

THE JACK BROCKHOFF FOUNDATION



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Lands on which we work and live, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this report may contain images of deceased persons.



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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

THE FOUNDATION’S PURPOSE

The purpose of the Jack Brockhoff Foundation is to provide philanthropic support to charitable organisations that have a positive and enduring impact on the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve, for the people of Victoria.

THE FOUNDATION’S FOCUS

The Foundation aims to honour the legacy of its founder, Sir Jack Brockhoff, by continuing to support his philanthropic interests.

As an organisation, we strive:

- To celebrate and continue to build on the legacy of Sir Jack in a way that addresses contemporary social challenges
- To build the sustainability of small not-for-profit organisations that are distinctive in the type of support they provide to local communities
- To support not-for-profits of all sizes to innovate
- To work collaboratively to leverage our resources and ensure the best outcomes.
- Our grant-making focuses on a selection of key interests: children & youth, older Victorians, people with disabilities and medical research – endeavours that were close to Sir Jack’s heart.



SIR JACK'S LEGACY

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation proudly carries on the philanthropic legacy of its founder, Sir Jack Brockhoff, whose deep commitment to assisting his fellow Victorians, particularly the disadvantaged, shaped the foundation's work. As the youngest son of the family business, Brockhoff Biscuits Pty Ltd, a name remembered affectionately by older Victorians, Sir Jack's success and financial acumen allowed him to become one of Australia's most significant philanthropists.

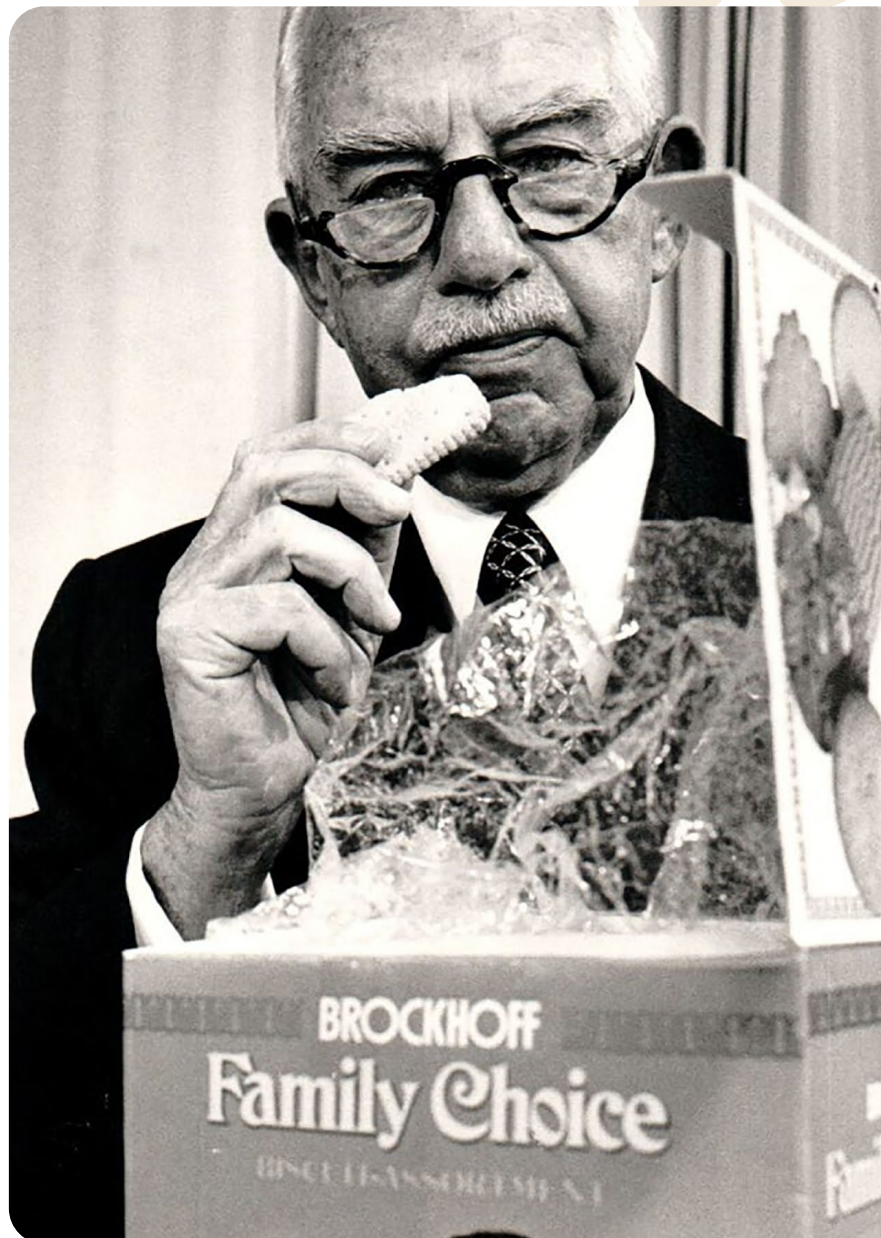
The Foundation's mission extends beyond a singular charitable focus, embracing a diverse range of causes to benefit disadvantaged children, support medical research, promote general community welfare, and uplift aged and elderly citizens.

By addressing these diverse needs, the foundation seeks to uplift and empower vulnerable populations, contribute to breakthrough research, and enhance the overall well-being of the Victorian community.

Sir Jack's passion for philanthropy stemmed from a desire to assist his fellow Victorians and make a difference in their lives. The Jack Brockhoff Foundation carries forward this spirit by actively engaging with local communities, understanding their unique challenges, and supporting initiatives that create lasting change. Through its grant programs, the foundation promotes collaboration, partnership, and community engagement, fostering a culture of giving and enabling organisations to make a profound impact on the lives of those in need.

To ensure that The Foundation remains faithful to Sir Jack's legacy and vision while staying current with best practices and community needs, both Directors and staff frequently consult written documents authored by individuals who had personal knowledge of Sir Jack. These documents shed light on his philosophy of philanthropy, his passions, and his work methods.

In keeping with this tradition, the Directors were thrilled to welcome Eliza Heathcote to the Board this year. Eliza not only brings her valuable expertise and knowledge to The Foundation but also serves as a representative of the Brockhoff Family. She is the second family member to join the Foundation's board. 🍪



Pictured: Sir Jack Brockhoff



Brockhoff's

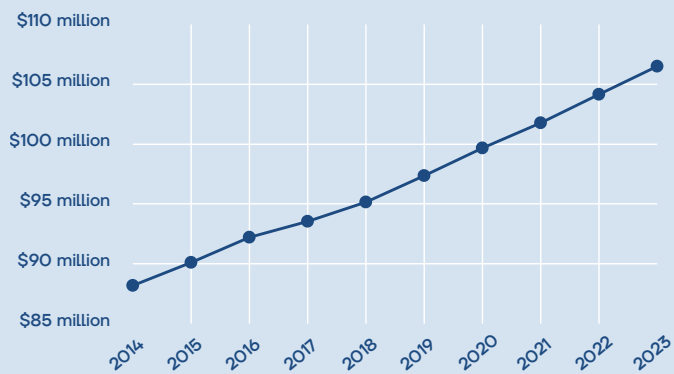


Pictured: Foundation Directors Sarah Brockhoff and Eliza Heathcote. Sir Jack was uncle of Sarah and great uncle of Eliza.



SINCE 1979

From an initial donation of \$4.8m in 1979 and a further \$5.8m in 1985 from Sir Jack, plus some small donations over the years from members of the public. The Foundation has distributed over \$106 million for the benefit of the Victorian community.





CHAIR'S REPORT

ROBERT SYMONS



This year marked a significant shift in our Board composition as we bade farewell to two long-serving Directors, Martin Armstrong and The Hon Dr Kay Patterson AO. Martin had been a dedicated member of the Foundation's board since 1985, sharing invaluable governance and investment expertise and also his independent philanthropic experience. Throughout his impressive 38-year tenure, he made substantial contributions to board discussions and to Committees such as Audit & Risk, Investment, and Community Grants.

Kay Patterson served on the Foundation's board from 2009 and during her tenure, provided extraordinarily insightful guidance to the Children & Youth grants program as well as commenting on issues of community disadvantage more generally. Her extensive career across the non-profit, governmental, and community sectors allowed her to bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation's mission and governance.

On behalf of all Directors, I wish to express our gratitude for their substantial contributions for the benefit of all Victorians over many years. We extend our best wishes for their future endeavours.

We welcomed three new members to the Board who each will bring their own valuable contributions and perspectives to the Foundation. Maxine Morand AM, a multifaceted professional, brings a diverse background encompassing health, research, public policy, governmental affairs, non-profit executive management, teaching, and governance. Following her eight-year term as a Member of the Victorian Parliament, she served in the role of CEO at the Breast Cancer Network of Australia and currently serves as Board Chair of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Board member of Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, and Board member of national member-based organisation, the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI).

Eliza Heathcote brings to the board extensive expertise in risk management, audit, and sustainability. Her impressive career includes senior roles in these domains. She is also experienced in philanthropic giving. Eliza is a grandniece of Sir Jack Brockhoff, extending her family's commitment to the Foundation to another generation.

Edward Tudor has experience working across multiple sectors including not-for-profit, advisory, corporate and education. His most remarkable accomplishment is his role as the Founding Executive Director of the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS), a residential institution supporting indigenous students from remote and regional areas. Edward's 2016 Jack Brockhoff Foundation Churchill Fellowship provided him with the opportunity to explore overseas programs aiding the transition of young Indigenous or disadvantaged individuals into mainstream education. Edward is the first of a grants program 'alumni' to join the board.

Periodically, we undertake a review of our Investment Policy Statement to ensure its alignment with contemporary expectations and practices. The extensive evaluation conducted on our Investment Policy Statement in 2022 led us to conduct a re-tender process for our Investment Managers. This resulted in the reappointment of one current manager and the selection of two new managers who each bring their own unique philosophy and diverse strategies to grow the corpus of the Foundation. It is this diversification and skilled management that will enable us to maximise our distributions for the benefit of all Victorians.

This will be my last Chair's report as I shall retire from the Chair at the 2023 annual general meeting. To occupy this Chair has been a great privilege for which I am grateful to Directors present and past.

My personal thanks go to my fellow Directors for their contributions this year and to the Foundation's staff, Executive Officer, Louise Kuramoto and Grants and Office Manager, Bridgette Hardy for their excellent work.

ROBERT SYMONS
CHAIR



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

LOUISE KURAMOTO

Every philanthropic foundation possesses its own unique style and approach of practicing philanthropy. The Jack Brockhoff Foundation, drawing inspiration from how individuals close to our founder, Sir Jack, described him, embodies values of being driven by principles, maintaining humility, and being practical in its giving.



As I reflect on the grants made to the fifty-three organisations this year, I am pleased to say that we are upholding this legacy. These organisations were selected due to their strong ties to the communities they serve and the voice of those community members in the program design and implementation, their effective leadership, and their established track record in delivering positive outcomes for these communities. We firmly believe that community members themselves are best equipped to understand and build upon local opportunities. Our aim, therefore, is to find ways to support communities from the grassroots level.

In line with this ethos, we allocated funds to several grassroots organisations to aid their communities in the aftermath of the devastating Northern Victoria floods in 2022. This unrestricted funding gave a helping hand to these communities when they needed it most, catering to their diverse and immediate needs, be it temporary shelter, new clothing, or relief from utility bills. You can read more about these grants on page 18.

I trust the organisations we have profiled in this report show the breadth of funding undertaken by the Foundation. Our mission to benefit the health and wellbeing of all Victorians is expressed in a variety of ways from investing in Victoria's medical research capability by backing promising early career researchers, to supporting social enterprises that generate employment opportunities for people who possess significant potential, but face challenges in securing mainstream employment. Each of these focal points contribute to shaping the kind of Victoria we aspire to inhabit - a state where each person can contribute meaningfully to their community and lead a fulfilling life.

It was with great excitement that we doubled the staff count of the Foundation this year from one to two when we appointed Bridgette Hardy as Grants and Office Manager. Bridgette came to the Foundation with a wealth of prior experience from another philanthropic trust and has taken to the role in the professional and diligent way I have come to expect from her. I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the role.

In navigating the Foundation's operations, we rely on the guidance and expertise of several external advisors and consultants. I extend my appreciation to them for their continued commitment to the Foundation's cause, their consistent reliability, and their valuable guidance whenever needed. My thanks go out to Shervy and Vanessa from Saward Dawson, Jason Chequer from Sayers, the team at Fitzroy IT, and our Investment Managers.

Lastly, my thanks and admiration go to all the devoted individuals who carry out the impactful work you will read about in this report. Realising our mission of supporting the health and well-being of all Victorians would remain an unattainable goal without their expertise and relentless efforts, day after day.

LOUISE KURAMOTO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIR
MR ROBERT SYMONS



DIRECTOR
PROF JAMES ANGUS AO



DIRECTOR
MR DOUG BARTLEY



DIRECTOR
MS SARAH BROCKHOFF



DIRECTOR
MS ANDREA COOTE



DIRECTOR
PROF PETER FULLER AM



DIRECTOR
PROF DAVID HILL AO



DIRECTOR
MS MAUREEN LYSTER



DIRECTOR
MR EDWARD TUDOR



DIRECTOR
MS ELIZA HEATHCOTE



DIRECTOR
MS MAXINE MORAND AM

FOUNDATION STAFF



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS LOUISE KURAMOTO



GRANTS AND OFFICE MANAGER
MS BRIDGETTE HARDY

BOARD COMMITTEES

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE

Dr Kay Patterson AO
(until May 2023)
Mr Douglas Bartley
Ms Sarah Brockhoff
Mr Robert Symons
Ms Eliza Heathcote
(from May 2023)

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Mr Martin Armstrong
(until November 2022)
Mr Douglas Bartley
Mr Robert Symons
Ms Eliza Heathcote
(from May 2023)
Mr Edward Tudor
(from May 2023)
Ms Maureen Lyster

MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Professor David Hill AO
Professor James Angus AO
Professor Peter Fuller AM

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

Mr Edward Tudor
(from May 2023)
Mr Martin Armstrong
(until November 2022)
Ms Andrea Coote
Ms Maureen Lyster
Ms Sarah Brockhoff
(from May 2023)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

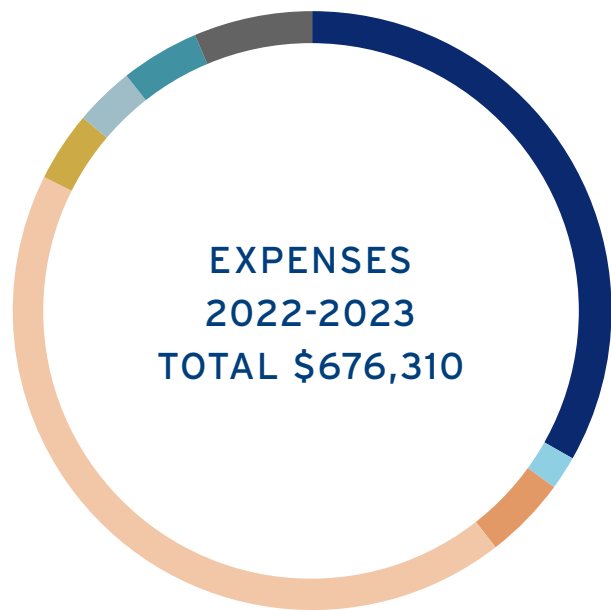
Mr Martin Armstrong
(until November 2022)
Mr Douglas Bartley
Mr Robert Symons
Ms Maxine Morand AM
(from May 2023)



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022-2023



- **Expenses**
\$676,310
(22%)
- **Grants**
\$2,379,199
(78%)



- **Fund management**
\$224,629
- **Audit**
\$12,320
- **Accounting**
\$30,255
- **People**
\$289,793
- **Depreciation**
\$25,552
- **Consulting**
\$21,780
- **IT**
\$28,702
- **Other**
\$43,279

PROFIT AND LOSS	AMOUNT (\$)
Total Income	2,873,675
Total Expenses	676,310
Total Grants	2,379,199
Net surplus <small>*including investments revaluations</small>	3,377,624

BALANCE SHEET	AMOUNT (\$)
Total cash at bank	428,561
Total investments	58,014,003
Other assets	1,101,972
Total assets	59,544,536
Total liabilities	101,342
Net assets	59,443,194



GRANTS PROGRAM

Each year, the Jack Brockhoff Foundation makes grants in three program areas: Children & Youth, Community and Medical Research. Within these program areas, there are several focus areas. The focus areas balance the history of the Foundation and Sir Jack's legacy with the current needs of the community and funding gaps across the sector.

CHILDREN & YOUTH GRANTS

Supporting programs that are working to improve outcomes for children and young people in Victoria. The Foundation concentrates its support in two key areas of interest:

- Addressing youth homelessness
- Creating pathways to education, training and employment

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Supporting innovative programs that will have a lasting impact on communities throughout Victoria. The Foundation supports several key areas:

- **Ageing:** supporting housing initiatives for older women and addressing the social isolation of older people
- **Disability:** supporting housing initiatives for people with a disability, as well as innovative approaches to employment for people with a disability
- **Building capacity:** addressing poverty and disadvantage through supporting grass-roots charitable organisations to develop innovative ways of becoming more effective, efficient and sustainable

EARLY CAREER MEDICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

This program is designed to strengthen Victoria's world-class research in health and wellbeing by helping establish the careers of talented emerging medical scientists in Victoria. These grants are unique in that they address the well-recognised issue of early career researchers facing career roadblocks at the very time they should be thriving and making the most of their enthusiasm and innovation.

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation understands that early career researchers need more than just money to build sustainable careers. A prerequisite of the Early Career Medical Research Grant requires the researcher's institution to guarantee security of tenure for two years, the freedom for researchers to spend half their working week exploring their own original hypotheses and support from a nominated 'supervising mentor'.



Photograph: Olivia's Place



2022-2023 GRANTS AT A GLANCE



GRANTS APPROVED

53

TOTALLING

\$2,734,862*

* includes intended forward multi-year grants



CHILDREN & YOUTH GRANTS

GRANTS APPROVED	TOTAL
21	\$977,791

AVERAGE GRANT SIZE
\$46,561

COMMUNITY GRANTS

GRANTS APPROVED	TOTAL
25	\$903,566

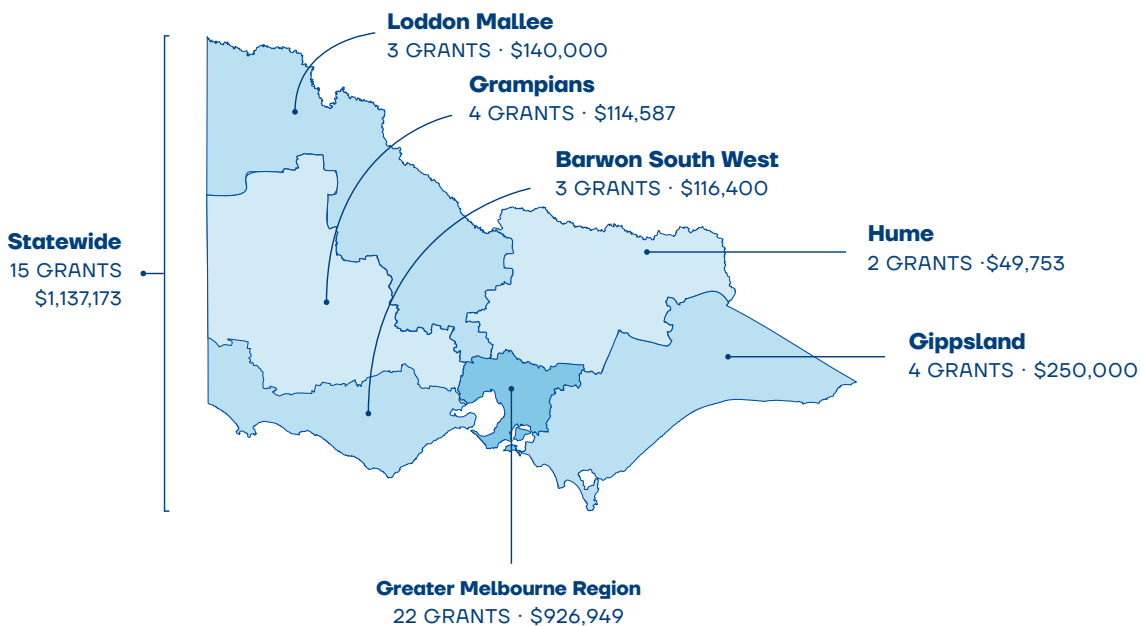
AVERAGE GRANT SIZE
\$36,143

EARLY CAREER MEDICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

GRANTS APPROVED	TOTAL
7	\$853,505

AVERAGE GRANT SIZE
\$130,055

THE IMPACT OF OUR GRANTS WAS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:





ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA GALLERY

ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION FOR ARTISTS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

ORGANISATION:
ARTS PROJECT AUSTRALIA

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$30,000

NORTHERN MELBOURNE

Arts Project Australia are a creative social enterprise that supports artists with intellectual disabilities, promotes their work and advocates for their inclusion in contemporary art practice.

In 2023, Arts Project Australia embarked on an initiative to enhance development and recognition for artists with an intellectual disability. The plan involved introducing other roles for artists, such as guest curators, workshop presenters, and administrators. This effort not only aimed to offer new avenues for professional growth, but also aimed to create an inclusive environment that expanded visitors' perspectives on art and cognition. Key project components included artist-led public programs featuring talks, workshops, and video screenings, and the incorporation of an artist with an intellectual disability into gallery administration.

As part of this initiative, artist Adrian Lazzaro co-curated an exhibition in March 2023 titled 'Acknowledge Me', mentored by staff artist Caroline Wylde. With the support of staff, Adrian ran an artist talk and workshop, *Retribution Teddy Bears & Zines*, as part of the public programming. Adrian was paid a curatorial and artist fee for his work. The exhibition followed Adrian's success in the 2022 Lester Prize, where his work was exhibited at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and then selected to tour until May 2023. Adrian also won the \$5,000 Lester Barton Family Foundation Installers Prize. 🌟



Images: Adrian Lazzaro's character-based artworks feature the likes of wrestlers, zombies, teddy bears and lovers. The heavily rendered works are executed in a saturated comic strip colour range, creating a heightened emotional, dramatic and carnivalesque atmosphere. The imagery blends sinister interpretations with a quirky sense of humour, often projecting a wry outlook. Public collections include City of Merri-bek and Wangaratta Art Gallery. His work is also held in national and international private and corporate collections.



JOURNEY TO SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAM

ORGANISATION:
SACRED HEART MISSION

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$300,000 CONTINGENT GRANT

LOCATION:
SOUTHERN MELBOURNE



Pictured: Sacred Heart Mission Hub on Grey Street, St Kilda. Photo credit: Mark Munro

For more than a decade, Sacred Heart Mission developed, tested and refined a program that addresses chronic homelessness — the Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI) program — now known as one of the most effective service models to end chronic homelessness in Australia. This innovative program takes a ‘housing first’ approach coupled with intensive wrap around support for people facing long-term homelessness.

In 2018, J2SI underwent a significant expansion, with the goal of assisting 180 individuals over the course of five years. This expansion was made possible through a unique partnership that combined funding from the Victorian Government, financial guarantees provided by philanthropic organisations, and a low-cost debt from the Catholic Development Fund. This marked the first instance in Australia where contingent grants from philanthropy were utilised to facilitate a government pay-for-performance social impact investment.

In September 2020, the Foundation approved a contingent grant of \$300,000 to support Phase 3 of the program. The success of this program is evaluated based on key performance targets measured at years two, three, and four for each participant group. These targets are primarily assessed through two metrics: the number of program participants in stable housing and the

“I’ve been able to build a trust relationship with her because – not swapping, changing you know? She’s been with me for like 12 months. She understands me. She knows I’m straight up with her now. I used to try and... I use to hide and lie but now, I know just the best thing is to be honest and open, and I’m gonna get more out of it. If I don’t tell them what’s going on, how can they help me?”

— J2SI participant in cohort 2

percentage of improvement in the reduction of hospital bed days. If the program fails to meet its pre-agreed targets, resulting in Sacred Heart Mission not receiving the expected payment from the Victorian Government, the Foundation’s ‘contingent grant’ would be called upon to continue financing the program.

To date, these contingent grant payments have not needed to be called upon because since 2018, the 180 Victorians participating in the J2SI program have achieved remarkable outcomes. An impressive 90 per cent of participants have successfully maintained stable housing, and there has been a notable 60 per cent reduction in hospital bed days. 🌟



GOALS (GOING OUT AND LIVING SUCCESSFULLY)

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROGRAM

ORGANISATION:
BERRY STREET

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$50,000

 **MORWELL + TRARALGON**



Children and young people in out-of-home care often have a history of child abuse and neglect, family violence experience and a history of multi-generational disadvantage and trauma. Without support this cohort of young people often go on to experience poor outcomes such as lower school completion rates, unemployment, drug and alcohol dependence, and have higher rates of mental ill health and contact with the justice system.

The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care report: Good Practice in Supporting Young People Leaving Care (2019), identified that young people leaving care need 'gradual and flexible departures from care, strong personal resources, good transition planning, practical skills, housing support, social and emotional support and case management, as well as tailored programs and support'.

The Berry Street GOALS program aims to achieve this through a holistic and trauma-informed support service within two homes in Morwell and Traralgon. 🌟

CASE STUDY: TERRI'S STORY

Terri* was experiencing homelessness: as a young woman, she had to leave home because she was not safe. She then transitioned into Berry Street's GOALS supported accommodation program.

Within the first 6 months of living in the GOALS house, Terri was able to connect with essential mental health services and work towards recovering from her experiences of violence and sexual abuse. With support, she engaged in the legal system to seek justice and receive compensation through Victims of Crime. Terri also completed her VCE and enrolled in TAFE to complete a Certificate IV.

Terri embraced all opportunities to further her independent living skills, health and wellbeing. This included taking up leadership opportunities through which she modelled positive behaviour to other young people.

At the end of her 2 years in GOALS, she was successful in securing long-term housing and is now managing all aspects of the tenancy, from saving for bills to maintaining the garden. The GOALS program was critical for Terri to provide her with the platform she needed to thrive.

** Name has been changed in the interest of privacy.
The model pictured is not connected to the case study.*



BUD TO BLOOM

ORGANISATION:
THE BEAUTIFUL BUNCH

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$95,000

NORTHERN MELBOURNE



Through the field of floristry, the Beautiful Bunch employs, trains and supports young women from refugee backgrounds to acquire the skills, self-confidence, and connections they need to find purpose, friendships and meaningful employment. They support their trainees to achieve not only employment and financial independence in the short-term, but, more broadly, an understanding of Australian workplace culture, an awareness of the changing nature of work, attainment of transferrable, relevant skills, and a sense of purpose and identity that supports a meaningful career journey.

The field of floristry does not have the challenges and barriers that other hospitality focused businesses do such as serving of alcohol and non halal food, the need for a high level of English language skills and the possession of a certain degree of confidence with the general public. The program, a 12-month learning experience spread across 3 years, incorporates various elements of business operations such as foundational skills in floristry, digital literacy, customer service, and business administration. 🌸

“I came to Australia as a refugee from Egypt; it is hard to find job in Australia when you have just arrived without any skills and can't speak English well, and have no work experience. I was struggling to get a job until I get a job at The Beautiful Bunch. Was lovely to meet the team, they accept me without a lot of work skills and everyone is nice, they do not hesitate to teach how to work with the flowers, and they helped me to meet new people who work at incredible design companies, which is my dream. I have gained so much more confidence since working here.”

— Alia, Trainee at The Beautiful Bunch

“My time at the Beautiful Bunch has been pleasant as I have been struggling to find work since recently moving to Victoria. I am originally from Djibouti, a little country on the border of Ethiopia and Somali. Living in Australia has been a difficult experience in terms of navigating life religiously, ethnically, and as someone from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background.

I believe the work these lovely people at The Beautiful Bunch are doing is fantastic because they have employed women from various backgrounds to find work and further their career. Jane has provided me with incredible support in pursuing a career in government in the near future. Places like the Beautiful Bunch are crucial for women seeking support from other women in employment as it is a safe space for them and others to work and learn.”

— Hamida, Trainee at The Beautiful Bunch (pictured, left)



BEYOND WORDS

ADDRESSING LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION IN ELDERLY VICTORIANS

ORGANISATION:
THE BIOGRAPHY PROGRAM

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$32,450

BARWON SOUTH WEST



Pictured: A Volunteer Biographer handing over the finished biography

Research shows people over the age of seventy-five are more likely to experience emotional loneliness and for those living in residential care, this sense of loneliness and isolation often increases. The Beyond Words biography program seeks to tackle this issue by recruiting and training volunteers so they're able to meet with and interview residents about all the rich experiences that have made up their lives. These unique personal stories are then developed into memoirs that are shared with the residents' family and friends.

Since beginning in 2013, Beyond Words' forty plus volunteers have produced over three hundred biographies. Beyond Words is more than producing a book, its real value is in creating a space for personal reflection and connection through story.

Not only does this unique program reduce the loneliness many elderly feel, it also leads to better health outcomes and improves the quality of life for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

"I hope my family gets some insight into what it was like at home. I'm sure they don't really understand what it was like."

— Bill

"Being guided to think back over the time, one thing led to another and I kept remembering all these moments I'd forgotten ever happened. I was so happy with the chance to share my story, and to give my kids a gift. They all wanted copies."

— Gwenyth

For residents involved in the biography program, having the opportunity to tell their life story to someone who is genuinely interested creates a sense of purpose and pride in their life. This can be incredibly empowering and therapeutic for elderly people as these biographies not only affirm the unique and rich lives they have led, it gives them an opportunity, perhaps for the first time in their lives, to tell their story and leave behind an invaluable legacy for the next generation.

Grandchildren reading the biographies enjoy discovering things they never knew about their grandparents and, through these shared memories, important life lessons are often passed on to the younger generation. In some cases, biographies may even provide an opportunity to shed some light on 'family secrets' and heal past hurts. 🌟



FRUIT2WORK

ORGANISATION:
FRUIT2WORK

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$95,000

 **STATEWIDE**



Pictured: Simon Fenech, operations manager of Fruit2Work

Almost one of every two offenders released from prison in Victoria return within two years and statistics reveal that juvenile reoffending rates are nearly double those of adults. Fruit2Work seek to change this by creating wraparound support and transitional employment opportunities for those impacted by the justice system. 🌱

CASE STUDY: SIMON'S STORY

Following a horrific workplace accident, Simon Fenech's life spun out of control. He became addicted to ice, and ended up in jail for 12 months. Post-prison life wasn't easy either, and finding stable work was near impossible, until he picked up a flyer for Fruit2Work.

"I had come out of the justice system, and I was finding it impossible to get a job. I was at the end of my tether and was really struggling. One day when I went into Anglicare for food parcels, I picked up a flyer from this little social enterprise, Fruit2Work, advertising work for people with an offending history. So I applied for the job and I was successful. Fast forward a few years and Fenech has made his way to Operations Manager of the organisation, where he not only looks after the day-to-day running of the social business, but helps mentor and guide new employees back on their feet, using his lived experience as a guide.

The beauty of Fruit2Work is that it offers transitional employment, with the idea being to keep guys and girls around for six months, giving them the skills that they need and the confidence that they need to get them into full time employment. I started out working two days a week there, which helped me fulfil my corrections order of doing a mental health program and a drug and alcohol program. Instead of just relying on Centrelink I was able to work and feel like I had a purpose in life. We've been 100 per cent successful in the past three and a half years, where not one person has gone back to prison. It's amazing when you consider the rate of recidivism is 47 per cent in the first two years."

** This is an excerpt of a story originally published in ProBono Australia magazine.*



EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS

Every three years, the Foundation initiates its Emergency Relief Grants program, dedicated to supporting organisations that have a strong track record in providing emergency relief and food aid to their communities. In 2022, the Foundation provided an additional \$190,000 to the existing \$270,000 commitment in response to the devastating floods in northern Victoria.



ANGLICARE VICTORIA

Emergency Relief Solutions for Regional Victoria

📍 WARRNAMBOOL, EUROA AND BALLARAT

\$90,000



SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Emergency/Food Aid Replacement Funding

📍 SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE

\$90,000

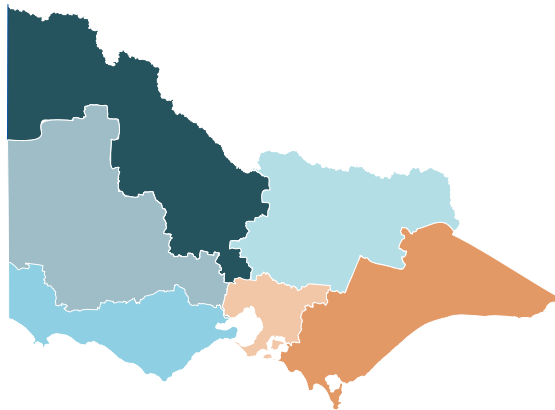


FOODBANK VICTORIA

Farms to Families Program

📍 GIPPSLAND

\$90,000



BLAZE AID

Victorian Flood Recovery

📍 NORTHERN VICTORIA

\$45,000



BENDIGO FAMILY AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Victorian Flood Recovery

📍 BENDIGO, HUME, LODDON MALLEE

\$45,000



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL RENEWAL

Strengthening Rural Communities - Prepare and Recover AND Back to School program

📍 STATEWIDE

\$100,000



Photograph: Anglicare



THE BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

ORGANISATION:
**FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
AND REGIONAL RENEWAL**

GRANT AMOUNT:
\$100,000

STATEWIDE



Pictured: Listening to Sarah from Echuca Neighborhood House

Cost of living increases and interest rate rises have made the last 12 months difficult for everyone. But families and students experiencing disadvantage have been hit particularly hard. This makes the support for students available through the Back to School (BTS) program really valued by their families for its discrete, tangible and timely assistance.

The BTS program provides \$50 gift card vouchers to enable families to acquire essential items for their children’s active engagement in school. These vouchers covered non-logoed uniform items, stationery, sportswear, school bags, shoes, and more. The flexibility allowed families to make tailored purchases.

Funds provided by the Foundation assisted five organisations to support their flood impacted communities:

- Colman Education Foundation – Seymour College
- Colman Education Foundation – Mooroopna
- Kyabram Blue Light
- Tomorrow Today Education Foundation (Benalla)
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co op Ltd

CASE STUDIES

Reports provided by the community organisations demonstrate that the vouchers have a greater value than simply the \$50 – they help meet basic needs, increase self-esteem of the student, increase engagement in learning, improve educational outcomes, and help to create connections between families, schools and the wider community:

“I was able to give the back-to-school vouchers to nearly all of my families. Every one of them appreciated these, as they were able to get new shoes, pens and pencils, socks etc for their children, which made them feel like everyone else with their new belongings at the start of the school year. This was the consensus from the families and even the young people who were able to get ‘new things’ and not stand out.”

—Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency Co op

Anecdotal evidence also suggests tangible flow-on outcomes, including raising community awareness of the range of community services and school support networks available in the local area to assist these families:

“Each connection made through the vouchers allows the family to open up and share their stories, which at times has allowed us to connect them to other services in the community. Picking up the vouchers from the front office means we can connect with families that often don’t come into the school or are reluctant to meet with us.”

— Feedback from a participating school



EARLY CAREER RESEARCH GRANTS

The Foundation supported 7 early career researchers, spanning a wide variety of research fields.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Miles Horton, Dr Tayla Penny, Dr Ebony Monson, Dr Jing Wang, Dr Erica Plummer, Dr Cara Timpani, Dr Ataur Rahman

DR TAYLA PENNY

Hudson Institute of Medical Research

\$75,000

Expanded umbilical cord blood cell therapy for perinatal brain injury

DR JING WANG

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

\$112,702

A comprehensive framework to address the pressing population issue of hearing loss

DR MILES HORTON

The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

\$148,794

Gene Therapy for Immune Disease – Prime Editing in the Investigation and Treatment of Inborn Errors of Immunity

DR EBONY MONSON

La Trobe University

\$73,172

Lipid droplets as a novel antiviral strategy in the brain

DR ATAUR RAHMAN

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

\$150,000

Miniaturised biosignals monitoring system for battery-free, wireless, and skin mountable operation

DR CARA TIMPANI

Victoria University

\$149,824

Targeting the gut as a novel therapeutic intervention for fatal inherited muscular dystrophy

DR ERICA PLUMMER

Monash University

\$144,013

Identifying novel infectious causes of urethritis to improve clinical management and antimicrobial stewardship



The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust

In partnership with The Marion and E H Flack Trust who generously fully funded one of these grants



GRANT RECIPIENT PROFILE: DR MILES HORTON (WEHI)

The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
\$148,794

A NOVEL THERAPY FOR FATAL DISEASES OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

The Foundation supported Dr Miles Horton to undertake research into gene therapy for immune diseases. The key advantage of prime editing technology is that it can search for a specific sequence of DNA – where a disease-causing DNA error is located – and then precisely correct that error by replacing the incorrect DNA letter with the correct one. In doing so, prime editing functions like spell check, searching the vast DNA genome for mistakes and precisely correcting them.

Support from The Foundation enabled Dr Horton to explore the potential of prime editing, which could pave the way to finding potential cures for immunological diseases such as fatal and severe genetic T-cell diseases, and other immunodeficiencies, that predominantly affect children and young adults. Dr Horton is using prime editing to perform highly targeted correction of DNA errors that cause these life-threatening diseases.

Patients that would be helped by this technology include those like the famous ‘bubble boy’, David Vetter, who lived his entire life in a sterile bubble. This was because

he possessed a single DNA error in a critical part of his immune system that rendered him susceptible to even the most harmless pathogens found all around us. He sadly passed at 12 years of age after a failed attempt at a cure using a bone marrow transplant.

Currently, the only available form of curative treatment for diseases like David’s remains an invasive bone marrow transplant, which carries enormous risk. Bone marrow transplant is one of the most toxic procedures delivered in modern day medicine, where the risk of death in the first 100 days following the procedure is 10–20%. The procedure can lead to serious infections and/or graft-vs-host disease, where the donated cells attack the host. It is evident that a new form of therapy for such diseases is critical.

Dr Horton’s ultimate aim is to discover and develop less invasive and less risky therapies, such as prime editing gene therapy, to enable children affected by genetic immunological conditions to live long and healthy lives.



Pictured: Dr Miles Horton receiving his award from Robert Symons at the annual early career research celebration event.



GRANTS PAID 2022–2023

ORGANISATION	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
300 Blankets	Food Security Volunteer Support	\$7,000
Aboriginal Literacy Foundation	The Aspire Literacy Program for Indigenous Girls and Young Women	\$10,000
All Things Equal	Launch of All Things Equal Catering Enterprise	\$50,000
Anglicare Victoria	Emergency Relief Solutions for Regional Victoria	\$30,000
Arts Project Australia	Employment of artists with an intellectual disability at the APA Gallery	\$30,000
Australia Spatial Analytics	Computer-Aided Design and Geographic Information Systems for Beginners Program	\$50,000
Bendigo Family and Financial Services	Flood support for Bendigo, Shepparton and Cobram areas	\$45,000
Berry Street	Going Out and Living Successfully	\$50,000
BlazeAid Inc	Victorian Flood Recovery	\$45,000
Boys to the Bush	Sharing Success in Victoria: Boys to the Bush	\$5,000
Brain Wave	Brainwave Bikes - pathways to employment for young people living with disabilities	\$35,100
Bundoora Scout Group	Bundoora Scouts Community Expansion	\$10,000
Cottage by the Sea	Mentor Program Qualifications 2024	\$16,400
Family Life Limited	Social connection is the best medicine	\$30,000
Food Bank Victoria	Farms to Families Program	\$30,000
Footscape Inc	Material Aid Project Centre upgrade	\$2,500
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	Strengthening Rural Communities - Prepare and Recover and Back to School program	\$100,000
Fruit2Work	Juvenile Recidivism	\$50,000
Geelong Mums	Eureka Mums - Better Together	\$50,000
Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Expanded umbilical cord blood cell therapy for perinatal brain injury	\$75,000
Inclusion Foundation	Building on the Foundation – Vocational Awareness	\$50,000
Islamic Museum of Australia	Communities Connected through Volunteering	\$8,200
Jigsaw Australia	Equipment to create traineeships and jobs for people with disability in Melbourne	\$23,738
Juno Services	Powering Future Choices	\$10,000
Kids Plus Foundation	Sports Exchange Social Enterprise	\$50,000
Kids Under Cover	Creating culturally inclusive village 21s for young Aboriginal people exiting out of home care	\$30,000



Launch Housing	Education Pathways Program	\$100,000
Little Dreamers	Ballarat Young Carer Employment Project	\$50,000
Matrix Guild of Victoria	Supporting Isolated Older Lesbians in the Community	\$20,000
Monash University	Identifying novel infectious causes of urethritis to improve clinical management and antimicrobial stewardship	\$144,013
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute	A comprehensive framework to address the pressing population issue of hearing loss	\$112,702
Olivia's Place	Olivia's Place Safety Check Upgrade	\$10,000
Operation Stitches	Breaking down borders	\$10,000
Philanthropy Australia	Jobs and Skills Funders Group	\$2,500
Queen's Fund	Emergency Relief for Single Women and their Children in Victoria	\$30,000
Ready Set	Extending our reach and volunteer base to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged	\$50,000
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Miniaturised biosignals monitoring system for battery-free, wireless, and skin mountable operation	\$150,000
Somebody's Daughter Theatre	Nobody's Fool Theatre	\$50,000
Southern Peninsula Community Support	SPCS Emergency Relief & Food Aid	\$40,000
Swinburne University	Children's University - Improving educational outcomes for children from disadvantaged communities	\$47,961
Teach for Australia	Reducing Educational Inequity in Regional Victoria	\$50,000
The Beautiful Bunch	Bud To Bloom	\$45,000
The Biography Room	Beyond Words - Addressing loneliness and social isolation in elderly Victorians	\$32,450
The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	Gene Therapy for Immune Disease	\$148,794
Upstream Australia	The Wodonga Project	\$44,753
Victoria University	Targeting the gut as a novel therapeutic intervention for fatal inherited muscular dystrophy	\$149,824
Wesley Mission Victoria	Equipment to enhance efficiency at Ballarat Emergency Relief Centre	\$4,587
WestJustice	Poverty is not Destiny – Westjustice out of home care legal clinic	\$40,000
Women and Mentoring	Picturing My Strengths – the WAMily photo collection	\$10,000
WomenCAN	Supported Training and Employment opportunities for Disadvantaged and Indigenous women in Mildura and the Mallee region	\$50,000
Women's Property Initiatives	General operational support	\$20,000
Young People's Legal Rights Centre (Youth Law)	Stand Up for Your Rights - A youth empowerment project for children and young people in residential care in the Grampians region	\$25,000
Youth Live4Life	Catching up with the Crew: further education and employment experiences of young people participating in Live4Life	\$48,677



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