign and return the Funding Agreement by 27 October 2006, requiring the submission of this report as an addendum.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

GM 101 SUSTAINED FUNDING FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE StAMP MENTORING PROGRAM FROM NOVEMBER 2006. 1

File Ref: 145

Council is advised that the NSW Attorney General's Department will provide an additional \$50,000 (plus GST) in funding for the StAMP Program for a further twelve months. Council was advised of the receipt of funding by letter dated 11 October 2006 and is required to sign and return the Funding Agreement by 27 October 2006, requiring the submission of this report as an addendum. This report provides Council with an update on the StAMP Mentoring Program which is an initiative of Council under the Safety in Marrickville Plan. It is recommended that the report be received and noted; that Council accept the funding of \$50,000 (plus GST) from the NSW Attorney General's Department for an additional 12 month funding of the StAMP Mentoring Program; that Council consider a Budget adjustment at its next Budget review; Council enter into the Funding Agreement and authorise the General Manager to sign it and any non significant variations as required; and that a letter be sent to the NSW Attorney General's Department thanking them for the additional funding and the support provided by staff of the Department.

***GM 101 - SUSTAINED FUNDING FROM THE ATTORNEY-
GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE StAMP MENTORING PROGRAM
FROM NOVEMBER 2006.***

For Decision

File Ref: 145

General Manager reports:

Synopsis

Council is advised that the NSW Attorney General's Department will provide an additional \$50,000 (plus GST) in funding for the StAMP Program for a further twelve months. Council was advised of the receipt of funding by letter dated 11 October 2006 and is required to sign and return the Funding Agreement by 27 October 2006, requiring the submission of this report as an addendum. This report provides Council with an update on the StAMP Mentoring Program which is an initiative of Council under the Safety in Marrickville Plan. It is recommended that the report be received and noted; that Council accept the funding of \$50,000 (plus GST) from the NSW Attorney General's Department for an additional 12 month funding of the StAMP Mentoring Program; that Council consider a Budget adjustment at its next Budget review; Council enter into the Funding Agreement and authorise the General Manager to sign it and any non significant variations as required; and that a letter be sent to the NSW Attorney General's Department thanking them for the additional funding and the support provided by staff of the Department.

Background

Council is advised that the NSW Attorney General's Department will provide an additional \$50,000 (plus GST) in funding for the StAMP Program for the next twelve months.

Council, in partnership with the Community Restorative Centre (CRC), has been working collaboratively with a range of government agencies, local community organisations and local residents to support ex-prisoners with their transition back into the community.

The StAMP Mentoring Program links local residents who have been trained as mentors to people who have exited custody and who are now living in or have a connection to the Marrickville Local Government Area.

Discussion

The StAMP Mentoring Program was launched in the latter part of 2004.

The aim of the mentors is to:

- provide practical assistance to assist the mentees to improve their quality of life and their access to goods, services and community members;
- model pro-social behaviours to assist and empower the mentees to make choices, take responsibility and more control over their lives; and
- support mentees to improve their quality of life in a non-judgemental, inclusive, positive, respectful, practical and consistently supportive relationship.

GM 101 - SUSTAINED FUNDING FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE StAMP MENTORING PROGRAM FROM NOVEMBER 2006.

For Decision

The StAMP Mentoring Program is achieving positive crime prevention outcomes for post release prisoners. Recent evaluations of the program have found only 26% of participants have returned to prison. According to the NSW Attorney General's Department, this compares favourably with other research which indicates 45% of post release prisoners not linked to programs return to prison within 9 months. Some other positive outcomes that have been achieved from the StAMP Mentoring Program include:

- Longest period out of prison in 14 years;
- Longest period being substance free;
- Longest time staying in TAFE;
- Coping better with day to day life;
- Open to new ideas and ways of doing things; and
- Increased awareness of choices in the community.

In its initial 12-month pilot program phase, StAMP has received a great deal of attention and recognition. StAMP was short listed in the Building Strong and Resilient Communities Category of the National Local Government Awards conducted by Department of Transport and Regional Services. The StAMP Mentors were nominated for the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW 2005 Law and Justice Volunteer Award.

The Marrickville community is very diverse with a strong commitment by Council and the local community to address needs of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These factors, along with the over representation of Indigenous people in the prison population, has led the StAMP Steering Committee to include a strong focus on enhancing the level of engagement and inclusion of local Indigenous communities over the life of the project.

Conclusion

The StAMP Mentoring Program continues Marrickville Council's proud tradition of innovation. It further demonstrates Council's capacity to address local issues at a local level. Council and the CRC have been acknowledged across Australia for their collaboration with a range of services and local residents in achieving positive outcomes for ex-prisoners who generally receive a poor level of support, services and resources with their transition back into the community. StAMP is a "whole of community" response to dealing with local community safety issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT:

1. the report be received and noted;
2. Council accept the funding of \$50,000 (plus GST) from the NSW Attorney General's Department for an additional 12 month funding of the StAMP Mentoring Program;

Council Meeting - 09/06 - 17 October, 2006

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3. Council consider a Budget adjustment of \$50,000 (plus GST) at its next Budget review;
4. Council enter into the Funding Agreement and authorise the General Manager to sign it and any non significant variations as required; and
5. that a letter be sent to the NSW Attorney General thanking the Department for the additional funding and the support provided by staff of the Department's Crime Prevention Division.

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