

# The Myer Foundation **Annual Report 2024–25**



THE MYER  
FOUNDATION



# Contents

Origins of The Myer Foundation	1
The Myer Foundation President’s Address	2
The Myer Foundation CEO’s Introduction	3
The Myer Foundation Directors’ Grants	4
Climate Change	6
Watertrust Australia Ltd	7
Sustainability & Environment Program	8
Mental Health Program	10
Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships	12
Family Grants Program	13
Biographies of The Myer Foundation Directors	15
The Myer Foundation Committees and Membership	16
The Myer Foundation Financials	17

# 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 the late Baillieu Myer AC. The late Neilma Gantner, and Lady Southey AC, sisters of Kenneth Myer and Baillieu Myer, were founding members of TMF, which was created to make grants into sectors and regions not covered by Sidney Myer’s Will. TMF was endowed upon the death of Kenneth Myer in 1992, when he left the bulk of his estate to TMF in his Will.

# The Myer Foundation President's Address

In the turbulent wake of Watergate and Vietnam, reformer David Hunter – a visionary advocate for ethical philanthropy in America – urged his peers to look beyond charitable acts toward a larger purpose: strengthening the civic and institutional foundations on which democracy depends. He believed philanthropic leadership requires investing in diverse organisations that build social resilience, and that lasting progress demands systemic change, not selective acts of charity. His words continue to resonate: *“Concern for the right working of our society must be the number one reason for existence for foundations.”*

The context has changed but the challenge endures. Across the world, and here in Australia, democracy is under strain. Trust in institutions, confidence in governance and respect for the integrity of public discourse are all tested by political polarisation, economic uncertainty and technological disruption. Since 2007, Australians' trust in governments, political parties and the media has declined markedly. This erosion of trust undermines policymaking, weakens reform and diminishes our democracy.

These pressures are visible in our increasingly digital 'public squares', spaces that have expanded opportunities for connection yet accelerated the spread of mis- and dis-information and amongst other impacts, have blurred the distinction between credible journalism and partisan commentary. Independent, ethical journalism remains a cornerstone of accountability, but its future is threatened by fragile financial models and encroachments on press freedom. Equally, transparency in governance – safeguarded by Freedom of Information laws, integrity commissions and robust parliamentary oversight – must be actively protected and properly resourced if it is to maintain public trust. Such

mechanisms are not self-sustaining; they require vigilance, investment and a shared commitment to the values they serve.

Economic inequality intensifies these civic strains. Housing unaffordability, stagnating wages and widening intergenerational divides have left many Australians questioning whether the system still delivers fair outcomes. This disillusionment is not only material, it is moral and civic. Faith in democratic processes falters when people feel excluded from prosperity or powerless to influence policy. The health of our democracy is inseparable from the sense that fairness is both possible and practised.

In this environment, sound and evidence-based public policy is a powerful instrument to strengthen democracy. Developed through rigorous analysis, open debate and transparent accountability, policy can rebuild confidence in institutions' capacity to act in the public interest. Philanthropy has a vital role in enabling better public policy to emerge by supporting those who research and test ideas, build civic understanding, and ensure that power is exercised in service of the public good.

This year, TMF Directors provided multi-year, untied funding to organisations such as the Grattan Institute, Fair Agenda and Community Legal Centres Australia. These organisations exemplify how thoughtful, independent work contributes to the strength and resilience of democratic systems. Through their analysis, advocacy and service, they enable Australians to engage more confidently and constructively with institutions that shape their lives. This continues TMF's long-standing commitment to the public sphere, and demonstrates a belief that democracy thrives when participation is informed, institutions are transparent, and opportunity is shared.



**Rupert Myer AO**  
President

In reflecting on this work, we also recognise its fragility. Gains achieved through collective effort – in rights, participation or reform – are not secure unless the democratic systems that safeguard them remain strong. This awareness continues to guide TMF's approach: to focus not only on outcomes, but on the enduring capacities that sustain progress.

When David Hunter spoke in 1975, Myer family philanthropy was in the hands of its second generation – individuals who steered the family's charitable legacy through decades of social change, holding fast to principles of service, generosity and civic responsibility. Today, their children and grandchildren continue that work, supported by an outstanding team led by CEO Leonard Vary, and by the wisdom of those who serve on our boards and committees. This partnership – between family, executive leadership, sector partners and the organisations we are privileged to support – gives TMF its continuity, vitality and purpose.

# The Myer Foundation CEO's Introduction

The 12 months covered by this annual report mark the second year of TMF's FY24–28 strategic cycle. As this report documents, TMF seeks to address several key, often intersecting, challenges facing our community in the present day: climate change, mental health, and human, civil and legal rights. In doing so, it complements the grantmaking of its philanthropic sibling, Sidney Myer Fund, which addresses inequality, and arts and culture, along with providing material financial support to TMF's own programs.

It matters not only what TMF addresses, but how it does so. We prioritise multi-year, untied support to for-purpose organisations. It enables them to focus on their core missions and the communities they work in; it makes them resilient, flexible and effective. We support individual leaders and changemakers because the community benefits most when the for-purpose sector has capable, innovative and strategic people working for it; people who have time to reflect, to have balance and to build a sustainable work practice. We also know that sometimes philanthropy's greatest impact lies in enabling systemic change: supporting the considered reform of public policies to make Australia a fairer, kinder, healthier and more environmentally friendly place to live.

This year, almost half of TMF's funding was directed towards climate action, affirming the family's long-standing leadership on this defining challenge. Climate action is an environmental issue, but also a public policy issue, an equity issue and a health issue. Fittingly, TMF's approach is similarly multifaceted. Currently, 97 percent of the TMF corpus is held in ESG assets, ensuring that our capital is pulling in the same direction as our distributions. The grantmaking of the Sustainability & Environment Committee is focused on an equitable net zero

transition, with particular attention paid to regional communities in FY25 through grants to Farmers for Climate Action and Beyond Zero Emissions. Additional 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. The world's attention on our region can act as an important lever to activate the public policy reform and investment needed to accelerate an equitable net zero future here and abroad.

Two of our flagship collaborative projects – Social Impact Leadership Australia (SILA) and Watertrust Australia Ltd – exemplify TMF's belief that durable change requires durable systems: leaders equipped to navigate complexity, and institutions capable of making informed, inclusive decisions. SILA offers a unique opportunity for refreshment and renewal, recognising the significant under investment in capacity building in the sector. Watertrust, meanwhile, brings resources, rigour and neutrality to one of the most contested policy arenas in the country: how we share and govern Australia's scarce freshwater resources. Each is the product of deep collaboration between multiple philanthropic partners – models of the collective ambition that drives TMF's work.

The Myer family remains the bedrock of TMF's identity. The Family Grants Program encourages generations of Myer family members to support the communities and causes they care about, with TMF's matched giving ensuring that it remains representative, responsive and family-based.

I am often struck by the interplay between the various dimensions of our work – the passion and the pragmatism, the systemic and the personal. All are essential to the vitality of Australian



**Leonard Vary AM**  
CEO

philanthropy. Meanwhile, the vitality of TMF is in no small way thanks to TMF President Rupert Myer AO, the Directors, Committee Co-Convenors and members, and our remarkable team. Since the close of the FY25 reporting period, we have farewelled TMF's Sustainability & Environment Program Manager Jane Thomas after six very productive years, and welcomed Sarah Matthee who will lead this critical work in future. At a time when public trust, our environment and social cohesion all face profound tests, it continues to be a privilege to work with people who meet those challenges with optimism and purpose.

Photo: James Penlidis



# The Myer Foundation Directors' Grants



Members of Mannifera at its 2025 Muster

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
Grattan Institute	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$600,000	\$600,000
Community Legal Centres Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2025	Five	\$450,000	\$450,000
Fair Agenda	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$400,000	\$400,000
Centre for Social Impact, University of New South Wales	NSW	Social Impact Leadership Australia	2025	Five	\$1,500,000	\$300,000
Mannifera	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$240,000	\$240,000
Watertrust Australia Ltd	ACT	General Operating Support	2021	Ten	\$5,000,000	\$500,000
A New Approach	ACT	General Operating Support	2024	Five	\$500,000	-
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$300,000	-
Alliance for Journalists' Freedom	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$300,000	-
International Social Service Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Two	\$100,000	-
The Centre for Public Integrity	VIC	Stephen Charles Fellowship	2024	Three	\$75,000	-
Writers Victoria	VIC	Neilma Sidney Literary Travel Fund	2022	Four	\$561,500	-
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	-
Australian Democracy Network	ACT	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$275,000	-
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Five	\$275,000	-
Total					\$11,526,500	\$2,490,000



Attendees at Community Legal Centres Australia's 2025 National Conference in Canberra



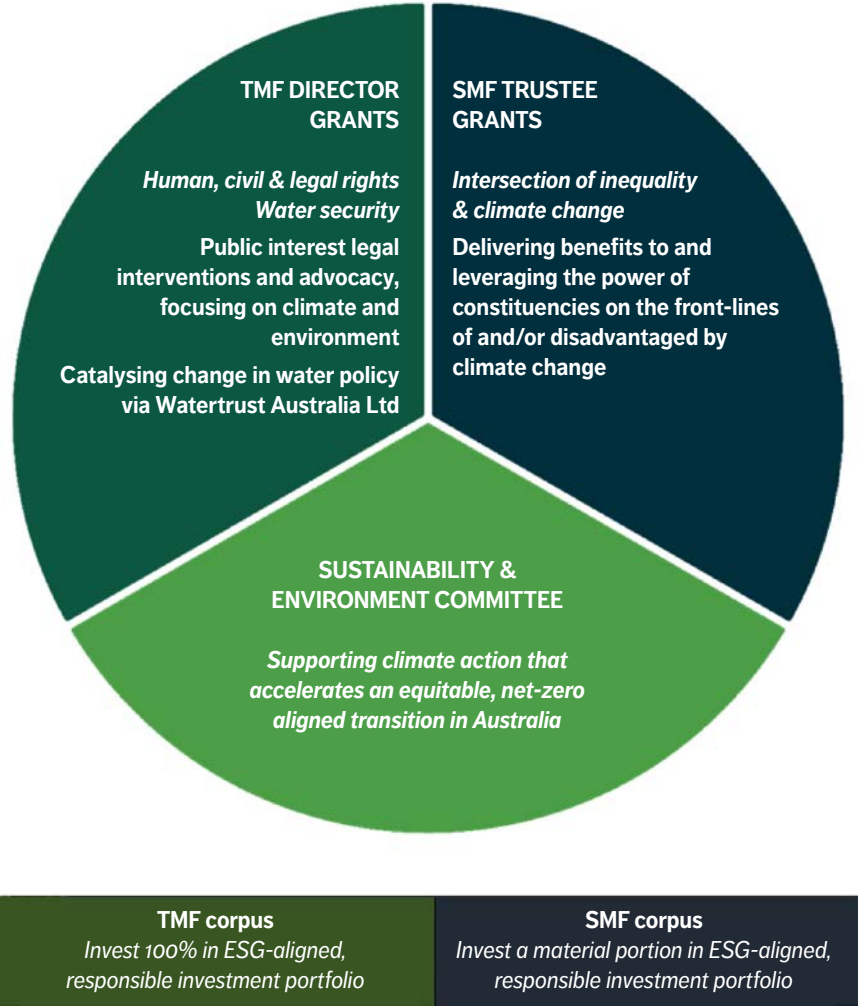
Fair Agenda's staff and board at its annual retreat and an illustration of the future for which it is striving. (Illustration Jess Harwood)



Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY25
Single-year grants			
Karrkad Kanjdji Trust	VIC	General Operating Support	\$95,000
Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Total			\$100,000



# 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.

In FY25, 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 current strategic period, funding of the Sustainability & Environment Program is contributed to equally by The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund. Grantmaking is leveraged by the investment of more than 97 percent of The Myer Foundation’s own corpus in ESG-aligned, responsible investments, and a material proportion of Sidney Myer Fund’s own corpus has been similarly invested.

# Watertrust Australia Ltd



Nungar Creek, Kosciuszko National Park. Photo Conor Ashleigh/ Watertrust Australia



Karen Hutchinson, CEO. Photo Conor Ashleigh/ Watertrust Australia



Stott family, Irrigators, Whitton NSW. Photo Conor Ashleigh/ Watertrust Australia



Peter Davis, Grazier, Cooma NSW. Photo Conor Ashleigh/ Watertrust Australia

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.

The way policy decisions are made will be key to overcoming Australia’s biggest challenges in water and catchment management.

Watertrust Australia was established in 2021 by a coalition of 15 philanthropic funders led by The Myer Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation, to improve how water and catchment policy decisions are made in this country.

Commencing in the role in July 2024, CEO Karen Hutchison leads a highly skilled cross-disciplinary team whose experience encompasses collaborative research, regional development, natural resource, land and water management, environmental science and policy development.

Demand for Watertrust Australia’s model of engagement, innovation and empowerment has grown strongly, as it moves from start up to scale up. Watertrust’s role in the review of the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed (SWIOID), which has a focus on the Upper Murrumbidgee, saw it bring together government, industry and community representatives to explore how the deliberative process

of structured decision making could be applied to the SWIOID review.

Work continues with communities on water management. For example, in South Australia, Watertrust is leading an independently convened process for stakeholders of the Greater Adelaide region to explore and create new governance arrangements for integrated water management.

Kate Peake of Watertrust Australia describes the organisation’s approach as one of patient partnership. “Our role is to support governments and stakeholders in exploring options together – especially in the Territory where landscapes, water systems, and policy settings are different to other parts of the country.”



# Sustainability & Environment Program

FY25 was the second year in the current strategic period (FY24–28) and saw the Sustainability & Environment Committee continue its focus on supporting climate action that accelerates an equitable net zero aligned transition in Australia. In pursuit of this focus area, the Committee awarded multi-year, untied grants to Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) Australia.

BZE develops solutions for industry, political decision-makers and regional communities to accelerate climate action. FCA seeks strong economy-wide climate policies and a prosperous and sustainable future, full of opportunity for farmers and farming communities. IEEFA Australia is an independent think tank working to accelerate the global energy transition through economic and financial analyses. The Committee also supported the Climate Media Centre, a program of the Climate Council providing media strategy and training support to for-purpose organisations working on climate in Australia.

The Committee again prioritised grantmaking associated with the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31), recognising the critical opportunity to accelerate and scale equitable climate action globally that COP31 offers, alongside Australia’s bid in



IEEFA Australia analyst Anne-Louise Knight. Photo IEEFA Australia

partnership with the Pacific to host. The Committee awarded a grant to ODI Global and ECCO to help build Australian government and not-for-profit capability and capacity to work on two critical COP31 streams – phasing out fossil fuels and increasing finance – at the global multilateral level.

At this crucial time for climate action we are deeply grateful to have the support of The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund, each of which contributes \$1 million to the Sustainability & Environment program’s grantmaking budget in each year of the current strategic period.

We thank our fellow Committee members Martyn Myer AO, Dr Anna Foley, David Shelmerdine AO, Lilly Myer, Nick Shelmerdine, Dr John Spierings and Dr Amanda Cahill, who once again brought a collaborative, thoughtful and strategic approach to the Committee’s discussion and decision making in FY25. We thank CEO Leonard Vary AM and Program Manager Jane Thomas, for their insight and guidance over the past year.

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



Pacific Island Climate Action Network members in Suva, Fiji for the 2025 strategy meeting



Amandine Denis-Ryan, CEO, IEEFA Australia. Photo IEEFA Australia

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
Beyond Zero Emissions	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$450,000	\$450,000
Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (Australia)		General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$450,000	\$450,000
Farmers for Climate Action	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Three	\$400,000	\$400,000
Climateworks Centre	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$750,000	-
Climate Council of Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$500,000	-
Investor Group on Climate Change	NSW	General Operating Support	2024	Three	\$500,000	-
The Next Economy	QLD	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$490,000	-

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Single-year grants						
Climate Council of Australia	NSW	Climate Media Centre	2025	One	\$150,000	\$150,000
ODI Global/ECCO		General Operating Support	2025	One	\$100,000	\$100,000
Clean Energy Investor Group	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$25,500	\$25,500
Climate Action Network Australia	NSW	Pacific Islands Climate Action Network	2025	One	\$20,000	\$20,000
The Smith Family	NSW	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total					\$3,845,500	\$1,605,500



# Mental Health Program

The Mental Health Committee was formed in 2013 by fourth generation Myer family members. In the current FY24–28 strategic period, the Committee’s grantmaking budget has been significantly augmented thanks to an annual transfer of \$550,000 from the Trustees of the Sidney Myer Fund. This has allowed the Committee to make multi-year general operating support grants to two organisations that are improving mental health outcomes in our communities.

The Perth-based Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health is working to reduce youth suicide rates and improve mental health service provision in Aboriginal communities, particularly in rural and remote settings. Jilya’s approach is multipronged, with a focus on clinical rigour and research. Firstly, it is pioneering an evidence base for culturally specific causal pathways of suicide in Aboriginal communities. Secondly, it works on empirically testing best practice clinical approaches with Aboriginal clients. Thirdly, it is developing the next generation of psychologists, with bursaries and mentoring that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as they undertake

psychology degrees at universities around the country. The Mental Health Committee has been funding Jilya since 2021 and continues to be deeply impressed by the impact it is having, the rigour of its evidence-based approach and the army of psychologists it is building.

Satellite Foundation is a Victorian organisation that connects and empowers children and young people aged 8–25 who have a family member living with mental health challenges. Satellite evolved from the recognition that there was no readily accessible support for the children and young people in families in which there are members, particularly parents or primary caregivers, with mental health challenges. Satellite works to ensure these young people feel seen and have their stories heard – stories of struggle and isolation but also of strength and resilience. It helps children and young people share their lived experience of mental health through the power of creative expression, providing important opportunities for peer support and connection, while strengthening skills in overcoming challenges. The Mental Health Committee first funded Satellite

in 2017 when it was still a fledgling organisation. In the years since, it has grown substantially and the Committee is delighted to be able to provide multi-year support as it continues to expand its reach and impact.

Thank you to our highly engaged and engaging fellow Committee members – Emily Myer, Laura Richards, Nicholas Lindsay, Louis Myer and Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry. Further thanks to Leonard Vary, Carl Nilsson-Polias and all the staff for their work in making our grantmaking activities this year so effective. And special thanks to the Sidney Myer Fund Trustees whose financial support has made the Committee’s grants all the more impactful.

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

Recipient	State	Project Name	FY Grant Approved	Funding Term (Years)	Total Grant Value	Commitment from FY25
Multi-year grants						
The Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health	WA	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$370,000	\$370,000
Satellite Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	Four	\$370,000	\$370,000
Happy Paws Happy Hearts	QLD	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$370,000	-
I CAN Network	VIC	General Operating Support	2024	Four	\$370,000	-
Project Rokit	VIC	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$290,000	-
Makeshift Creative	NSW	General Operating Support	2023	Three	\$150,000	-
Youth Live4Life	VIC	General Operating Support	2022	Four	\$200,000	-
Single-year grants						
Prevention United	VIC	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$5,000	\$5,000
Wilya Ajjul Janta Aboriginal Corporation	NT	General Operating Support	2025	One	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total					\$2,130,000	\$750,000



The Westerman Jilya Institute Students at the 2024 Jilya Gala in Perth



Satellite Foundation supports children and young people aged 8–25 who have a family member living with mental health challenges.  
Photos (left) Matt Hayman, (right) Sam Biddle



# Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships



Georgia Monaghan

The Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships, co-funded by The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund, are named in honour of the late Kenneth Myer AC DSC, whose commitment to supporting innovation was made manifest in his co-founding of The Myer Foundation with his brother the late Baillieu Myer AC. 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 Myer Foundation awards one Fellowship – this year to Georgia Monaghan – while the Sidney Myer Fund awards two.

Georgia Monaghan’s initiative is Ecomind – youth-led climate mental health and wellbeing support. Recognising the immense emotional and mental health toll on young people of the climate crisis, Ecomind will work with climate mental health practitioners and experts to

develop innovative and evidence-based awareness campaigns, tools, resources and support networks to help young Australians care for themselves, each other and the planet.

As in past years, the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship Committee has selected the three Fellows from among hundreds of applicants. As Co-Convenors, 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 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. Thanks also 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, and Edgar Myer (from May 2024 to February 2025) and Edwina Myer (from February 2025), Co-Convenors of the Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowships Committee*

2025 Recipient	State	Fellowship Project	Commitment from FY25
Georgia Monaghan	NSW	Ecomind	\$180,000
Total			\$180,000

# 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 FY25, over \$400,000 worth of donations and volunteering hours were matched, supporting a wide array of causes chosen by family members.



Mountain Track Youth participants. Photo David Butler

Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY25
Mountain Track Youth Ltd	VIC	General Operating Support	\$51,500
Australian Chamber Orchestra	NSW	50th Anniversary Giving Circle	\$30,000
A New Approach	ACT	General Operating Support	\$25,000
BackTrack Youth Works	NSW	General Operating Support	\$25,000
SANE Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$25,000
Social Impact Hub Foundation	NSW	Support of Apropela	\$25,000
Giant Steps	VIC	General Operating Support	\$21,100
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	VIC	General Operating Support	\$17,500
Accounting for Nature Ltd	NSW	General Operating Support	\$15,000
Documentary Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$15,000
Baby Give Back Ltd	QLD	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Mannifera	VIC	General Operating Support	\$10,000
Red Stitch Actors Theatre Limited	VIC	Ray Lawler’s Doll Trilogy	\$10,000
Shepparton Art Museum Foundation Limited	VIC	Acquisition Fund	\$8,000
International Social Service	VIC	General Operating Support	\$7,500
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$7,000
The HOPE Fund	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,750
Australian Cancer Research Foundation	NSW	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Australian Red Cross	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Children First Foundation	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Foodbank Victoria	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Future Ukraine	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Guide Dogs Victoria	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Lort Smith Animal Hospital	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Malthouse Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
Middle Park Kindergarten	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
RISING	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000



# Family Grants Program



BackTrack Youth Works participants



Richard Tognetti of the Australian Chamber Orchestra



Baby Sean from Samoa with his mum, preparing for life-changing surgery with Children First Foundation

Recipient	State	Project Name	Commitment from FY25
The Royal Womens Hospital	VIC	Best Practice Clinical Care	\$5,000
The Spinal Research Institute	VIC	General Operating Support	\$5,000
The G.R.A.I.N Store Nathalia	VIC	Cultural Program	\$4,000
Association for Children with a Disability	VIC	General Operating Support	\$3,000
Flinders Quartet Inc	VIC	Programming	\$3,000
Environmental Justice Australia	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,588
Black Hole Theatre	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Djirra	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Equality Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$2,500
HoMie	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Melbourne Fringe	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
The Batten Disease Support & Research Association of Australia	NSW	General Operating Support	\$2,500
The River Nile School	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Wettenhall Environment Trust	VIC	General Operating Support	\$2,500
Total			\$410,938

# The Myer Foundation Directors



Rupert Myer AO



Edwina Myer



Nicholas Lindsay



Jemima Myer



Kathryn Fagg AC



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 Limited and Mutual Trust Pty Ltd. He is Chair of A New Approach, Chairman 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 and is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He holds a Master of Arts from Cambridge University and a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours from Melbourne University.

## Directors

**Edwina Myer BComm (UoM) LLB**

Edwina brings her professional expertise to The Myer Foundation from her career as an inhouse attorney in the medical and scientific research industry. 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-Convener 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 served with the New York Legal Assistance Group in a pro bono capacity. Edwina is admitted to practice in Victoria, Australia and New York, USA.

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

Nicholas has a finance background, having completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University, and is an incoming Masters in Finance candidate at London Business School. 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 currently the Teacher Linguist at Yirrkal School in North East Arnhem Land. She has been a member of The Myer Foundation's Mental Health committee since 2019 and Co-Convenor of the committee since 2023. Jemima is also The Myer Foundation's representative at Mannifera, a grant-making 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 AC FTSE FAICD, BEng (UQ), MCom (UNSW), HonDChemEng (UQ), HonDBus (UNSW)**

Kathryn Fagg is a Non-Executive Director of National Australia Bank Limited, Medibank Private Limited and Djerriwarrh Investments Limited. She is Chair of the Breast Cancer Network Australia, Chair of Watertrust Australia Limited, and is a Board Member of the Grattan Institute, The Myer Foundation, and the Champions of Change Coalition. Kathryn was previously Chair of CSIRO, 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 Technological Sciences and Engineering.

In addition to her engineering degree, Kathryn holds an MCom in Organisational Behaviour with Honours from the University of New South Wales, 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 in June 2019, and Companion of the Order of Australia in June 2025 for eminent service to business governance, to the banking, finance and investment industry, to public administration, to the not-for-profit sector, and to women.

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

John Spierings is a member of the Sustainability and Environment Committee of The Myer Foundation. He is a social policy research consultant and analyst with experience at the centre of policy making and strategic activity within government as well as in the not-for-profit and philanthropic communities. John was Executive Officer at the Reichstein Foundation (2013–2020), a family-based philanthropy investing in environmental sustainability, social justice and the law, and projects to promote economic rights and reduce inequality.

Prior to that appointment, he served for nearly five years as a senior policy adviser to the Hon Julia Gillard AC, in her roles as Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister. In the Prime Minister's Office, he had responsibility for higher education, skills, employment, industry, innovation, science and research policy coordination.

John was the chief researcher and policy advocate in education and training at the Dusseldorp Skills Forum for a decade (1998–2008). He worked previously at Adelaide, Monash and Melbourne universities.



# 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  
Nicholas Lindsay  
Jemima Myer  
Kathryn Fagg AC  
Dr John Spierings

**The Myer Foundation Grantmaking Committees**

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

**Sustainability & Environment**  
William Spraggett (Co-Convenor)  
Jon Berry (Co-Convenor)  
Martyn Myer AO  
David Shelmerdine AO  
Dr Anna Foley  
Lilly Myer  
Nick Shelmerdine  
Dr John Spierings  
Amanda Cahill

**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 AC  
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 AO  
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  
Arabella 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 FY25
The Myer Foundation Directors' Grants	\$2,590,000
Sustainability & Environment Program	\$1,605,500
Mental Health Program	\$750,000
Family Grants Program	\$410,938
Kenneth Myer Innovation Fellowship	\$180,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,536,438</b>

**The Myer Foundation & Sidney Myer Fund Combined Reporting**

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

\* not adjusted to present day values.

FY25 Funding by Focus Area

