

Sidney Myer Fund **Annual Report 2024–25**



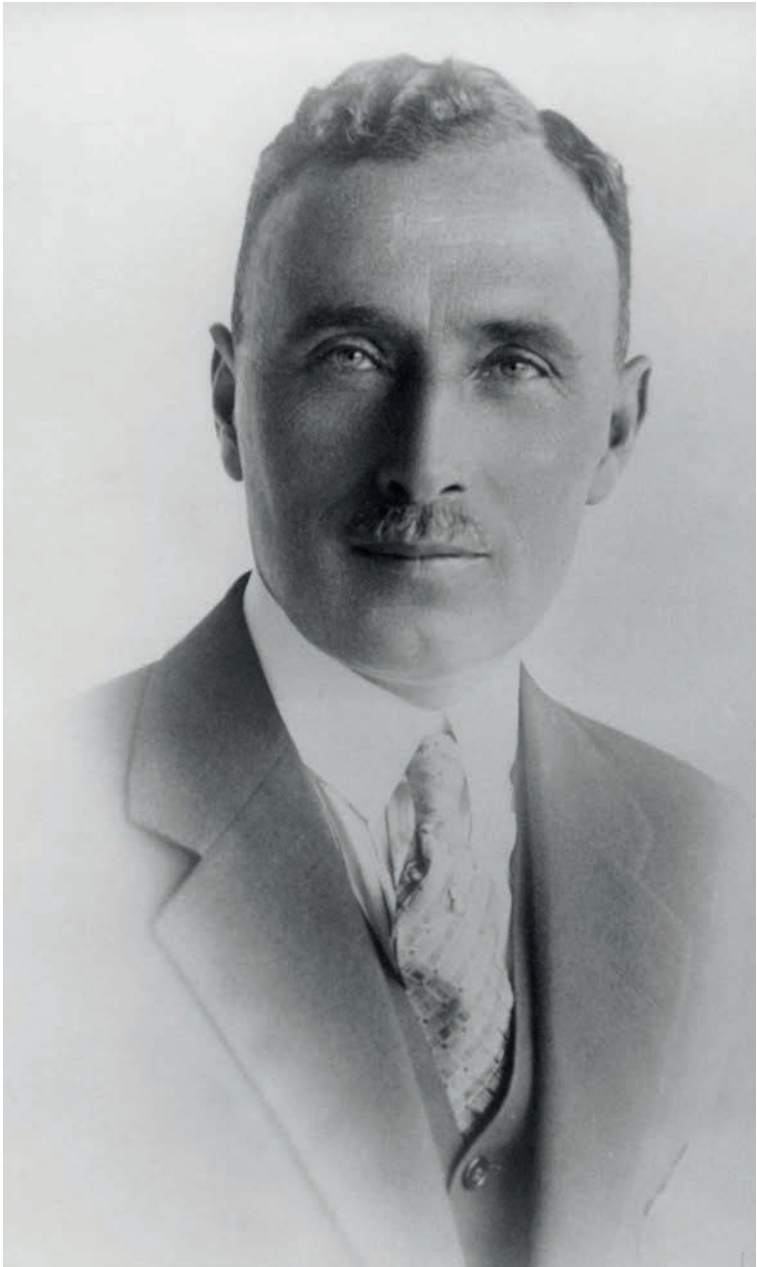
Sidney Myer

SIDNEY MYER FUND

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Front cover: Gravity & Other Myths performs *The Pulse*. Artists (from bottom left to top right): Kevin Beverley, Lyndon Johnston, Annalise Moore, Chris Carlos, Axel Osborne, Alyssa Moore, Jordan Hart
Photo Darcy Grant



Sidney Myer in 1926

I devise and bequeath to my Trustees [...] one tenth part of my whole estate [...] to be called the “Sidney Myer Fund” [...] and the income thereof shall be used for charitable purposes in the broadest sense and to the widest extent permitted by law [...] and including purposes for the benefit of religious benevolent and educational objects societies and institutions in the community in which I acquired my fortune.

Sidney Myer arrived in Melbourne in 1899 as a penniless 21-year-old and quickly became one of Australia’s most visionary entrepreneurs. He built the successful Myer retail business and was renowned in his lifetime for his ethical approach to employment and for the generosity he showed during the Depression. He died unexpectedly in 1934, survived by his wife Merlyn and their four children. In his Will, he left a portion of his estate to create Sidney Myer Fund.

Sidney Myer Fund Chairman's Address

In reflecting on this year, I am reminded that philanthropy is always in conversation with the past. Every act of giving carries with it the memory of those who made that giving possible and who encouraged that spirit of generosity. It is a conversation with their values, their vision, their hopes for what might follow. As my cousin Sid, an erstwhile Trustee of SMF, was wont to ask, "What would Sidney Myer do?"

For SMF, this conversation is continuous, lively and evolving. It takes place every time we gather as Trustees, it is an intergenerational conversation across the family and, crucially, it is present in every engagement we have with the communities we serve.

As Trustees, we are custodians of a material part of Sidney Myer's legacy and fortune. That fortune began in Bendigo. A city that continues to hold a special place in the story of our family. It was there, on the back of the Gold Rush, that my grandfather first established himself commercially. This year, Trustees were proud to honour that heritage with a major new grant to Bendigo Art Gallery. The Gallery stands today as one of Australia's leading cultural institutions and a powerful driver of renewal for its region. SMF's support recognises not only Bendigo's place in our history but also our strategic interest in fostering equitable access to arts and culture as a vital element of civic life.

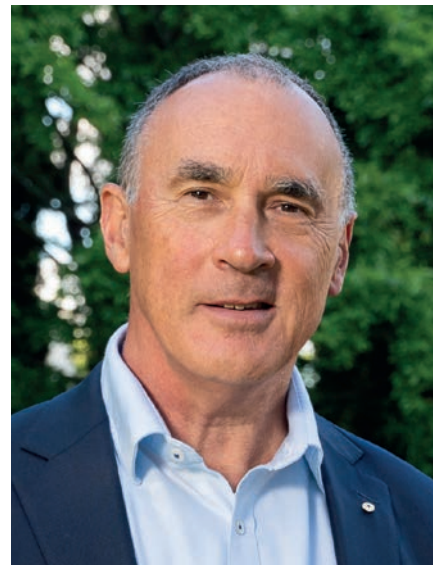
Our ongoing support for the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) taps a similar vein. Some 25 years ago, FRRR was established by SMF in partnership with the Australian Government, thanks in no small part to the efforts of my late uncle Baillieu Myer AC. Since then, SMF has continued to invest in the capacity and resilience of communities across the nation. The ongoing partnership

with FRRR and its many current co-funders exemplifies our longstanding commitment to collaborative and considered philanthropy that empowers local communities to design and deliver solutions that work for them.

Addressing inequality and food insecurity has been a core tenet of Myer family philanthropy since the Depression. In the last year, the Fund directed support to organisations that both meet immediate need and advocate for long-term systemic change. Among them are the Australian Council of Social Service, The One Box, and Loaves and Fishes Tasmania – each working to ensure that families have access to nutritious food and a stronger social safety net.

We have also renewed our commitment to strengthening the for-purpose sector itself, recognising that lasting social change depends on effective, well-led organisations. Through Social Impact Leadership Australia – a flagship collaboration between SMF, The Myer Foundation, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Paul Ramsay Foundation and Snow Foundation – we continue to invest in leadership, strategy and capacity across the sector. In parallel, our support for Kilfinan Australia provides mentoring and practical guidance to for-purpose leaders, helping them navigate complexity and find wise counsel.

Our close partnership with The Myer Foundation continues to amplify our impact, allowing us to align resources and respond more effectively to both challenges and opportunities as they arise. This shared endeavour is an expression of that bigger philanthropic conversation – one that reaches across boardrooms, anchored in shared values and collective purpose.



Andrew Myer AM
Chairman

This year, we welcomed to our boardroom Annabel Myer as a new SMF Trustee and I thank her, Sally Lindsay and Dr Anna Foley for their wisdom and generosity. I extend my thanks also to our CEO Leonard Vary and his exceptional team for their insights, professionalism and care.

Since their inception, Sidney Myer Fund and The Myer Foundation have awarded more than \$350 million in grants without adjusting for inflation. Behind that figure lies a continuing belief that philanthropy, done well, can help shape a fairer, more creative and more inclusive Australia. It remains a great privilege to be part of this legacy.

Sidney Myer Fund CEO's Introduction

SMF's grantmaking seeks to be an expression of our strategy in action – turning dialogue, priorities and values into tangible benefit for communities across Australia. Our current strategy continues our focus on building an equitable, creative, just and environmentally sustainable nation by investing in people, organisations and systems change.

The bedrock of this work is the Myer family itself, who are both the moral heart and governance mind behind all we do. The major new grant to Bendigo Art Gallery is a tribute to the city where Sidney Myer first made his home in Australia and a powerful demonstration of intergenerational philanthropy in practice. The project embodies SMF's strategic focus on arts and culture, while continuing the family's longstanding commitment to Bendigo and regional Australia.

Our strategy is also grounded in the belief that progress depends on people. SMF's grant to Social Impact Leadership Australia is an investment in the capacity of the for-purpose sector. It provides CEOs with the skills, networks and time to reflect and strengthen their organisations. In the arts, the extraordinary impact of our Sidney Myer Creative Fellowships program is now amplified through a collaboration with The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, which has joined us in awarding untied funding to individual artists, ensuring that courageous and talented creatives continue to enrich our national life.

Enabling for-purpose organisations to fulfil their missions with similarly untied support is another cornerstone of our work. This year, SMF built on its commitment to LGBTIQ+ rights through multi-year support for Minus18, Transgender Victoria, Refugee Advice & Casework Service and Pride Cup,

organisations that create safer, more inclusive communities across the country. These grants reflect our ongoing dedication to funding under-resourced areas of the social sector, where philanthropy can play a catalytic role in driving systemic change.

SMF recognises the importance of influencing public policy and advancing equity through advocacy. Our grant to Australian Council of Social Service enables sustained engagement in national dialogue on income support, poverty reduction and social justice. Similarly, SMF's support of Equality Australia (of which I am Co-Chair) has strengthened the national voice for LGBTIQ+ rights, contributing to more inclusive public policy and civic discourse. These investments demonstrate philanthropy's capacity to effect lasting change – not only in outcomes, but in the systems that shape them.

My sincere thanks to Chairman Andrew Myer, Trustees, Committee Convenors and members for their vision, trust and rigour. The work of this institution is a collaborative effort aided immeasurably by the clever and passionate SMF team. It is a privilege to serve alongside such talented and thoughtful people.



Leonard Vary AM
CEO

Photo: James Penlidis

Sidney Myer Fund Trustees' Grants

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
Bendigo Art Gallery	VIC	Redevelopment - The People's Gallery	2025	Four	\$4,000,000	\$750,000
Australian Council of Social Service	NSW	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$600,000	\$150,000
Gravity & Other Myths	SA	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$420,000	\$420,000
Stephanie Lake Company	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$420,000	\$420,000
Pony Cam Collective	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$360,000	\$360,000
The One Box	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$350,000	\$350,000
Equality Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$300,000	\$300,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$300,000	\$300,000
Kilfinan Australia Institute	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Five	\$250,000	\$250,000
Loaves and Fishes Tasmania	TAS	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$250,000	\$250,000
Minus18 Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$200,000	\$200,000
Refugee Advice & Casework Service	NSW	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$200,000	\$200,000
Pride Cup Ltd	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$160,000	\$160,000
Transgender Victoria	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$140,000	\$140,000
Philanthropy Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$75,000	\$75,000
Centre for Social Impact, University of New South Wales	NSW	Social Impact Leadership Australia	2020	Five	\$1,500,000	\$300,000
Melbourne Holocaust Museum Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$200,000	\$50,000
A New Approach	ACT	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$1,000,000	-
The Myer Foundation	VIC	Additional climate action funding for The Myer Foundation's Sustainability & Environment Committee	2024	Five	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
The Myer Foundation	VIC	Additional funding for The Myer Foundation's Mental Health Committee	2024	Five	\$2,750,000	\$550,000
Amplify: Apollo Research Ltd	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$650,000	-
Environmental Defenders Office	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$400,000	-
FareShare Australia Inc	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$400,000	-
Women's Environmental Leadership Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$200,000	-
350 Australia	VIC	Our Islands, Our Home	2024	Three	\$100,000	-
Sorrento Writers Festival	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Two	\$50,000	-
Zoos Victoria	VIC	Baillieu Myer Internship Program	2023	Three	\$1,000,000	-
Australian Council of Social Service	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$400,000	-
First Nations Clean Energy Network (Original Power)	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$400,000	-
Sydney Alliance	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$400,000	-
BlakDance	QLD	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$350,000	-
Polyglot Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$350,000	-
Ilbijerri Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$350,000	-
4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$350,000	-
Documentary Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$250,000	-
Malthouse Theatre	VIC	Malthouse Outdoor Stage Programming	2023	Four	\$200,000	-
Special Olympics Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$200,000	-
Total					\$24,525,000	\$6,225,000



A render of Bendigo Art Gallery's redevelopment



Stephanie Lake Company performs *The Chronicles*. Photo Daniel Boud

Sidney Myer Fund Trustees' Grants

Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY25
Single-year grants			
Cool.org	VIC	General Operating Support	\$100,000
The Jewish Cultural Centre and National Library Kadimah	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Victorian Pride Centre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Council for Jewish Community Security	NSW	General Operating Support	\$10,000
The Bell Shakespeare Company	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Orygen Ltd	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
NEXUS Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Centre of Jewish Artists	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Many Coloured Sky	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Mountain Track Youth	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Australian Alliance to End Homelessness	QLD	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Nova Peris Foundation	NT	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Our Lady's Primary School	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Footy for Climate	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Hi Neighbour	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Father Bob's Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Dymocks Children's Charities	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Art Gallery of South Australia	SA	General Operating Support	\$5,000
LifeChanger Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Running for Premature Babies	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Philanthropy Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Wheelies With Wings	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Total			\$272,500



Gravity & Other Myths performs The Mirror. Photo by Neils Knelis



Transgender Victoria runs the Affirmation Station as a community hub for events and workshops



Loaves and Fishes Tasmania delivers safe, nutritious and healthy food statewide as fresh produce and ready-to-eat meals



The Minus18 Young Leaders program empowers LGBTQIA+ young people to be the next generation of leaders



The One Box provides Australian families in need with a free weekly box of fresh fruit, vegetables and bread

Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships



Rebecca Keeley

The Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships, co-funded by Sidney Myer Fund and The Myer Foundation, are named in honour of the late Kenneth Myer AC DSC. Each year the Fellowships support three Australian innovators to further their early stage or developing initiatives. Support takes the form of funds, expert advice, mentoring and access to the network of past Fellows.

The Sidney Myer Fund awards two Fellowships – this year to Rebecca Keeley and Joseph Friedman – while The Myer Foundation awards one.

Rebecca Keeley’s initiative is Yarn – improving early intervention outcomes for rural and remote Australian children. Yarn aims to support children and

families stuck on the years-long waitlist for speech pathology services in rural and remote areas by providing daily tasks and communication support for children, accessible through an evidence-based, clinically designed digital platform.

Joseph Friedman is the co-founder of About Time, a platform for journalism and expression by people in prison. About Time aims to provide an outlet for creativity and story telling, alleviating some of the hardship experienced by incarcerated people and addressing the lack of information inside prisons.

As in past years, the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship Committee has selected the three Fellows from among hundreds of applicants. As Co-Convenors,



Yarn provides speech pathology support for children in rural and remote Australia

we are honoured and grateful to have the support of fellow Committee members Anna Spraggett, Jan Owen AM, Kathryn Fagg AC and Professor John Daley AM for their commitment, expertise and experience. Special thanks to Huy Nguyen (KMIF 2018) who leaves the Committee having contributed his insights and experience to four selection rounds.

In February 2025, Edwina Myer returned from her parental leave to the Co-Convenor role, taking over from Edgar Myer who had ably stepped in to the role in Edwina’s absence.

We make special mention of Support Panel members Dr Shelley Meagher, Oliver Roydhouse and Quentin Miller, who depart the Support Panel with our



Joseph Friedman

sincere gratitude for their generosity in sharing their insights, feedback and experience with Fellows. In Oliver and Quentin’s case, such support has been generously given over the past decade. Our thanks also go to Kilfinan Australia, which matches Fellows with high calibre mentors, and to Ernie Schwartz, who has provided pitch training to Fellows for many years. Thank you to CEO Leonard Vary AM, Senior Program Manager Kirsty Allen and Program Manager Jane Thomas for their support of the Committee and the Fellows over the past year.

Jonathan Lindsay, Edgar Myer (from May 2024 to February 2025) and Edwina Myer (from February 2025), Co-Convenors of the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships Committee



About Time is a platform for journalism by people in prison

2025 Recipient	State	Fellowship Project	Commitment from FY25
Joseph Friedman	VIC	About Time	\$180,000
Rebecca Keeley	ACT	Yarn	\$180,000
Total			\$360,000

Inclusion & Equality Program

The past year was the second in the FY24–28 strategic period, and the second during which the Inclusion & Equality Program has focused its grantmaking on supporting low-income families to thrive in secure housing.

Our grantmaking takes the form of untied multi-year grants, in pursuit of our *enabling organisations* strategic pillar. The grants provide flexibility and certainty to funded organisations, affording them the power to use funds in ways they determine, in support of their mission.

The CEO of one organisation funded through this program has told us, “The cost of delivering programs is a serious challenge in the community sector. We are aware of a number of programs that

have significantly reduced their services or cut programs altogether. This is happening at a time when demand for assistance is at an all-time high [...] We would be in a similar position as these other services without SMF.”

The list of grants below includes those made in the previous strategic period which remain current.

Following a process of scanning the sector, engaging with and hearing from several excellent organisations whose work aligns with the focus area, the Committee has made two new five-year commitments. Utilising an innovative online model, Anika Legal supports low-income renters to access justice in relation to renting, and leverages

its service delivery to inform system advocacy. For its service users, prevalent issues are repairs, rent increases and evictions.

Women’s Property Initiatives provides permanent and affordable housing for women and children at risk of homelessness. Women’s Property Initiatives owns and manages 122 homes across Melbourne and manages 142 homes for other organisations. Together these houses provide permanent homes for over 450 women and children, while developments are underway in regional Victoria.

It is my privilege and a joy to convene a committee comprised of the following diligent and passionate members:

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
Women’s Property Initiatives	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Five	\$990,000	\$990,000
Anika Legal	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Five	\$500,000	\$500,000
Karinya Young Women’s Service	TAS	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$900,000	-
Council of Single Mothers and their Children	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$590,000	-
Aurora Education Foundation	NSW	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$670,000	-
CareerTrackers Indigenous Internship Program	QLD	General Operating Support	2021	Five	\$660,000	-
CareerSeekers	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Five	\$560,000	-
Multicultural Youth South Australia	SA	General Operating Support	2021	Five	\$530,000	-
Seed Foundation Australia	QLD	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$450,000	-
Himilo Ltd	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Five	\$330,000	-
Savannah Pride (with PCYC NSW)	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Five	\$300,000	-
Community grants						
Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$840,000	\$160,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$830,000	\$155,000
Rainbow Giving Australia (formerly: GiveOUT)	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$830,000	\$185,000
Single-year grants						
Gnarly Neighbours	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total					\$8,990,000	\$2,000,000



Women’s Property Initiatives has nine apartments in Nightingale Village in Brunswick, Victoria



Anika Legal’s CEO Noel Lim speaking at the launch of its partnership with RMIT School of Law

Sidney Myer Fund Chairman Andrew Myer AM, Maree Shelmerdine, Louise Myer and Suzie Myer. We are joined on the Committee by Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott AM, Dr Cassandra Goldie AM and Professor Rebecca Bentley, whose expert views are delivered, and probing questions asked, with grace, wisdom and compassion. My grateful thanks to all Committee members for their time and commitment to the Inclusion & Equality Program.

CEO Leonard Vary and Senior Program Manager Kirsty Allen have resourced the committee, and importantly, shepherded prospective grantee organisations through our enquiry and due diligence processes with care and respect. On behalf of the Inclusion & Equality Committee I thank them both for their support, assurance and companionship.

Sally Lindsay, Convenor of the Inclusion & Equality Committee



Women’s Property Initiatives offers a pathway out of housing stress for single women and single mums, including Tiffany, pictured here with her son, who now lives in Nightingale Village, Brunswick, after a three-year period of homelessness. Photo Kate Longley

Arts & Culture Program

The grantmaking of the Arts & Culture Committee is focused on championing individual artists, creators and cultural leaders to be bold and ambitious.

Aligned with this strategic focus, the Committee continued its support of the Sidney Myer Creative Fellowships program, awarding a further eight Fellowships to exceptionally talented artists, creatives and cultural leaders. These Fellowships provide untied funding of \$200,000 to each Fellow so that they may have the time, space, stability and

freedom to broaden and deepen our nation's cultural life.

In addition, the Committee was delighted to expand the impact of the Creative Fellowships program in collaboration with The Ian Potter Cultural Trust, which awarded two Ian Potter Creative Fellowships this year. All Creative Fellows were drawn from the same pool of nominations and awarded on the same basis, delivering a collective \$2 million in untied, tax-free funding directly to individual artists.

Back in 2023, we celebrated having awarded 100 Fellowships. As part of these celebrations, we invited all alumni of the program to dream up ambitious new creative projects that involved collaborations between them. As a result, this year, the Committee was pleased to support the commissioning of three significant new works – an illustrated book, a cantata for symphony orchestra, and a dance-theatre work. All of these are now in development and we look forward with great anticipation to their respective publication and premieres.

The Committee also funded a pilot project that seeks to enhance and promote the role that arts and culture can play in Australia's regional diplomacy.

Thanks go to my fellow Committee members Rupert Myer AO, Kerry Gardner AM, Henry Badgery and Stephen Armstrong, who make the convening of this Committee a most enriching experience. To that list of members, I add a very special note of gratitude to Carrillo Gantner AC, an indefatigable advocate

for arts and culture, who stepped down from the Committee during the course of the year after countless years of service. Both as a Committee member and as former Chairman of Sidney Myer Fund, Carrillo brought to all discussions a deep and abiding love for the arts and the people who enliven them. His is a passion our Committee will strive to carry forward for many years to come.

I would also like to acknowledge the fine work and support of Sidney Myer

Fund Trustees Andrew Myer AM, Sally Lindsay, Annabel Myer and Dr Anna Foley, and I thank CEO Leonard Vary and Program Manager Carl Nilsson-Polias for the exceptional work they do for this Committee and for the arts and culture of our nation.

Kate Shelmerdine, Convenor of the Arts & Culture Committee

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
Centre for Creative Industry Diplomacy	VIC	Pilot program	2025	Four	\$560,000	\$140,000
Book of Hours	VIC	SMCF Alumni Commissioning Grant	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
The Shepherds	VIC	SMCF Alumni Commissioning Grant	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
The Valley of the Dry Bones	WA	SMCF Alumni Commissioning Grant	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Sidney Myer Creative Fellowships						
Caroline Bowditch	VIC	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Thomas E.S. Kelly	QLD	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Steve Toltz	NSW	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Gelareh Pour	VIC	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Audrey Lam	VIC	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Mish Grigor	VIC	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Gillian Cosgriff	VIC	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Jacobus Capone	WA	2024 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$200,000
Freyja Wild	TAS	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Sara Mansour	NSW	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Matthias Schack-Arnott	VIC	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Christine Kenneally	VIC	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Shakthi Sivanathan	NSW	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Adena Jacobs	VIC	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
John Harvey	QLD	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Melanie Lane	ACT	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Emma Jones	NSW	2023 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow	2024	Two	\$200,000	-
Single-year grants						
National Institute of Circus Arts	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$50,000	\$50,000
Adelaide Festival	SA	Commissioning grant	2025	One	\$10,200	\$10,200
Melbourne Prize Trust	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total					\$4,630,200	\$2,410,200



Caroline Bowditch. Photo Mia Mala McDonald



Mish Grigor



Steve Toltz



Gelareh Pour

Arts & Culture Program



Gillian Cosgriff. Photo Cameron Grant Parenthesy



Audrey Lam



Jacobus Capone



Thomas E.S. Kelly. Photo Mick Richards

Merlyn Myer Fund



The SEED Project Advocating in Canberra (from left): Dr Travers McLeod (Executive Director), Jo Evans (SEED Project Member and Change Maker Advocate), Tamara Rhodes Evans (SEED Project Member and Change Maker Advocate), Hutch Hussein (Senior Manager, Government Engagement)

The Merlyn Myer Fund has a remit to support the endeavour of women, in recognition of Dame Merlyn Myer's interest in women's wellbeing. It is led by direct lineal female descendants of Sidney and Dame Merlyn Myer, who act as Trustees.

The grantmaking focus is to provide opportunities for women experiencing disadvantage in Australia. In recent years, Merlyn Myer Fund Trustees moved to awarding multi-year grants over two years, to better support grantees in achieving their missions. We are delighted that the Trustees of Sidney Myer Fund increased the MMF annual grantmaking budget by \$25,000 to \$100,000 in each year of the

current strategic period, enabling more substantial grants to be made.

In FY25, the Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) was awarded a grant of \$200,000 over two years to support its Sustaining Economic Empowerment and Dignity for Women (SEED) Project.

The SEED Project, established by BSL in 2020, aims to catalyse opportunities for women experiencing disadvantage by tackling barriers to their economic security. Designed to respond to local conditions and increase collective capability, the SEED Project was developed in Seymour, one of the towns experiencing the highest levels of disadvantage in the Hume region of

Victoria, with women residing in the area facing significant challenges.

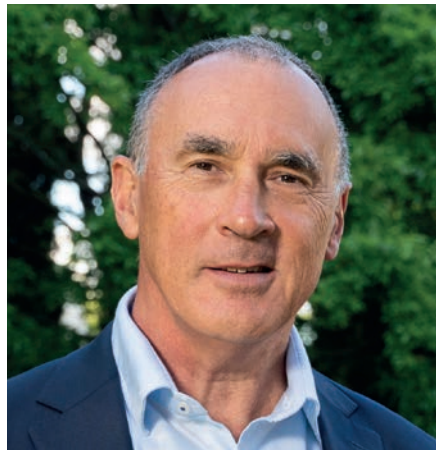
The SEED Project highlights the importance of location and local connectivity in women's financial wellbeing and economic inclusion, while leveraging BSL's expertise in research, analysis and advocacy to drive systemic and structural change.

Our most sincere thanks to CEO Leonard Vary and to Program Manager Jane Thomas who once again managed the program with grace and a steadfast hand in FY25.

Merlyn Myer Fund Trustees Sally Lindsay, Samantha Baillieu AM, Lindy Shelmerdine, Laura Richards

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Brotherhood of St. Laurence	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Two	\$200,000	\$100,000
Total					\$200,000	\$100,000

Sidney Myer Fund Trustees



Andrew Myer AM



Sally Lindsay



Annabel Myer



Dr Anna Foley

Sidney Myer Fund

Chairman

Andrew Myer AM, MBA (Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne)
Andrew Myer has more than 30 years' commercial experience across a range of businesses. He is Chairman of the AV Myer Group which pursues a variety of business interests, including investment, film, property development and philanthropy. He has been a Trustee of Sidney Myer Fund since 2011. He served as a Director of The Myer Family Investments Pty Ltd from 2012 to 2025 and as Vice President of The Myer Foundation from 1999 to 2003.

Andrew has produced and executive produced twelve Australian feature films and is currently Chair of Documentary Australia. He was previously Chair and Deputy Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival, Deputy Chair of the Australian Film and Television Radio School, Chair of Arts Centre Melbourne Foundation, a trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, a board member of Malthouse Theatre, and Vice President of Bush Heritage Australia.

In 2018, Andrew was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for significant service to the community through support for a range of cultural and environmental conservation organisations and to the film industry.

Trustees

Sally Lindsay BA, Dip Ed (Primary)
Sally Lindsay has been a member of the Inclusion & Equality Committee for 16 years, the Committee's Convenor since 2011 and a Trustee of Sidney Myer Fund since 2007. Sally is a passionate advocate for education and community wellbeing.

Annabel Myer BA and BComm (University of Melbourne)
Annabel Myer joined as a Trustee of Sidney Myer Fund in 2024. She is Chair of The Aranday Foundation, a member of the Opera Australia Capital Fund UK and a former member of the Trinity College Foundation Executive Committee.

Dr Anna Foley MBBS (Hons) FRACP
Anna has been a Trustee of Sidney Myer Fund since 2020. She is also a member of The Myer Foundation's Sustainability & Environment Committee. She has been a member of the joint Investment Committee of Sidney Myer Fund and The Myer Foundation, and has served as Co-Convenor of the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships Committee. In addition, Anna is a Board Member of Malthouse Theatre, but spends most of her time engaged with her busy Gastroenterology practice.

Sidney Myer Fund Trustees and Committee Membership

Founder and Benefactor

Sidney Myer

Chairman

Andrew Myer AM

Trustees

Sally Lindsay
Annabel Myer
Dr Anna Foley

Observer

Poppy Lockie (2025)

Sidney Myer Fund Grantmaking Committees

Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships (co-supported by The Myer Foundation)
Jonathan Lindsay (Co-Convenor)
Edwina Myer (Co-Convenor from February 2025)
Anna Spraggett
Edgar Myer (Co-Convenor to February 2025)
Jan Owen AM
Huy Nguyen (to June 2025)
Professor John Daley AM
Kathryn Fagg AC

Inclusion & Equality

Sally Lindsay (Convenor)
Andrew Myer AM
Louise Myer
Maree Shelmerdine
Susan Myer (on leave)
Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott AM
Dr Cassandra Goldie AM
Professor Rebecca Bentley

Arts & Culture

Kate Shelmerdine (Convenor)
Carrillo Gantner AC (until February 2025)
Rupert Myer AO
Kerry Gardner AM
Henry Badgery (on leave)
Stephen Armstrong

Merlyn Myer Fund

Sally Lindsay
Samantha Baillieu AM
Lindy Shelmerdine
Laura Richards

Staff

Chief Executive Officer
Leonard Vary AM

Chief Financial Officer & Secretary
Hang Truong

Senior Program Manager
Kirsty Allen

Program Managers
Carl Nilsson-Polias
Jane Thomas

Executive Assistant
Denise Minahan

Administration & Grants Coordinator
Madeleine Livingstone

Accountant
James Maglovski

Sidney Myer Fund Financials

	Commitment from FY25
Sidney Myer Fund Trustees' Grants	\$6,497,500
Arts & Culture Program	\$2,410,200
Inclusion & Equality Program	\$2,000,000
Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships	\$360,000
Merlyn Myer Fund	\$100,000
Total	\$11,367,700

The Myer Foundation & Sidney Myer Fund Combined Reporting

Sidney Myer Fund's Total FY25 Grant Commitments	\$11,367,700
The Myer Foundation's Total FY25 Grant Commitments	\$5,536,438
Adjustment for FY25 SMF to TMF transfer	-\$1,550,000
Combined FY25 Commitments	\$15,354,138
Combined Total Commitments* Since Inception	\$350,012,722

* not adjusted to present day values.

FY25 Funding By Focus Area

