

# The Myer Foundation Annual Report 2023–24



THE MYER  
FOUNDATION

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Adelaide River



**An aerial view of the Adelaide River, Northern Territory – an important site for First Nations water rights and interests in national water reform.**

*Photo Peter Horne, Watertrust Australia Principal*

# Origins of The Myer Foundation



The Myer Foundation (TMF) was established in 1959 by Sidney Myer's sons, the late Kenneth Myer AC DSC and Sidney Baillieu Myer AC, as a way to support initiatives and new opportunities arising from contemporary issues. The Myer Foundation was endowed through Kenneth Myer's estate following his death in 1992.

# The Myer Foundation President's Address

This year marks the 65th anniversary of TMF's founding. In 1960, Ken Myer wrote the President's address in the inaugural annual report. He set out the early aims and objectives that have since become defining characteristics of TMF's approach to philanthropy. A "modern Foundation is in no sense an alms giver", but rather a supporter of new ideas, "providing the means for scientific and social experiment". Ken envisaged TMF leading "in fields where more orthodox support is hampered by narrower conditions. This applies not only to projects which the Foundation is directly asked to support, but also to ideas which will arise from within the Foundation itself."

It is pleasing to read these words again and feel their immediacy, their ongoing relevance and the way in which they continue to resonate with how TMF operates today. It is equally pleasing to reflect on decades of public transparency. Through annual reports, speeches, collaboration with philanthropic peers, and engagement with the for-purpose sector, we continue to discuss our aims and objectives openly for the good of the community, just as the founders were doing. There has been a commitment to the principle of transparency from TMF Presidents and boards for our entire history. We are a family foundation that welcomes non-family members onto our board and committees, that benefits from our management's counsel and that learns valuable lessons from the countless experiments for which we and others have provided the means.

This annual report is not simply about transparency. It is also about visibility – not for TMF but for the organisations, people and ideas that we support. These pages are a celebration of their work and the benefit they bring to our community.

There are organisations like Climateworks, A New Approach and Watertrust, which represent ideas arising from within TMF itself that were made possible thanks to the collaborative investment of our philanthropic peers. Then there are National Justice Project, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, Alliance for Journalists' Freedom and Centre for Public Integrity, which speak to TMF's enduring commitment to legal rights, transparency and the strengthening of democracy.

Our investment in individuals and their new ideas is also significant. Social Impact Leadership Australia gives the CEOs of for-purpose organisations the time and space to reflect on their leadership and their organisation, and to build their capability together with their peers. The Innovation Fellowship bears Ken's name for good reason – it is perhaps the purest instance of our support for scientific and social experiment. This year it gives Stephanie Cousins the opportunity to test her platform for welcoming more refugees to Australia.

Indeed, we are at a point in history when the interconnectedness of our global population has never felt more apparent and yet is more under strain than ever. As the UNHCR grimly makes clear, the forcible displacement of almost 120 million people in 2023 is largely caused by armed conflict but has been exacerbated by climate change. Global action on decarbonisation is urgent and, true to Ken's word, TMF's Sustainability & Environment program is going where more orthodox support might fear to tread.



**Rupert Myer AO**  
President

The scale of the problems being addressed by those we have supported this past year cannot be overstated. And I am very grateful for the commitment, intelligence and vision that they bring.

I am also grateful for the collegial and rigorous work that TMF Directors, Committee members, CEO Leonard Vary AM and the management team bring to our philanthropy. There is instilled at TMF a culture of deliberative decision-making. Ideas are raised, reviewed, questioned, challenged, reconfigured. Through research, analysis and debate we arrive at consensus. This is the work of a modern foundation.

# The Myer Foundation CEO's Introduction

The 12 months covered by this annual report constitute the first year of TMF's current five-year strategic cycle. As is detailed in this report, TMF's previous strategic funding programs persist, but their priorities have been updated and, for the Sustainability & Environment and Mental Health programs, their funding capacities have been materially augmented by increased contributions from Sidney Myer Fund.

Climate action remains the single greatest focus of TMF investment – both in respect of grantmaking and via our ESG-aligned corpus. In FY24, a material portion of that grantmaking addressed the critical opportunity afforded by the prospect of Australia, in partnership with the Pacific, hosting the United Nation's annual climate change conference in 2026. For Pacific Island nations, climate action is not a choice, it is an urgent and existential requirement. The world's attention on our region can act as an important lever to activate the policy reform and investment needed, both in Australia and globally, to accelerate the realisation of an equitable net zero future.

A five-year strategic cycle gives us sufficient scope to consider investments which can deliver this kind of long-term, systemic benefit to our community. A New Approach and Watertrust, which each received significant support in FY24, are two more great examples of this thinking – both organisations were born of TMF's appetite for innovation, experimentation and our willingness to invest in the slow but crucial work of public policy improvement.

Myer family members are the bedrock of TMF. Sidney Myer established the family's name, fortune and philanthropic tradition. It was his children who then established TMF, and it is his grandchildren and great-grandchildren who now lead this philanthropic institution. Encouragingly,

we will soon see the first great-great-grandchildren becoming TMF members and continuing this extraordinary intergenerational legacy. As Rupert makes clear, 65 years of family-led governance has coexisted beautifully with ongoing public transparency, the counsel of non-family board members and a responsiveness to the needs of the for-purpose sector that TMF exists to serve.

This new strategic period has seen the funding capacity of TMF's Mental Health program boosted to \$750,000 per annum, up from \$200,000 just five years ago. The program, an initiative of Sidney Myer's great-grandchildren, heeds Ken Myer's call for funding to encourage social innovation. For many years, the program has supported smaller for-purpose organisations pioneering new models to improve mental health outcomes in our community – allowing evidence-informed ideas to be piloted and evaluated at a community level with a view to securing the evidence and investment needed to achieve population-wide scale. This year's multi-year grants continue that tradition and sit alongside a suite of ongoing multi-year commitments that, together, are testing new ideas from Perth to Alice Springs, and from Break O'Day in Tasmania to Mackay in Queensland.

My thanks to TMF President Rupert Myer and all the Directors, Committee Co-Convenors and members, as well as our management team. At a time of political polarisation and global tension, I am acutely aware of the benefits of working with such an intelligent, inventive, considerate and empathetic group of people. It is not just a matter of what we do, it is a matter of how we do it. And I am delighted every day by the way our team carries on the legacy of Myer family philanthropy.



**Leonard Vary AM**  
CEO

Photo: James Penlidis

# The Myer Foundation Directors' Grants



Alliance for Journalists' Freedom is led by Peter Greste (second from right), pictured on an advocacy trip to Canberra with, from left, Caoilfhionn Gallagher of Doughty Street Chambers, Sebastian Lai (son of detained Hong Kong pro-democracy publisher Jimmy Lai) and Jennifer Robinson



The National Justice Project fought on behalf of the families of Mona and Cindy Smith for an inquest into their deaths after 35 years, exposing investigative failures and systemic racism

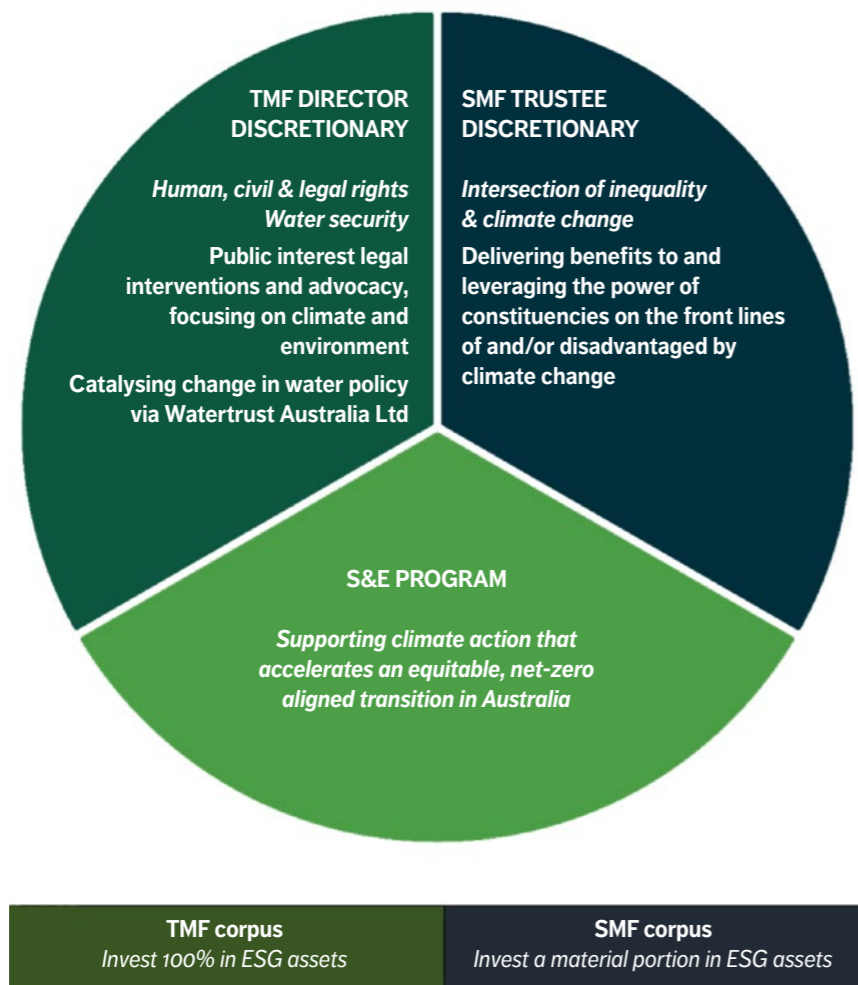
Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY24
<b>Multi-year grants</b>						
A New Approach	ACT	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$500,000	\$500,000
National Justice Project	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$350,000	\$350,000
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$300,000	\$300,000
Alliance for Journalists' Freedom	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$300,000	\$300,000
International Social Service Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Two	\$100,000	\$100,000
Centre for Public Integrity	VIC	Stephen Charles Fellowship	2024	Three	\$75,000	\$75,000
Watertrust Australia Ltd	ACT	General Operating Support	2021	Ten	\$5,000,000	\$500,000
Centre for Social Impact, University of New South Wales	NSW	Social Impact Leadership Australia	2020	Five	\$1,500,000	\$300,000
Centre for Australian Progress	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$400,000	-
Grata Fund	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$350,000	-
Centre for Public Integrity	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Four	\$200,000	-
Writers Victoria	VIC	Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund	2022	Four	\$561,500	-
Centre for Policy Development	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Three	\$300,000	-
Australian Democracy Network	ACT	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$275,000	-
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$275,000	-
Mannifera	VIC	Mannifera Membership 2021-2024	2022	Three	\$165,000	-
Environmental Justice Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Three	\$150,000	-
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$10,801,500</b>	<b>\$2,425,000</b>



Members of the ISS Australia International Parental Social Work team, led by Manager Kay Hardefeldt (second from right)

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY24
<b>Single-year grants</b>						
Fair Agenda	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	One	\$60,000	\$60,000
Mannifera	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	One	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>

# Climate Change



A sustainable future is fundamental to our vision for Australia. Environmental sustainability is one of The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund's five core values while addressing climate change is one of the two abiding themes of the FY24–28 strategic plan.

Together, The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund are pursuing a suite of strategies to advance our commitment to addressing climate change. Our portfolio approach to grantmaking supports organisations taking discrete but complementary approaches that, taken together, effect change at the systems level.

In FY24, The Myer Foundation awarded multi-year grants to organisations with a focus on accelerating an equitable transition to net zero emissions in Australia. Sidney Myer Fund Trustees awarded multi-year grants to organisations operating at the intersection of climate change and inequality, offering complementarity to The Myer Foundation's grantmaking.

In the new strategic period, funding of the Sustainability & Environment Program is shared equally by The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund.

Grantmaking is leveraged by the investment of more than 98 percent of The Myer Foundation's own corpus in ESG (environmental, social, governance) assets while a material proportion of Sidney Myer Fund's own corpus has similarly been invested into ESG assets.

# Watertrust Australia Ltd



On site in the Western Davenport region. Photo Kate Peake, Watertrust Australia Principal



Lee Failing, Compass Resource Management, presenting on structured decision-making from the first workshop held on Watertrust's Upper Murrumbidgee initiative. Photo Peter Horne, Watertrust Australia Principal



Stakeholders from the Greater Adelaide integrated water management executive forum. Photo Kane Alridge, Watertrust Australia Principal

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on Earth, with highly variable rainfall and runoff. Coupled with the effects of climate change, population growth and degradation of natural assets, Australia's water and catchments are coming under increasing strain.

Overcoming Australia's biggest challenges in water and catchment management will come down to how policy decisions are made.

In 2021, The Myer Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation led a coalition of 15 philanthropic funders to establish Watertrust Australia Ltd (Watertrust) to drive independent and inclusive processes for the development of water and catchment policies that benefit everyone.

In the last 12 months, Watertrust has built on its early foundations and earned trust in regional and national policy environments, with its initiatives growing in scale and impact.

The Productivity Commission's Inquiry this year into National Water Reform underlined the importance of work that Watertrust is already undertaking to support First Nations water rights and interests, and water security for the Greater Adelaide region. Importantly, the National Water Initiative and the Basin Plan (including the Restoring our Rivers Act) has created opportunities for Watertrust to lay important foundations for work in the Upper Murrumbidgee and the review of the Snowy Hydro Ltd operating deed.

In Northern Australia, an early Watertrust project on water allocation planning for the Western Davenport region is now in its final stages while another initiative focusing on policy options for water trading in the Northern Territory has commenced.

In FY24, Watertrust demonstrated its credentials as a trusted, independent and impartial broker in improving how decisions are made about the management of Australia's precious water and catchment resources, placing it at a strategic inflection point as it heads into its fourth year of operation.

# Sustainability & Environment Program

The Sustainability & Environment Committee's focus area in the current strategic period (FY24–28) is to support climate action that accelerates an equitable net zero aligned transition in Australia.

In FY24, the Committee provided multi-year untied grants to Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC) and Climate Council. The IGCC aims to drive greater investment into climate solutions, build the capacity of institutional investors to achieve net zero and advocate for stronger climate policy, while Climate Council provides independent, authoritative information on climate change science, impacts and solutions.

Australia, in partnership with the Pacific, is bidding to host the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31), the United Nation's annual climate change conference, to be held in 2026. COP31 offers a critical opportunity to accelerate and scale equitable climate action, particularly for Pacific Island nations facing an existential crisis due to the impacts of climate change. In view of this, the Committee determined that grantmaking associated with COP31 would be prioritised in FY24. Funding included a multi-year grant to Climateworks Centre in support of its high ambition policy coalition designed to maximise the opportunity of an Australian–Pacific COP and a grant in support of Pacific Islander advocacy at the multilateral level.



Mary Harm (centre) from 350° at the Pacific Island Forum in Tonga with Tongan high school students, leading training with 350 Pacific on climate issues, along with Tishko King (left) from Australia

We express our deep gratitude for the ever-strengthening commitment to climate action, and for the trust placed in the Committee, by Directors of The Myer Foundation and Trustees of Sidney Myer Fund, who between them have doubled the grantmaking capacity of the Committee to \$2 million annually in the new strategic period.

We are fortunate to be joined on the Committee by Martyn Myer AO, Dr Anna Foley, David Shelmerdine, Lilly Myer,

Nick Shelmerdine and Dr John Spierings, and we thank them for their dedication and collaboration in FY24. We are ably supported by CEO Leonard Vary AM and Program Manager Jane Thomas, who have, once again, been steadfast in their counsel to the Committee over the past year.

Jon Berry and Will Spraggett,  
Co-Convenors of the Sustainability & Environment Committee

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY24
<b>Multi-year grants</b>						
Climateworks Centre	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$750,000	\$750,000
Climate Council of Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$500,000	\$500,000
Investor Group on Climate Change	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$500,000	\$500,000
Environmental Leadership Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Two	\$500,000	-
The Next Economy	QLD	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$490,000	-
Beyond Zero Emissions	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Three	\$395,000	-
Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Three	\$395,000	-
Farmers for Climate Action	VIC	General Operating Support	2021	Three	\$345,000	-



Investor Group on Climate Change has launched its Climate Action Pays Off campaign to reaffirm how Australia is reaping the benefits of the transition to clean energy and net zero. Sophie's farm, near Singleton, NSW, has been in her family for five generations. By installing batteries and solar, and increasing the farm's water storage capacity, Sophie's already reduced her power bills by 70%, future-proofing the farm in the process.

Climateworks Centre and Asialink staff in Ho Chi Minh City for the Australia-Vietnam Green Economy Summit in April 2024. Left to right: Climateworks Policy Manager (Vietnam) Ben Khuat, Asialink Business CEO Leigh Howard, Climateworks Senior Project Manager Ceren Ayas, Asialink Business Partnerships and Events Lead Sally Ly, Asialink Group CEO Martine Letts, Climateworks CEO Anna Skarbek, Climateworks Chair Prof. John Thwaites AM, Asialink Diplomacy Program Lead Grace Corcoran, Asialink Advocacy and Programs Juliet Nguyen, Climateworks Southeast Asia Lead Trang Nguyen, Climateworks Head of Policy and Engagement Luke Brown



Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY24
<b>Single-year grants</b>						
The Sunrise Project	NSW	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$185,000	\$185,000
Climate Action Network Australia	NSW	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$110,000	\$110,000
Climateworks Centre	VIC	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$100,000	\$100,000
ODI (Overseas Development Institute)		In support of COP31	2024	One	\$100,000	\$100,000
Environmental Leadership Australia	NSW	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$65,000	\$65,000
Smart Energy Council	ACT	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$40,000	\$40,000
Smart Energy Council	ACT	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$30,000	\$30,000
UNICEF	NSW	Donate to Children in Gaza Appeal	2024	One	\$10,000	\$10,000
Environmental Leadership Australia	NSW	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$1,500	\$1,500
Environmental Leadership Australia	NSW	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$1,500	\$1,500
Smart Energy Council	ACT	In support of COP31	2024	One	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$4,519,500</b>	<b>\$2,394,500</b>

# Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Committee was formed in 2013 by fourth generation Myer family members. This year, the Committee's grantmaking budget has been significantly augmented thanks to a transfer of \$550,000 from the Trustees of Sidney Myer Fund. This has allowed the Committee to make multi-year general operating support grants to two complementary organisations working to develop innovative approaches to mental health.

Happy Paws Happy Hearts (HPHH) offers a spin on animal therapy in which participants, aged 12 and over, join small group sessions centred around animal interactions at RSPCA rescue shelters and wildlife sanctuaries. HPHH programs are designed as a gateway out of social isolation. The programs focus on re-engaging participants in social contexts, giving them new skills and changing their outlook on life through community contributions – all while having important touch time with rescue animals. HPHH works with diverse cohorts, including young people, Defence veterans, and people with disabilities, reaching over 500 people weekly across seven locations in Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

I CAN Network is Australia's largest autistic-led organisation, providing group mentoring programs for children and young people on the autism spectrum. I CAN seeks to remedy the marginalisation and difficulties that young autistic people can experience through a strengths-based approach, developing participants' social connection, pride in their neurodivergent identity and important life skills. I CAN has 100 staff (83 of them autistic/ neurodivergent) and works with young people aged 5–22 years both in schools and outside of school. In 2023, I CAN mentored over 3,000 autistic and neurodivergent young people through its programs.

This is our first year as Co-Convenors of the Committee. It was a year in which we welcomed a new expert member to the Committee – Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry. We thank Bernadette and all our fellow Committee members – Emily Myer, Laura Richards, Nicholas Lindsay and Louis Myer – for their generous contributions and good counsel. Further thanks to Leonard Vary AM, Carl Nilsson-Polias and all the staff for their assistance with our grantmaking



Happy Paws Happy Hearts program participant Hayley working with a rescue turtle at RSPCA Brisbane Animal Care Campus at Wacol

activities this year. And special thanks to the Sidney Myer Fund Trustees whose financial support has made the Committee's grantmaking all the more impactful.

Jessica Myer and Jemima Myer,  
Co-Convenors of the Mental Health Committee



Program participants Nimesh and Ethan with Happy Paws Happy Hearts program trainer Claudia working with a rescue dog at RSPCA Brisbane Animal Care Campus at Wacol

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY24
<b>Multi-year grants</b>						
Happy Paws Happy Hearts	QLD	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$370,000	\$370,000
I CAN Network	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$370,000	\$370,000
Project Rockit	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$290,000	-
Makeshift Creative	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$150,000	-
The Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health	WA	General Operating Support	2022	Three	\$240,000	-
Youth Live4Life	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Four	\$200,000	-
<b>Single-year grants</b>						
The Reach Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	One	\$5,000	\$5,000
Brother to Another	NT	General Operating Support	2024	One	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$1,630,000</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>



ICAN Network Founder Chris Varney (left) on a panel with young ICAN Network mentors at the 2023 Australian Council for Educational Leaders Diversity & Inclusion Conference

# Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships



**Stephanie Cousins**

In FY24, the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships program reached a total of 33 Fellowships awarded. Now in the program's eleventh year, the Fellowships support Australian innovators in their pursuit of social and/or environmental impact, offering funds, expertise, mentoring and an alumni network to three outstanding individuals. Each year, The Myer Foundation awards one Fellowship and Sidney Myer Fund awards two. This year The Myer Foundation's Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellow is Stephanie Cousins.

Stephanie Cousins' initiative, Launchpad for Refugees, aims to make it possible for refugees to migrate to Australia to take

up education and training opportunities in high-demand occupations. Through the program, refugee young people will be able to pursue their education and career aspirations, while living in safety and contributing to Australia's economy.

Each year the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships receive hundreds of expressions of interest. Together with our fellow Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship Committee members, it is our pleasurable task to review, assess and select three Fellows from among those hundreds of aspirants. We thank Committee Members Anna Spraggett, Huy Nguyen (KMIF 2018), Jan Owen AM, Kathryn Fagg AO and Professor

John Daley AM for their commitment, expertise and experience. During the year Co-Convenor Edwina Myer took a leave of absence to focus on her new baby, with Edgar Myer stepping in to the Co-Convenor role.

Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellows benefit from the generous sharing of experience and insights from a Support Panel, comprised this year of Leah Armstong, Quentin Miller, Dr Shelley Meagher, and Oliver Roydhouse, to whom we are immensely grateful. We also thank Kilfinan Australia, which matches Fellows with high calibre mentors.

We're grateful to the TMF team for their support, and particularly to CEO Leonard Vary AM, Senior Program Manager Kirsty Allen and Program Manager Jane Thomas for their work on this impactful program.

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

2024 Recipient	State	Fellowship Project	Commitment from FY24
Stephanie Cousins	VIC	Launchpad for Refugees	\$180,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$180,000</b>

# Family Grants Program

The Family Grants Program extends and amplifies the grantmaking reach and impact of The Myer Foundation by matching family member donations to charities. For those under 35 years of age, the program also increases the impact of charitable volunteering by matching volunteering hours with funding from TMF.

In FY24, over \$410,000 worth of donations and volunteering hours were matched, supporting a wide array of causes chosen by family members.



**Belinda Bauer from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery prepares a specimen for an eager crowd during Beaker Street Festival's free TMAG After Dark event**

Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY24
SANE Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$50,000
A New Approach	ACT	General Operating Support	\$25,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal	VIC	General Operating Support	\$25,000
Giant Steps Melbourne	VIC	General Operating Support	\$25,000
University of Melbourne	VIC	Public Humanities Initiative Fund	\$25,000
Vision Australia	VIC	Seeing Eye Dogs' Kennel Facilities	\$25,000
Beaker Street	TAS	Beaker Street Festival 2024	\$15,000
Documentary Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$15,000
Baby Give Back	QLD	General Operating Support	\$12,500
Mountain Track	VIC	General Operating Support	\$12,500
Bangarra Dance Theatre	NSW	General Operating Support	\$10,800
Creativity Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Griffin Theatre Company	NSW	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Malthouse Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Red Stitch Actors Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
St Vincent's Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Mannifera	VIC	General Operating Support	\$9,100
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	VIC	General Operating Support	\$8,334
International Social Service	VIC	General Operating Support	\$8,333
International Women's Development Agency	VIC	General Operating Support	\$8,333
Australian Chamber Orchestra	NSW	General Operating Support	\$7,000
Sacred Heart Mission	VIC	General Operating Support	\$6,000
Murdoch Children's Research Institute	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,500
Australian Cancer Research Foundation	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Future Ukraine	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000



# Family Grants Program



Bangarra Dance Theatre's *Horizon – The Light Inside* at Sydney Opera House, featuring dancers Lillian Banks, Bradley Smith, Courtney Radford, Kallum Goolagong, Kassidy Waters, Jye Uren, Daniel Mateo, Maddison Paluch, Kiarn Doyle, Emily Flannery, Janaya Lamb, James Boyd, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Amberlilly Gordon, Lucy May and Donta Whitham. Photo Daniel Boud



Vision Australia provides services for anyone experiencing or supporting those with vision loss

Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY24
Melbourne Theatre Company	VIC	Education program	\$5,000
Musica Viva Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
RISING	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Theatre Works	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Camberwell Area Multiple Birth Association	VIC	General Operating Support	\$4,800
The HOPE Fund	VIC	General Operating Support	\$4,400
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$3,000
Children First Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$3,000
Batten Disease Support and Research Association Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Black Hole Theatre Inc	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Breast Cancer Trials	NSW	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Melbourne Fringe	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
The Smith Family	NSW	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Spinal Research Institute	VIC	General Operating Support	\$1,500
The Victorian Arts Centre Trust	VIC	Education program	\$1,500
Victorian Opera	VIC	General Operating Support	\$1,500
Australia for UNHCR	NSW	General Operating Support	\$1,000
Mumbulla Foundation	NSW	General Operating Support	\$1,000
Save the Children	VIC	General Operating Support	\$1,000
Schizy Incorporated	VIC	General Operating Support	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$412,100</b>

# The Myer Foundation Directors



Rupert Myer AO



Edwina Myer



Adelaide Badgery



Nicholas Lindsay



Jemima Myer



Kathryn Fagg AO



Dr John Spierings

## Founder and Benefactor

**Kenneth Myer AC DSC**

## Founder

**Mr S. Baillieu Myer AC**

## Life Governors

**Lady Southey AC**

**Carrillo Gantner AC**

**Martyn Myer AO**

## President

**Rupert Myer AO, BCom (Hons) (UoM), MA (Cantab), FAICD, FAHA**

Rupert Myer is President of The Myer Foundation, Chairman of Amcil Limited and a Director of Myer Family Investments Pty Ltd and Mutual Trust Pty Ltd. He is Chair of A New Approach, Chair of the Felton Bequests' Committee and a Board Member of The Aranday Foundation and The Yulgilbar Foundation. Rupert served as Chair of the Australia Council for the Arts from 2012 until 2018 and as Chair of the National Gallery of Australia from 2005 until 2012. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2015 and an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2012.

## Directors

**Edwina Myer BComm LLB**

Edwina brings her professional expertise to The Myer Foundation from her medical research and legal background. Currently working at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre as an in-house attorney, Edwina is passionate about how innovation in medical research can drive meaningful change for individuals and society as a whole. In addition to her role as a director of The Myer Foundation, Edwina currently serves as a Co-Convenor of the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship Committee, as a board member of the Melbourne Humanities Foundation Board at the University of Melbourne and has previously volunteered with the New York Legal Assistance Group in a pro bono capacity. Edwina is admitted to practice in Victoria, Australia and New York, USA.

**Adelaide Badgery (until November 2023) BA (UoM), Adv Dip (Bus) (RMIT)**

Adelaide is a communications specialist with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne and

an Advanced Diploma of Business (Public Relations) from RMIT. She completed a Bachelor of Midwifery at Australian Catholic University in 2024, has a background in PR, and experience in strategy development, copywriting, event management and media engagement. Adelaide sits on the General Committee of the Camberwell Area Multiple Birth Association (CAMBA), and is the mother of four children.

**Nicholas Lindsay BCom, BA (Mon)**

Nicholas has a finance background, having completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University. Working at investment banking firm Lempriere Wells, Nicholas is excited and motivated by the ongoing convergence of the commercial and philanthropic sector and its potential to generate meaningful change. Prior to joining The Myer Foundation, he volunteered at the Foundation for Young Australians and as a homework mentor for four years at The Huddle Study Support Program, an initiative of Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia. Nicholas is a member of The Myer Foundation's Mental Health Committee, Investment Committee and Audit and Risk Committee.

**Jemima Myer BA(Hons) (UoM), MTeach (CDU)**

Jemima is a primary school teacher based in the Northern Territory and teaches in schools across Arnhem Land, the Tiwi Islands and Darwin. She has been a member of TMF's Mental Health Committee since 2019 and Co-Convenor of the committee since 2023. Jemima is also TMF's representative at Mannifera, a grantmaking collective focused on strengthening Australia's democracy and making our economy fairer, and serves on Mannifera's board. Jemima also serves on the board of Bangarra Dance Theatre, one of Australia's leading performing arts companies.

**Kathryn J Fagg AO FAICD, BEng (UQ), MCom (UNSW), HonDChemEng (UQ), HonDBus (UNSW)**

Kathryn Fagg is Chair of CSIRO and a Non-Executive Director of National Australia Bank Limited, Medibank Private Limited and Djerriwarrh Investments Limited. In the non-for-profit sector, Kathryn is Chair of the Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA), Watertrust Australia Ltd, and is a Board Member of the Grattan Institute, The Myer Foundation, and the Champions of

Change Coalition. Kathryn was a member of the Board of Boral Limited from 2014 to 2021, including as Chair from 2018 and Non-Executive Director of Incitec Pivot Limited from 2014 to 2019. She is a former member of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia from 2013 to 2018, a former President of Chief Executive Women (CEW), a former Chair of the Melbourne Recital Centre, Chair of Parks Victoria, and a former board member of the Australian Centre for Innovation.

Kathryn is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering. In addition to her engineering degree, Kathryn also holds an MCom in Organisational Behaviour with Honours from the University of NSW, which has also awarded her an honorary Doctor of Business and the Ada Lovelace Medal in 2017 which recognises an Outstanding Woman Engineer. She was a recipient of the University of Queensland's Inaugural Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award in 2013 and the University also awarded her an honorary Doctor of Chemical Engineering. Kathryn was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in June 2019 for distinguished service to business and finance, to the central banking, logistics and manufacturing sectors, and to women.

**Dr John Spierings BA, BSW, PhD (UoM)**

John Spierings is a strategist and analyst in the philanthropy and for purpose sectors and a former Executive Officer of the Reichstein Foundation. He brings an extensive background in education and training issues and broader social policy to The Myer Foundation.

John was a senior policy adviser to the Hon Julia Gillard AC, in her roles as Deputy Prime Minister and then Prime Minister, 2010-2013, with responsibility for higher education, research, skills, employment, industry, innovation and science policy issues in the PMO. For a decade, John was the Research Strategist with the Dusseldorp Skills Forum focusing on improving the participation and success of young Australians in learning and work.

He holds a PhD in economic history, examining the rise of advertising, mass retailing and media in Australia between 1918 and 1940. John was a Councillor for the City of St Kilda, 1990-94, serving as Mayor, 1992-93.

# The Myer Foundation Committees and Membership

## Founder and Benefactor

Kenneth Myer AC DSC

## Founder

Mr S. Baillieu Myer AC

## Life Governors

Lady Southey AC  
Carrillo Gantner AC  
Martyn Myer AO

## President

Rupert Myer AO

## Directors

Edwina Myer  
Adelaide Badgery (until November 2023)  
Nicholas Lindsay  
Kathryn Fagg AO  
Dr John Spierings  
Jemima Myer (from November 2023)

## The Myer Foundation Grantmaking Committees

### Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships (co-supported by Sidney Myer Fund)

Jonathan Lindsay (Co-Convenor)  
Edwina Myer (Co-Convenor to May 2024)  
Anna Spraggett  
Edgar Myer (Co-Convenor from May 2024)  
Jan Owen AM  
Huy Nguyen  
Professor John Daley AM (from June 2024)  
Kathryn Fagg AO

### Sustainability & Environment

William Spraggett (Co-Convenor)  
Jon Berry (Co-Convenor)  
Martyn Myer AO  
David Shelmerdine  
Dr Anna Foley  
Lilly Myer  
Nick Shelmerdine  
Dr John Spierings

### Mental Health Committee

Jessica Myer (Co-Convenor)  
Jemima Myer (Co-Convenor)  
Emily Myer  
Laura Richards  
Nicholas Lindsay  
Louis Myer  
Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry

## Members

Adelaide Badgery  
Henry Badgery  
Joanna Baevski  
Christopher Baillieu  
Samantha Baillieu AM  
Jon Berry  
Jigna Desai  
Kathryn Fagg AO  
Dr Anna Foley  
Carrillo Gantner AC  
Dr Dashiell Gantner  
Vallejo Gantner  
ZiYin Gantner  
Kerry Gardner AM  
Nell Golden  
Daisy Hayward  
Marigold Hayward  
Robert Hayward  
Kate Herd  
Natalie Herd  
Simon Herd  
Lilian Hodges  
Emma Lindsay  
Jonathan Lindsay  
Nicholas Lindsay  
Sally Lindsay  
Dr Timothy Lindsay  
Poppy Lockie  
Hugh Lockie  
Andrew Myer AM  
David Moffatt  
Annabel Myer  
Charles Myer  
Edgar Myer  
Edward Myer  
Edwina Myer  
Emily Myer  
Jemima Myer  
Jessica Myer  
Jon Myer  
Laura Myer  
Lilly Myer  
Louis Myer  
Louise Myer  
Lucy Myer  
Martyn Myer AO  
Max Myer  
Michael Myer  
Patrick Myer  
Rupert Myer AO  
Mrs Sarah Myer  
Sarah Myer  
Susan Myer  
Vanessa Myer  
Walter Myer  
William Myer  
Sidney Myer AM  
Jack North  
Laura Richards

David Shelmerdine  
Emily Shelmerdine  
Kate Shelmerdine  
Lindy Shelmerdine  
Maree Shelmerdine  
Matthew Shelmerdine  
Nick Shelmerdine  
Stephen Shelmerdine AM  
Tom Shelmerdine  
William Shelmerdine  
Lady Southey AC  
Dr John Spierings  
Anna Spraggett  
William Spraggett

## Staff

### Chief Executive Officer

Leonard Vary AM

### Chief Financial Officer & Company 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

# The Myer Foundation Financials

	Commitment from FY24
The Myer Foundation Directors' Grants	\$2,490,000
Sustainability & Environment Program	\$2,394,500
Mental Health Program	\$750,000
Family Grants Program	\$412,100
Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship	\$180,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,226,600</b>
<b>The Myer Foundation's Total FY24 Grant Commitments</b>	<b>\$6,226,600</b>
Sidney Myer Fund's Total FY24 Grant Commitments	\$11,443,000
Adjustment for FY24 SMF to TMF transfer	-\$1,550,000
<b>Combined FY24 Commitments</b>	<b>\$16,119,600</b>
<b>Combined Total Commitments Since Inception*</b>	<b>\$334,658,584</b>

\* not adjusted to present day values.

## FY24 Funding by Focus Area

