

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation



2024-2025

Annual Report

THE
JACK BROCKHOFF
FOUNDATION



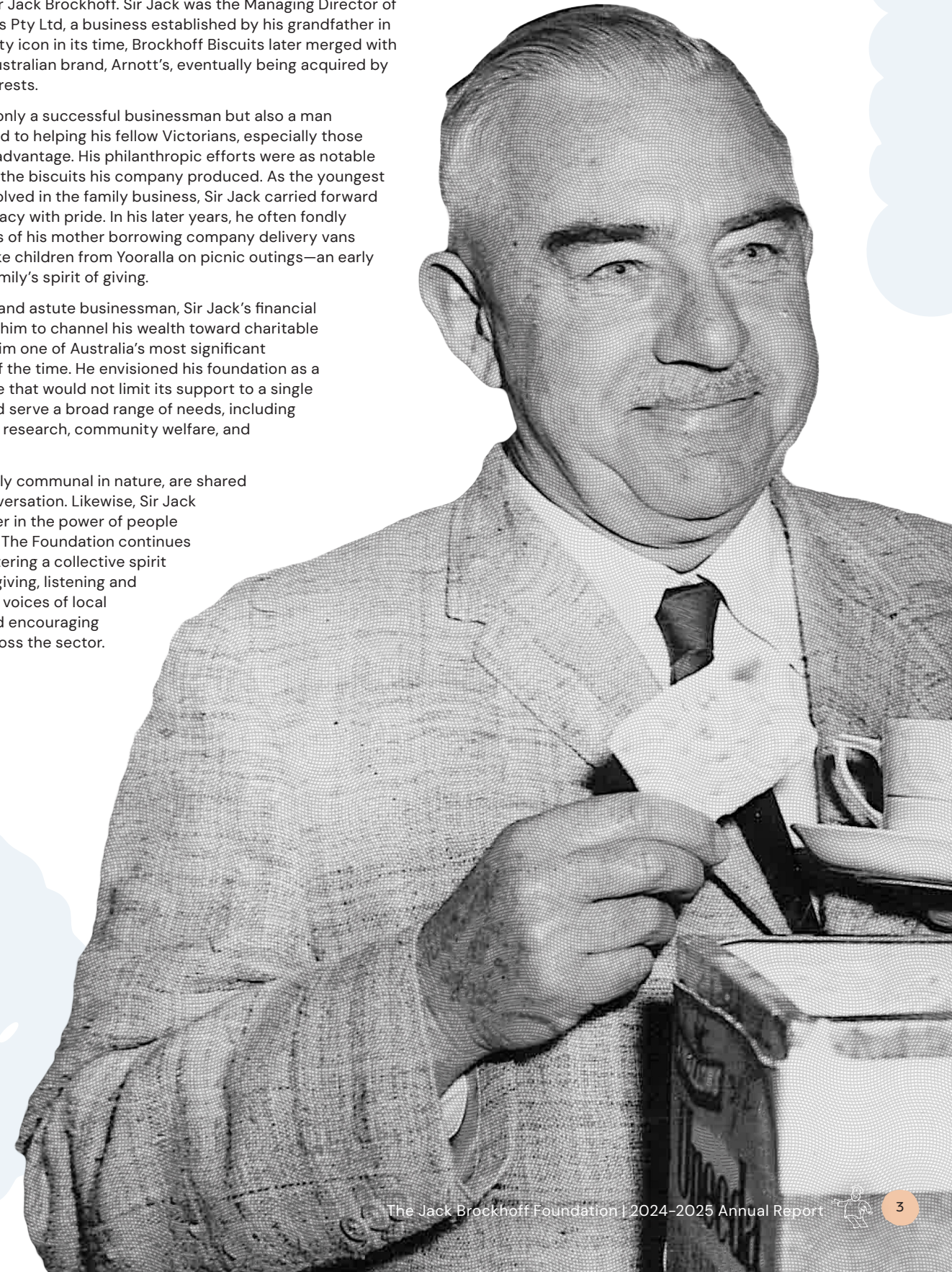
Our Founder

The Foundation's mission remains deeply rooted in the legacy and values of our founder, Sir Jack Brockhoff. Sir Jack was the Managing Director of Brockhoff Biscuits Pty Ltd, a business established by his grandfather in 1880. A community icon in its time, Brockhoff Biscuits later merged with another iconic Australian brand, Arnott's, eventually being acquired by international interests.

Sir Jack was not only a successful businessman but also a man deeply committed to helping his fellow Victorians, especially those experiencing disadvantage. His philanthropic efforts were as notable and impactful as the biscuits his company produced. As the youngest of three sons involved in the family business, Sir Jack carried forward the Brockhoff legacy with pride. In his later years, he often fondly recounted stories of his mother borrowing company delivery vans and drivers to take children from Yooralla on picnic outings—an early example of his family's spirit of giving.

A savvy investor and astute businessman, Sir Jack's financial acumen enabled him to channel his wealth toward charitable causes, making him one of Australia's most significant philanthropists of the time. He envisioned his foundation as a unique entity, one that would not limit its support to a single cause but instead serve a broad range of needs, including children, medical research, community welfare, and senior citizens.

Biscuits, inherently communal in nature, are shared over tea and conversation. Likewise, Sir Jack was a firm believer in the power of people coming together. The Foundation continues his legacy by fostering a collective spirit of philanthropic giving, listening and learning from the voices of local communities, and encouraging collaboration across the sector.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We also pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this report may contain images of deceased persons.

Sir Jack's Legacy

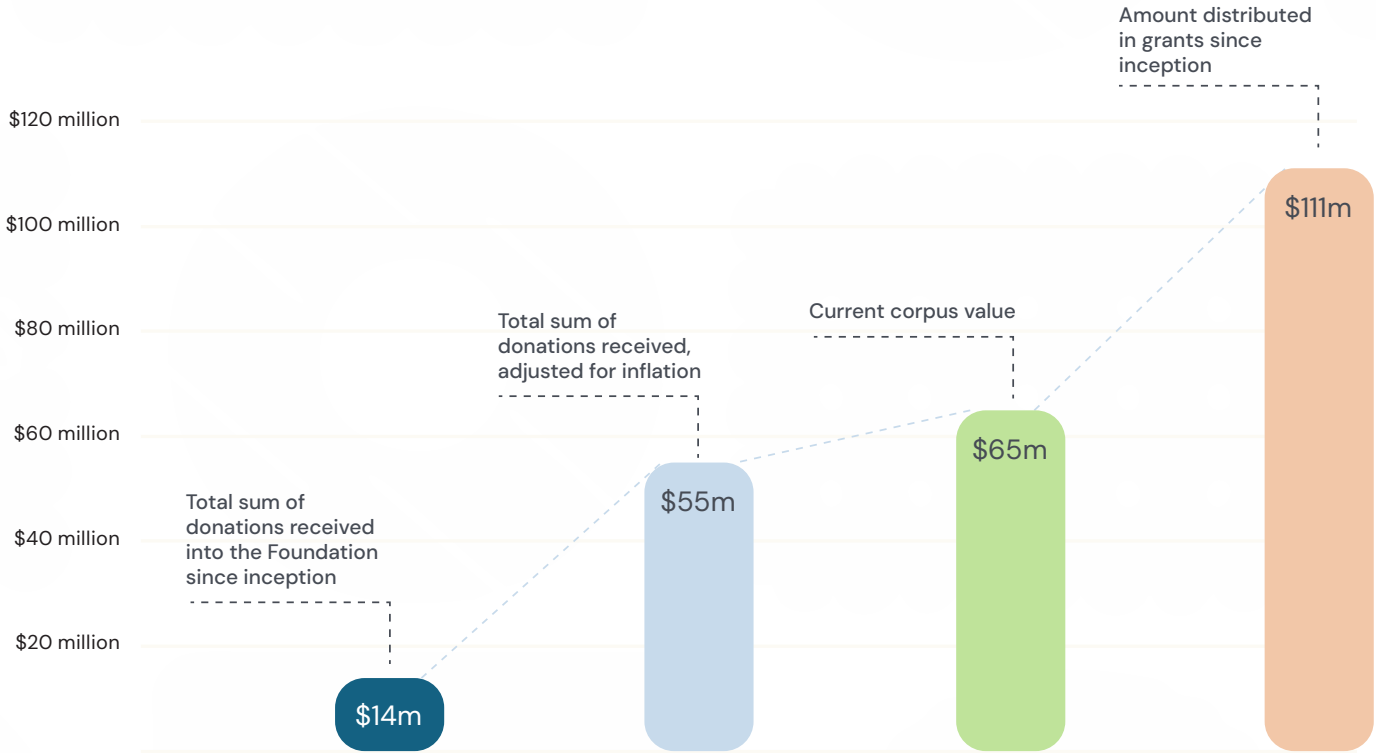
A perpetual corpus for the benefit of current and future generations

Since its inception, The Jack Brockhoff Foundation has proudly carried forward Sir Jack Brockhoff's vision of enhancing the health and well-being of Victorians. At the heart of this vision lies Sir Jack's enduring wish for the Foundation to continue in perpetuity. Achieving this goal depends on the careful stewardship of our philanthropic corpus, ensuring that our contributions to the community remain both impactful and sustainable for generations to come.

The Foundation's corpus was originally established through Sir Jack's generous gift of securities and cash valued at \$4.8 million. This was later supplemented by a further \$5.8 million from his estate and additional donations from the public.

- To assess how the corpus has performed over time relative to inflation, the Foundation recently commissioned an independent analysis. Key findings from the report include:
- The total sum of donations received into the Foundation since inception amount to \$14 million. Adjusted for inflation, this equates to approximately \$55 million in today's dollars.
 - The corpus is currently valued at around \$65 million, reflecting growth of the corpus of approximately \$10 million beyond inflation since inception.
 - In addition to this growth, the Foundation has distributed over \$111 million in grants and covered its operational costs since inception.

These results demonstrate that through prudent financial stewardship, past and present Foundation Directors have successfully fulfilled their dual mandate: preserving and growing Sir Jack's founding gifts while making substantial contributions to the Victorian community. This achievement honours Sir Jack's vision of perpetual impact and underscores the enduring significance of a perpetual philanthropic legacy.



Our People

Board

				
Chair Ms Andrea Coote	Director Prof James Angus AO	Director Mr Doug Bartley	Director Ms Sarah Brockhoff	Director Prof Peter Fuller AM
				
Director Ms Eliza Heathcote	Director Prof David Hill AO	Director Prof Maxine Morand AM	Director Mr Robert Symons	Director Mr Edward Tudor

Foundation Staff

	
Executive Officer Ms Louise Kuramoto	Grants and Office Manager Ms Bridgette Hardy

Board Committees

Granting Committee Ms Sarah Brockhoff — Committee Chair Ms Andrea Coote Ms Eliza Heathcote Prof Maxine Morand AM Mr Edward Tudor	Investment Committee Mr Douglas Bartley — Committee Chair Ms Andrea Coote Prof Maxine Morand AM Mr Robert Symons
Audit and Risk Committee Ms Eliza Heathcote — Committee Chair Mr Douglas Bartley Ms Andrea Coote Mr Edward Tudor Mr Robert Symons	Medical Research Committee Prof David Hill AO — Committee Chair Prof James Angus AO Prof Peter Fuller AM

Chair's Report



2025 has been a transformative year for the Foundation. We strengthened our governance framework through comprehensive Board and Committee Charters and updated policies to ensure contemporary, fit-for-purpose operations aligned with best practice.

This year marked the operationalisation of our new five-year strategy, reaffirming our dedication to Sir Jack's original vision of supporting ambitious, community-grounded programs. Our primary pillars focus on helping children thrive in their early years; empowering older Victorians to age with dignity through social connection, active participation; and secure housing, and driving medical research through support of early career researchers.

Our commitment to early career medical researchers remains steadfast. A recent survey of our 51 alumni, funded since the program began in 2017, provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the significant impact of grants received at formative career stages. We were delighted to have two additional contributors to the medical research granting program this year: The Peter Griffin AM and Terry Swann Foundation and the Mazda Foundation, each funding one early career researcher and bolstering the funds in this grant round by \$300,000.

Financially, the Foundation continues to benefit from strong stewardship and prudent investment management. Over 45 years, we have distributed more than \$111 million to the Victorian community while maintaining corpus value in line with inflation. This result reflects strategic management by our Directors and investment managers, underscoring the continuing value of a perpetual Foundation.

As a lean organisation, we rely heavily on our Directors' expertise and commitment. I extend gratitude for their strategic insight and critical analysis throughout the year.

Our staff, who are now working from a new, more centrally located office, are our most valuable asset, and the dedication and professionalism our Executive Officer Louise Kuramoto and our Grants and Office Manager Bridgette Hardy bring to the Jack Brockhoff Foundation is invaluable. I sincerely thank them both. Louise's leadership has had profound reach, and I would like to acknowledge the excellent relationships she has developed throughout the sector.

I believe we are on the threshold of another successful year ahead and I look forward to reporting on our progress.

Andrea Coote
Chair

Executive Officer's Report



This year we began implementing our new five-year strategy. The transition from strategic planning to operational execution has presented expected complexities; however, the journey so far has been both energising and affirming. The conversations we've had across the sector, the feedback we've received, the calibre of applications, and the ambition demonstrated by our funded partners have all reinforced our belief in the direction we've taken.

This new strategy focuses not only on what we fund, but crucially on how we fund. I believe it's the 'how' that will be key to enabling transformative work—work that will help advance Victoria in the ways we all hope to see.

Our new strategy is grounded in research and data, shaped by our understanding of Victoria's needs, the unique role a Foundation of our size and scale can play, and extensive consultation with the sector. We are intentionally shifting toward fewer granting partners, providing larger and longer-term funding commitments. And we are actively seeking co-funding partnerships to extend the reach and impact of our grants far beyond what we could achieve alone.

Our three investment approaches balance building the capacity of grassroots organisations delivering essential community services today, while simultaneously funding transformative long-term initiatives that address systemic and complex challenges for tomorrow. Whether the focus be on essential services or systemic change, the common thread of our grant making remains deeply rooted in, and led by, community.

In March this year, we were thrilled to move into our new office space on Agnes Street, East Melbourne. Our proximity to sector colleagues, meetings and events significantly enhances our ability to engage often and meaningfully. The new space also allows us to host meetings and offer spare desks to colleagues and grant partners which is a small but powerful way to foster collaboration.

I thank Foundation Chair Andrea Coote for her support and guidance throughout the year, our Board Directors for their trust in my leadership, and our Grants & Office Manager Bridgette Hardy for her dedication and hard work.

Finally, my sincere gratitude to all our partners and collaborators for your partnership this year. As we look ahead, I remain optimistic and energised by our work together.

Louise Kuramoto
Executive Officer

Granting Strategy

Our Vision

Our Vision is for a thriving and resilient Victoria

Our Values

Our work is guided by four overarching value statements:

- We are authentic, accessible and welcoming
- We are clear about our identity and the evolving nature of it
- We recognise the importance of people, place and community connections
- We seek transformative and sustainable outcomes

Our Investment Principles

Our principles-based approach to investment ensures that:

- We add value beyond grant making
- We fund with a long-term view
- We seek to understand the underlying causes of challenges we seek to address
- We take a strengths-based approach by focusing on maximizing existing community resources, capabilities, and strategic assets.

This year, we shared our new FY25–30 Granting Strategy that will focus the Foundation's work for the next five years.

Our philanthropic investments are driven by three strategic priorities:

- Thriving children
- Safe, secure, connected communities
- Backing big ideas

Each of these strategic priority areas are funded through our three investment approaches:

Bold Futures

People & Place

Grassroots Capabilities

These investment approaches were developed to balance the need of the community today, while also working toward long-term strategic and transformative change. Our grant making decisions are informed by evidence and data and focus on early intervention and prevention.

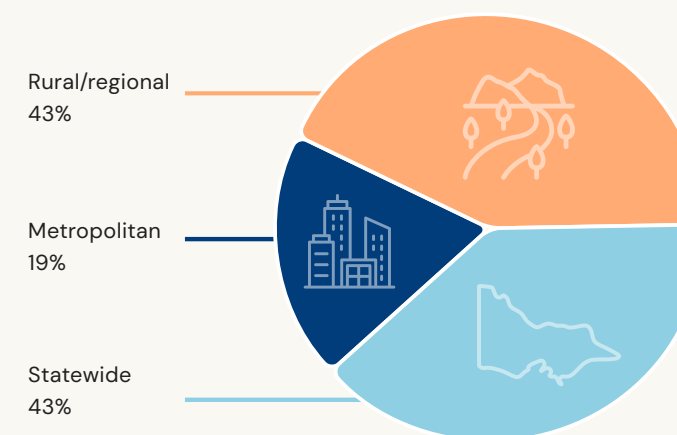
Across all these strategic priority areas and investment approaches we look to fund leaders with bold ideas, whether they are operating at a grassroots community level, as an expert in their field, or as an emerging leader such as an early career medical researcher.

2024-2025 Grants

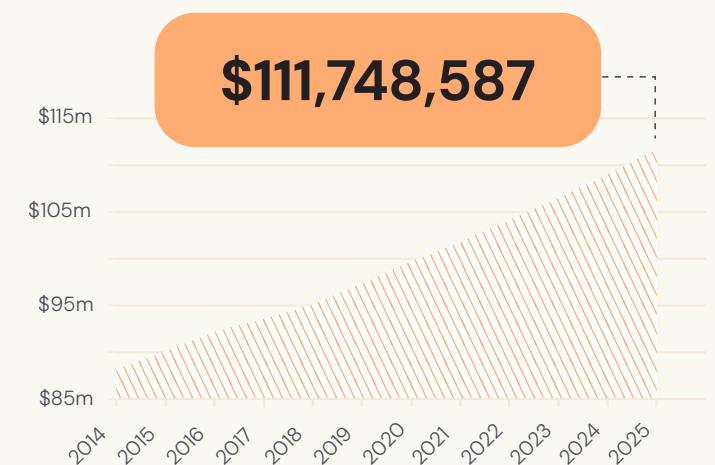
Grant Snapshot



Grant distribution by geography:



Amount distributed in grants since inception in 1979:



Bold Futures

Early Career Medical Research

Strengthening Victoria's world-class research capability by supporting the career development of talented early-career scientists.

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation's Early Career Medical Research granting program recognises the significant gap that often exists between completing a PhD and securing substantial research funding. Early-career researchers frequently possess innovative ideas and strong motivation but lack the established track record required to compete for prestigious grants, such as the NHMRC grant, considered the pinnacle of medical research funding in Australia. Our grant program aims to bridge this gap by supporting medical researchers within three years of completing their PhD who have promising research proposals backed by solid preliminary work.

Understanding that financial support alone is insufficient for building sustainable careers, the grant program requires recipient institutions to guarantee the researcher's salary for the duration of the funded program and the flexibility to dedicate at least half of their working week to pursuing their own original hypotheses, along with mentorship support from a designated supervising mentor.

To amplify impact in this area, The Jack Brockhoff Foundation collaborates with other philanthropic organisations that wish to support medical research but may lack the scientific expertise needed to allocate their funding effectively. This partnership model benefits the sector by supporting more medical researchers to secure funding while enabling more philanthropic organisations to invest in medical research with greater confidence. This year the Foundation had the pleasure of partnering with the Mazda Foundation and The Peter Griffin AM and Terry Swann Foundation who generously fully funded one recipient each.



Dr Kate Firipis
St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research
\$75,000

Incorporating a sensory nerve plexus into a bioengineered human skin flap.



Dr Clarissa Whitehead
The MacFarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research
\$150,000

Enhancing the therapeutic potency of next-generation anti-cancer immunotherapies through stellabody FC engineering.



Dr Lewis Fry
Centre for Eye Research Australia
\$150,000

Developing a dual-targeting gene therapy to protect the optic nerve in glaucoma.



Bold Futures

Early Career Medical Research



Dr Anna Yao Mei Wang
Centre for Eye Research Australia
\$148,086

The role of pericytes in retinal ganglion cell dysfunction and vision loss in glaucoma.

Generously funded by
The Peter Griffin AM
& Terry Swann Foundation



Dr Francesca Alves
The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
\$74,000

Dietary influences on brain neurochemistry: the first phosphometabolomics study in Alzheimer's Disease brains.



Dr Vivian Li
The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
\$149,700

Advancing tolerogenic dendritic cell therapy for multiple sclerosis toward clinical translation.



Dr Ellen Jarred
Hudson Institute of Medical Research
\$150,000

Understanding epigenetic mechanisms regulating female reproductive health.



Dr Shouya Feng
Hudson Institute of Medical Research
\$131,918

Characterising emerging anti-inflammatory therapies for autoinflammatory diseases.



Dr Shengbo Zhang
The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
\$149,563

Harnessing the power of dendritic cells to treat intractable solid tumours.

Early Career Medical Research Alumni

Dr Douglas Blank

Research Fellow at Hudson Institute of Medical Research,
Department of Paediatrics, Monash University

Consultant Neonatologist
at Monash Children’s Hospital

Year funded 2021-2022

“What I focus on is helping babies breathe at birth,” says Dr Doug Blank simply of his years of medical research that spans neonatal resuscitation, umbilical cord management at birth, responses during clinical emergencies, and point of care ultrasound.

Five to 10 percent of all babies born worldwide need help breathing at birth. For babies born under 32 weeks’ gestation the rate of assistance is above 90 per cent.

“That’s a lot of people when you remember that 8 billion of us live on Earth right now,” Doug says.

“All those babies need help breathing at birth. Some need respiratory support for days, others for months.”

With support from The Jack Brockhoff Foundation, Doug investigated ways to help these babies breathe spontaneously at birth.

“Most of the instructions we receive as neonatologist clinicians are that if the baby’s not breathing perfectly at birth, then we are breathing for the baby. But it’s a lot easier to support a baby who’s breathing spontaneously, so my question was ‘What can we do to help them breathe more strongly and are there things we can do to prevent that breath from petering out?’

“We’re talking about the first five to 10 minutes after birth,” Doug continues, “it’s the most critical, most dangerous time.”

A Research Fellow at Hudson Institute of Medical Research, Department of Paediatrics, Monash University, and Consultant Neonatologist at Monash Children’s Hospital, Doug is also the current recipient of the Victor Yu Fellowship. After graduating with an MD from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in 2006, Doug completed his basic paediatric training in Southern California. He moved to Melbourne in 2014 to pursue his PhD through Monash University which was awarded in 2019.

“I was fortunate in that a lot of the work that The Jack Brockhoff Foundation grant supported was a continuation of the studies



I did as a PhD candidate,” he explains. “It’s been really great to have that grant and build momentum around project ideas and it helped get NH&MRC (National Health & Medical Research Council) support and provided me with the capacity and agency to pursue ideas that I think are the right ideas, and to create a team around these ideas and bring in the right people.”

Doug sees the impact of his research almost daily, citing the recent example of a baby born at 22 weeks.

“We’re now 10 weeks down the track, and the baby has more than tripled in weight. It’s still less than two kilos, so there’s a long way to go, but its survival is no longer in question.

“For me, the dream outcome from this research is that we can get pre-term babies to the point where they’re prepared and supported well enough at birth, where we don’t need to do anything besides maybe a little bit of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) and a little bit of supplemental oxygen so that they remain breathing at all times, and the support that they require becomes really simple and straightforward and they go on to achieve good outcomes and live great lives.”

Bold Futures

Project Funding

Supporting initiatives that change trajectories, break cycles and test new approaches to address complex challenges in the Foundation’s strategic priority areas.

The Royal Women's Hospital \$166,363 Addressing reproductive healthcare disparities in regional Victoria	Onemda Centre: Melbourne University \$199,948 Maternity service data dashboard: a data-led approach to support Closing the Gap outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families	Monash University \$195,011 The Deep End Living Lab: Transforming how Australian hospitals support people experiencing homelessness	Uniting Vic Tas \$200,000 Ballarat Zero Project	Lighthouse Foundation \$200,000 A Better Way: Bringing systemic change through Lighthouse Foundation's unique Model of Care for children, kinship carers and families
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Addressing Reproductive Healthcare Disparities in Regional Victoria

Bold Futures – Project

The Royal Women’s Hospital
\$511,121 (over 3 years)

Critical reproductive healthcare gaps force thousands of regional Victorian women to travel significant distances to Melbourne for basic medical services each year.

Victoria’s regional areas have limited sexual and reproductive health services and more than a quarter are without providers that offer long-acting reversible contraception. The lack of reproductive choices affects education, career paths, and family wellbeing, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage across generations.

A new three-year initiative, led by A/Prof Paddy Moore AM, from The Royal Women’s Hospital (RWH), is training local clinicians across three regional areas where disparities are most acute.

“We are aiming to help all women in reproductive age, from teenagers right up to the end of reproductive age in rural and remote Victoria,” A/Prof Moore explains. “There is very poor and patchy availability of sexual and reproductive health care in those areas, and we see this as a very urgent need.”

The barriers are complex, including workforce shortages, long wait times, financial constraints and the logistics of travel, privacy and the persistent stigma around reproductive healthcare.

“If you’re in a small town where there’s one GP practice and they have an objection, which they’re allowed to have, and there’s one chemist, it can be very difficult,” A/Prof Moore says.

“A delay in access to services means that there is a higher incidence of unplanned unwanted pregnancies because people are waiting for contraception when they have to travel to Melbourne to get an IUD fitted.”

“Over 85 per cent of women discover unwanted pregnancies under nine weeks gestation, making them eligible for medical abortion,” A/Prof Moore continues, “yet most rural Victorian women cannot access this option locally.”



A/Prof Paddy Moore AM training regional clinicians on sexual and reproductive health care

The project takes an innovative approach by bringing expertise directly to regional communities. Rather than requiring practitioners to travel to Melbourne for training, the RWH team visits local practices.

“We’re going to their practices and saying, ‘What do you need in this community?’” A/Prof Moore explains. “We are tailoring services to fit the local community need.”

Already, the hands-on model is proving to be effective. A/Prof Moore describes supervising GP practices where patients waiting for IUD insertions receive care from their own providers, building local capacity while maintaining continuity of care.

“We’re talking about bread and butter medicine,” she says. “This is basic healthcare like immunisation that raises the standard of living and makes a huge difference to educational and health outcomes.”

The project’s timing aligns with significant policy improvements, including better Medicare rebates and expanded prescribing rights for nurse practitioners.

“We’ve got really good state policy and the federal government has removed obstacles, and we’re working to capitalise on that synergy,” A/Prof Moore says, noting that the project represents a shift from treating consequences to preventing them.

“We are aiming to help all women in reproductive age, from teenagers right up to the end of reproductive age in rural and remote Victoria.”

Maternity service data dashboard

A data-led approach to support Closing the Gap outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

Bold Futures – Project

Onemda Centre: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing, University of Melbourne
\$599,715 (over 3 years)

“We know the biggest cost of having children in out of home care is the emotional impact for children and families, which is horrendous, and it’s often the beginning of a pipeline for children going into youth detention and incarceration.”

Professor Cath Chamberlain’s words speak to the urgency of the devastating statistic that First Nations children in Victoria are 22 times more likely to be placed in out of home care than non-Indigenous children.

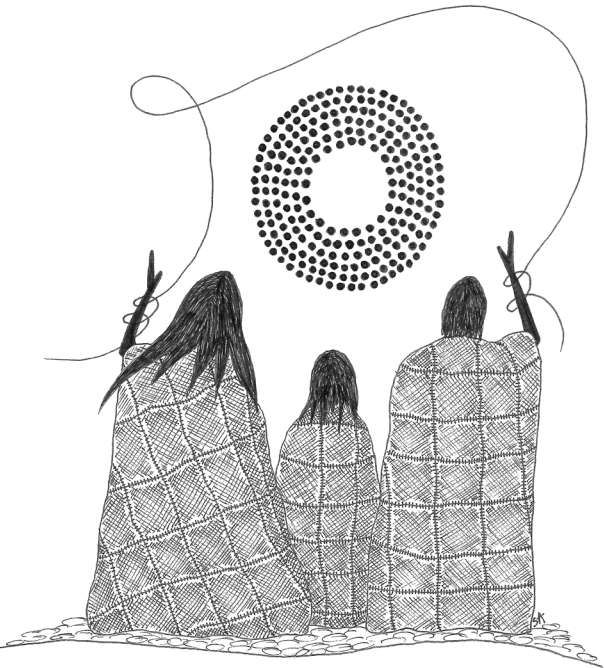
“It’s a huge issue and it’s one of those things that’s going backwards,” Professor Chamberlain explains, citing socioeconomic disadvantage, systemic racism, and intergenerational trauma cycles embedded across generations as contributing factors.

Professor Chamberlain, who is descended from the Trawlwoolway people of Tasmania (Palawa) is a registered midwife, public health researcher and Head of the Indigenous Health Equity Unit at Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

Professor Chamberlain is leading the work to develop a data dashboard prototype to transform maternity care outcomes for First Nations families in direct response to calls for systemic reform from the Yoorrook Justice Commission and Closing the Gap reports, which documented inadequacies in culturally safe maternal health care.

“We know that the perinatal period, pregnancy, birth and the early years is a critical time,” Professor Chamberlain explains.

“Many Aboriginal women who come into hospital are more likely to experience trauma-related distress because coming into the health service can be scary. A lot of the procedures are intimate and we’ve heard from communities that we need to stop retraumatizing parents when they come in for pregnancy care. “But we also know that this time of pregnancy and birth is an important time of healing,” Professor Chamberlain continues. “Just as there’s a lot of evidence around the neurobiology of trauma, there’s also a lot around the neurobiology of attachment, connections and love.”



“We really need to do everything we can to support nurturing relationships and the love that babies bring into the world with them. There’s a lot of opportunity to do that during pregnancy and birth, because we have scheduled contacts and opportunities to provide care.”

The need for the project was identified by the maternity services themselves, who recognised the need for a clearer understanding of what is happening in relation to child protection service referrals and the subsequent supports offered. Central to the initiative is a focus on addressing child protection notifications.

“The big elephant in the room for everyone is this terror of child protection services,” Professor Chamberlain says, adding that the project will help educate healthcare workers about when referrals are truly necessary versus when alternative support services would be more appropriate.

The data dashboard will be trialled at Mercy Hospital for Women and Royal Women’s Hospital, tracking indicators such as cultural safety training participation and support service referrals. The project involves collaborative development with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people guiding the process throughout.

“Ultimately, I’d like to see this project contribute to ending inappropriate child protection notifications,” Professor Chamberlain says. “I’d also like to see that all families are getting the best possible support so they can provide that loving, nurturing care for their children.”

Image: Songs of Strength, Ink on paper, 2018 © Shawana Andrews
A father, mother and child wearing possum skin cloaks and looking to the ancestors and past generations. The parents are connected with a songline which gives them strength. The stones below represent a strong foundation and the stitching on the cloaks represent the relational connectedness of Aboriginal people and worldview

Deep End Living Lab

Transforming how Australian hospitals support older people experiencing homelessness

Bold Futures – Project

Monash University

\$575,376 (over 3 years)

“This is a unique opportunity to build a coordinated model of care, so people aren’t just treated, but supported to live well.”



Some of the Deep End Living Lab Team: L to R: Marilyn Connolly (Deputy Head of Social Work, Peninsula Health), Meghan O’Brien (Head of Social Work, Peninsula Health), Professor Suzanne Nielsen (Lead investigator of the Deep End Living Lab, Deputy Director of the Monash Addiction Research Centre), Nilakshi Gunatillaka (Project manager/co-investigator of the Deep End Living Lab, Monash Addiction Research Centre).

When older Victorians experience homelessness or housing instability, their health suffers. They present at emergency departments again and again, but the root issue, a lack of secure housing, rarely comes up.

“The reality is that housing is health,” says Deep End Living Lab’s Lead Researcher Professor Suzanne Nielsen. “But in busy hospital environments, clinicians don’t always feel equipped to talk about housing or adapt care when someone doesn’t have a safe place to live.”

The Deep End Living Lab, led by Monash University researchers Professor Suzanne Nielsen, Professor Elizabeth Sturgiss and Ms. Nilakshi Gunatillaka in partnership with Peninsula Health, Launch Housing and Bolton Clarke, is working to change that. The team is developing and trialling a practical, evidence-based training and resource package for frontline health workers.

“Our goal is to create a new model of care that addresses housing as part of whole-person health,” project coordinator Nilakshi explains. “If clinicians know their patient has unstable housing, they can make simple, life-changing adjustments, like prescribing

medications that don’t need refrigeration, or arranging outreach wound care rather than expecting someone to return for follow-up.”

This work builds on extensive consultations that culminated in a community forum in February 2024, where representatives from the health sector, housing sector and the community voiced urgent concern. With homelessness among older Victorians rising by 58 per cent in the past decade and chronic illness, mental health challenges and early mortality disproportionately high, clinicians called for better tools to respond.

The project is already shaping policy: Prof Sturgiss and Ms. Gunatillaka recently contributed to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners’ (RACGP) position statement on housing and health, which calls for integrated care and a housing-first approach.

“Our partnerships mean hospitals, housing services and community care are working together,” Nilakshi says. “This is a unique opportunity to build a coordinated model of care, so people aren’t just treated, but supported to live well.”

Ballarat Zero

Bold Futures – Project

Uniting Vic Tas

\$600,000 (over 3 years)

In the heart of Ballarat, the Uniting Vic Tas Project Zero team is working to make homelessness “rare, brief and non-recurring” for the city’s rough sleepers.

“For all the stigma and violence that come with rough sleeping, you don’t want to be visible, you don’t want to be sleeping in doorways – that’s something you do out of desperation,” explains Glenn Pierce, Data Lead at Uniting Vic Tas and By-Name List Worker at Ballarat Zero.

For Glenn, who has lived experienced of homelessness in Ballarat himself, this work is not only important but personal.

“When you’re homeless, you spend most of your day trying to figure out how to get fed, where to sleep and how to stay warm,” he explains.

“That hardship is often compounded by complex barriers like mental health challenges or family violence. But you don’t have capacity to spend energy on things like your mental health or finding a house. You’re just trying to survive.

“When people ask about my own experience, I always tell them that it’s important to remember when you see someone sleeping on the street, that they’re just trying to live.”

Funding from The Jack Brockhoff Foundation over three years is enabling Ballarat Zero to hire two part-time assertive outreach workers who will help break down barriers and find housing faster for people who are rough sleeping.

“Assertive outreach is going to where people are, rather than expecting people to walk through the doors of an agency themselves which is an extremely rare thing to happen,” Glenn explains.

“It’s actively finding where people are rough sleeping and being a little bit bold, saying ‘We’re here to help’ and asking, ‘What do you need from us to support where you’re at right now?’”

“This could be the first human interaction someone who’s homeless has had in a long time,” Glenn continues, “and being asked, ‘What do you need’ can be a life-changing moment.”



“It’s actively finding where people are rough sleeping and being a little bit bold, saying ‘We’re here to help’ and asking, ‘What do you need from us to support where you’re at right now?’”

Outreach Workers with the Street to Home van. The Street to Home van carries essential items like food, water, sleeping bags, and medical supplies, and has a BBQ and table to provide a cooked meal or hot drink. The van creates a safe, friendly space where outreach workers can build relationships and connect people into Ballarat Zero, taking the important first steps toward finding them a home. Photograph: Julia Irwin.

Assertive outreach workers don’t just locate people – they build trust over weeks or months, gathering the information needed for housing applications and connecting individuals to the right agencies through Ballarat Zero’s service coordination group. They are advocates who act as the conduit between the support services that can provide assistance and the people who are experiencing homelessness.

The grant will also fund brokerage – small but vital purchases like tents, sleeping bags and prepaid phones.

“The reality is that if someone doesn’t have a mobile phone, that makes it incredibly hard to engage with services that will help them survive,” Glenn explains.

“This work will save lives.”

A Better Way

Bringing systemic change through Lighthouse Foundation’s unique Model of Care for children, kinship carers and families

Bold Futures – Project

Lighthouse Foundation
\$599,965 (over 3 years)

When children can no longer live safely with their parents, the system increasingly turns to family. Kinship care (when the care of a child is provided by relatives or a member of a child’s social network) now makes up 77% of out-of-home care placements in Victoria, making it the fastest-growing form of care in the state. But there’s a troubling gap: these carers often receive far less support than foster carers, leaving families struggling and children at risk.

"Kinship carers are doing an extraordinary job, often without the support afforded to other carers," says Brenda Boland, CEO of Lighthouse Foundation. Without early intervention, placement breakdowns can lead to children entering costly residential care, with increased risks of trauma and ongoing disadvantage.

Recognising this urgent need, Lighthouse has launched an ambitious three-year research project to provide the first robust evidence for their innovative Model of Care.

The research, led by Professor Aron Shlonsky from Monash University, will evaluate Lighthouse’s therapeutic approach that wraps intensive support around entire families through dedicated community ‘hub homes.’

"Lighthouse’s model represents a therapeutic and community-embedded approach to care," Professor Shlonsky explains. "We’re excited to test its potential to become a scalable alternative to residential care."

The impact is already evident. "After four years as kinship carers, Lighthouse was the first organisation that truly wrapped support around our whole family," says one participating carer. "Our case manager didn’t just support the child, she stood beside us through every challenge."

"This isn’t just research," Brenda Boland emphasises. "It’s about building the case for real systemic change, so every child can grow up safe, supported and surrounded by family."



"This isn't just research. It's about building the case for real systemic change, so every child can grow up safe, supported and surrounded by family."

Kinship family supported by Lighthouse Foundation (posed by actors). Lighthouse is committed to protecting the privacy of children and young people. Photograph: Marie-Luise Skibbe.

People & Place

Supporting whole-of-community initiatives that are community-led and owned with the view to building the capacity and capability of individuals and organisations within communities, enabling them to better support their community through working together.

Community Foundations Australia \$150,000 The Field Catalyst Fund	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \$300,000 Investing in Rural Communities Futures Victoria	Mallacoota Wilderness Collective \$95,000 Activate 56 – An Innovative Hub for a Thriving Mallacoota	Mornington Peninsula Foundation \$100,000 Mornington Peninsula Learning Guarantee
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The Field Catalyst Fund

People & Place

Community Foundations Australia
\$150,000 (1 year)

Every community has unique strengths: financial resources, established networks, deep local knowledge, innovative ideas, and shared aspirations. Community Foundations can amplify those strengths, adapting their approach to suit local needs and priorities, and empowering communities to pursue their shared goals to drive lasting social change.

Victoria currently hosts more Community Foundations than any other Australian state or territory. Even still, many Victorian communities do not have access to a local Community Foundation that represents them, whether geographically or through identity. Community Foundations Australia is working to change this by investing in 'building the field' through their Field Catalyst Fund.

Established in 2025, the Field Catalyst Fund strengthens the national community philanthropy ecosystem by pooling resources from funders, local leaders and change-makers to invest back into community in a variety of ways. It is the most significant collective investment in Australian community philanthropy to date. The fund fosters locally-led development, builds community capacity and voice, and mobilises local resources based on the principle that community philanthropy delivers deeper, more enduring outcomes through local ownership, governance and accountability.

With collective contributions exceeding \$3 million, of which the contribution from The Jack Brockhoff Foundation is one small part, this unprecedented investment in the Australian ecosystem offers significant opportunity to accelerate Community Foundation growth and impact across Australia.

"The surge in community-led philanthropy required leadership amid uncertainty. Early investments in community foundations weren't just about funding – they validated community leadership and inclusive approaches. Now we face a critical challenge: meeting growing demand from communities starting their own Foundations. The Field Catalyst Fund partnership addresses this need."

Ian Bird, CEO, Community Foundations Australia



Guiding Light of Portland — Standing tall, this lighthouse in Portland, Victoria shines as a beacon of safety and community spirit in the region supported by the South West Community Foundation. Photograph: Joshua Hibbert.

Investing in Rural Communities Futures

People & Place

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
\$1,360,000 (over 5 years)

Rural communities are the beating heart of Victoria. They produce much of the food we eat, attract millions of visitors to tourism destinations, and contribute significantly to our economy. However, community challenges and barriers are often amplified in rural settings, including housing and infrastructure limitations, restricted access to healthcare and essential services, rising cost of living pressures, insufficient job opportunities, and higher vulnerability to disasters.

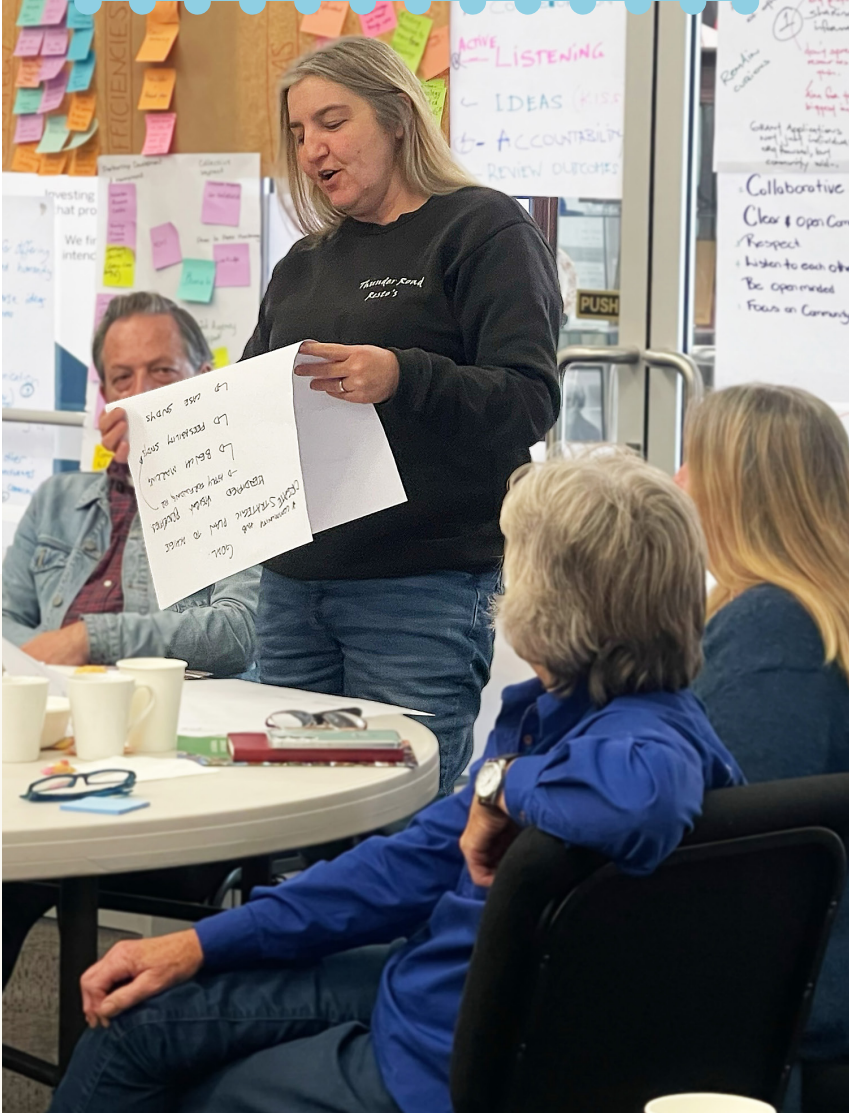
Despite these challenges, rural communities are resilient and resourceful. With the right tools, funding, and opportunities to collaborate, it is the communities themselves that are best placed to use their local knowledge and relationships to lead transformative work that builds long-term capacity and capability.

This understanding sparked the creation of the Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) Victoria program – a groundbreaking five-year, \$5 million collaborative partnership between The Jack Brockhoff Foundation, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, William Buckland Foundation, The Ross Trust, and Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. The Victorian iteration of the program leverages the learnings from the pilot program delivered in partnership with eight NSW communities, achieving game changing results for their not-for-profit sectors.

"Investing in and strengthening the social and economic fabric of Victorian rural communities fosters long-term resilience," explains FRRR CEO Natalie Egleton. "We know that our model can deliver these outcomes, and the multi-year approach builds a whole-of-community strategy that will leave a lasting legacy"

The IRCF Victoria program is underway in three Victorian communities: Colac, Maryborough and Swan Hill. It offers flexible and tailored support, including grants, workshops and participatory planning processes to strengthen the local not-for-profit sector to more effectively advocate on shared issues, contribute to a thriving community and achieve long-term impact.

"This once-in-a-generation opportunity to support the Colac community to harness and grow our projects, initiatives and ideas is immeasurable."



Community participant sharing their ideas to inform the community roadmap at a workshop in Maryborough.

Over the next five years, the Colac, Maryborough and Swan Hill communities will travel their own path, guided by local voices and actions, informed by their unique Community Roadmap. The roadmap sets out goals and priorities for local not-for-profits and is a living resource that will evolve throughout the program.

"This once-in-a-generation opportunity to support the Colac community to harness and grow our projects, initiatives and ideas is immeasurable," says Liz Bishop, Community Facilitator in Colac.

In Maryborough, Community Facilitator Alistair Shaw says the initiative is unprecedented. "It's incredibly rare to have a project that involves all elements of identifying great projects, helping to shape them to be better and then also having the resources to bring the ideas behind the projects to fruition."

Activate 56

An Innovative Hub for a Thriving Mallacoota

People & Place

Mallacoota Wilderness Collective
\$95,000 (1 year)

When the Black Summer bushfires swept through Mallacoota, they left more than destruction in their wake. They exposed the fragility of the local economy. "It really showed the vulnerability of the town from an economic point of view," says Paris Brooke, CEO and co-founder of the Mallacoota Wilderness Collective.

"We suddenly had a situation where tourism stopped overnight and several of our biggest employers were out of action which resulted in severe underemployment. Even today, most members of our community are on casual contracts because the work is seasonal. We don't have a year-round economy."

Faced with this challenge, the Mallacoota Wilderness Collective was born, led by five local women determined to build a stronger future for their town. Their vision was simple but ambitious: to create the foundations of a sustainable, thriving economy.

"Our whole vision is for a life fully lived here in Mallacoota," Paris says. "Essentially, we want to enable people to have the local livelihoods they deserve."

That vision now has a home in the centre of town. With support from The Jack Brockhoff Foundation, the Collective has purchased a Main Street property to house Activate 56, a thriving innovation, education and employment hub.

"The Jack Brockhoff Foundation grant enabled us to meet our fundraising target to purchase the property," Paris explains. "Without their support, we wouldn't have been able to finalise the purchase and create a permanent, community-owned space."

New opportunities for the community have already begun to sprout, bringing with them the potential for lasting change.

"From the outside, you look at the building, and it's a co-working space," says Paris. "But it's a focus point that builds hope and is developing an entrepreneurial culture so that people can realise their potential and see what's possible."



The Mallacoota Wilderness Collective team proudly standing in front of the Activate 56 Hub

Inside, Activate 56 offers flexible workspace for local businesses, a study hub for students that's open 24/7, and training programs to help residents build new skills. It also creates opportunities for people to test and grow small enterprises without the high costs and risks that usually come with setting up shop in town and struggling to find affordable retail spaces to rent.

"We're creating a micro village in a sense," Paris explains. Already, new enterprises and projects have been created, businesses are moving in, and locals are being supported to start or expand ventures that keep money and employment within the community.

The long-term impact could be transformational.

"I really believe that community-led initiatives are the way to go," Paris says. "Communities understand the nuances and can navigate the unique aspects and issues they face. The capabilities, skills and knowledge are often there. What's missing is the capacity and the resources to make it happen."

For a community that once felt on the brink, the building is far more than bricks and mortar. It is a symbol of opportunity for generations to come.

"Communities understand the nuances and can navigate the unique aspects and issues they face. The capabilities, skills and knowledge are often there. What's missing is the capacity and the resources to make it happen."

Mornington Peninsula Learning Guarantee

People & Place

Mornington Peninsula Foundation
\$400,000 (over 3 years)

When principals and teachers across low-income areas of the Mornington Peninsula came to the Mornington Peninsula Foundation seeking support for challenges, they couldn't solve around oral language, literacy and behaviour, they weren't asking for band-aid solutions. They wanted to fundamentally transform how their students learned, building stronger oral language skills, lifting literacy levels and creating optimal classroom conditions for every child to succeed in their learning. Their shared vision sparked the creation of the Mornington Peninsula Learning Guarantee (MPLG), an ambitious five-year initiative that is becoming an example of what's possible when schools, philanthropy and communities unite with a common purpose.

The MPLG brings together nine schools, two secondary and seven primaries, working as a connected cluster rather than in isolation. Schools that once worked independently now share learnings, resources and strategies, creating a collaborative network focused on evidence-based excellence. The cluster all engage in The Science of Learning, drawing on research from psychology, neuroscience and education and Classroom Mastery, which equips teachers with proven routines that create calm, productive learning environments.

The transformation has been extraordinary. For those schools well along the journey, where NAPLAN delivery days were once dreaded by school leaders, they now bring celebration. "This year especially the NAPLAN results have been on a different level," shares Stephanie Exton, CEO of the Mornington Peninsula Foundation. "Most schools are seeing things they haven't seen before with many measures above state average." The improvements extend far beyond test scores to include increasing enrolments and attendance, dramatically improved classroom behaviour and significant improvements in student and family wellbeing.



Engaged year 6 literacy students at Tyabb Railway Primary School

The work has gained national recognition, with two MPLG principals, Lisa Holt from Rosebud Secondary College and Tina Coumbe from Crib Point Primary School, among just 12 education leaders nationally to receive the prestigious 2025 Schools Plus Teaching Awards from the Prime Minister.

As Christopher Quinn, Principal of Western Port Secondary College, reflects, "Young people in our community are the basis of our work. If they're at the centre of all we do, then the work that comes from that is authentic." The MPLG demonstrates what becomes possible when philanthropy, schools, families, and communities unite around shared commitment to changing trajectories and breaking cycles that have persisted for generations across communities.

"Young people in our community are the basis of our work. If they're at the centre of all we do, then the work that comes from that is authentic."



Grassroots Capabilities

Supporting the capability and capacity of grassroots organisations that provide critical services to the community in the Foundation’s strategic priority areas.

Big Little Buddies

\$30,000

Intergenerational Music Programs – Younger and Older making Music & Memories

Regional Community Vet Clinic

\$30,000

The First Not-for-Profit Veterinary clinic for regional Victoria

About Time

\$30,000

About Time: Australia’s national prison newspaper

Rahma Health

\$30,000

Sensory Community Excursions

Anglicare

\$30,000

Emergency Relief for Regional Victoria – Warrnambool, Euroa and Ballarat

Foodbank

\$30,000

Farms to Families

Southern Peninsula Community Support

\$30,000

Emergency Relief & Food Aid

The Beautiful Bunch

\$25,000

Bud to Bloom

Beyond Words

\$30,000

Relationships, Planning, Policy and Systems Improvement Project



Intergenerational Music Programs

Younger and Older Making Music Memories

Grassroots Capabilities

Big Little Buddies

\$30,000 (1 year)



Big Little Buddies is transforming aged care through the power of music and meaningful connection. Its intergenerational music programs bring preschoolers, their caregivers and aged-care residents together for joyful, shared experiences that combat loneliness and improve wellbeing for all involved.

The impact is profound. As one aged-care coordinator noted: "My residents always arrive early on a Thursday morning to secure their seat to wait for the fun to start. The smiles on my residents' faces and the interactions they have with the children are priceless."

Parents echo the sentiment, with one sharing: "Nothing beats the look on the residents' faces when they see these little kids dancing around the room... it is so wholesome and rewarding."

Led by qualified facilitators and supported by volunteers, sessions use familiar songs, instruments and themed activities to spark memories and create lasting bonds.

By connecting generations through music, Big Little Buddies is reducing loneliness, fostering joy and reimagining aged care as a place of vibrant connections.

Forming connections through generations

The First Not-for-Profit Veterinary Clinic for Regional Victoria

Grassroots Capabilities

Regional Community Vet Clinic

\$30,000 (1 year)

For many older and vulnerable people in regional Victoria, a pet is more than a companion, it's a lifeline. Research shows that pets improve health, reduce loneliness and strengthen community connection. But when veterinary care becomes unaffordable, many face difficult choices: surrender their pet, or consider euthanasia.

Regional Community Vet Clinic (RCVC) was founded in 2021 to change that. After four years of dedicated effort, RCVC has proudly opened its permanent home in Castlemaine, becoming the first not-for-profit veterinary clinic in regional Victoria. Its mission is simple but powerful: ensure financial hardship is never a barrier to accessing essential veterinary care.

The impact extends far beyond veterinary care. As one client shared: "I may not have a home, but I do have my best friend Koda... Now I have the wonderful team at RCVC who don't treat me as a homeless person, but as a pet owner just like anyone else." Another described how RCVC volunteers cared for her mother's cat during hospitalisation, providing "peace of mind that was truly priceless" and allowing the family to focus on recovery.

RCVC is more than a vet service, it's preserving the human-animal bond and strengthening community wellbeing across regional Victoria.



One of the newly opened vet clinic's first patients was Jed with Shirley, who is 92 years young

Australia’s National Prison Newspaper

Grassroots Capabilities

About Time
\$30,000 (1 year)

When someone goes to prison, they often disappear from the public conversation. News stops reaching them. Stories don’t include them. Isolation grows. For Joseph Friedman, co-founder and publisher of *About Time*, that gap was more than an inconvenience, it was a deep inequity.

Launched in July 2024, *About Time* is Australia’s national prison newspaper, reaching more than 30,000 people who are incarcerated nationwide, including all 6,500 prisoners in Victoria. It is distributed monthly, free of charge, and most of the content is written by people with lived or living experience of incarceration. It gives voice to a group of people who are often excluded from public discourse.

Behind the walls of prisons and detention centres, information is scarce, and connection to the outside world is fragile. “There’s an ‘information black hole’ in prisons,” Joseph says. “That lack of access contributes to boredom, social isolation and poor mental health. *About Time* was created to help change that.”

The paper emerged after two years of consultation with community groups and people who are incarcerated. Every edition shares practical information, legal rights, health advice and post-release support while offering a creative outlet for expression. It also forges connections, partnering with community legal centres, service organisations and artists, including First Nations artists through The Torch.

The impact is significant, with grateful letters pouring in from across the country:

“In all this time, we have so badly needed exactly what *About Time* provides...the sense of community it creates and the information you provide that we otherwise would never have.”

“We want to create something lasting. A platform that informs, connects, and empowers people inside, because everyone deserves a voice.”



Front page of the September 2024 edition

Those voices affirm the paper’s purpose.

“We receive letters every day,” Joseph says. “People share their stories, reflections, hopes for the future, and their feedback. It shows how essential this connection is.”

“We want to create something lasting,” Joseph continues. “A platform that informs, connects, and empowers people inside, because everyone deserves a voice.”

Community Sensory Excursions

Grassroots Capabilities

Rahma Health
\$30,000 (1 year)

“Safe spaces where kids can have fun healing experiences and feel a sense of community are so important in fostering wellbeing, especially among children who’ve been through such significant trauma,” explains Dr Mariam Hassan GP from Rahma Health.

Dr Hassan has been working directly with the almost 400 refugees from Gaza who have arrived in Melbourne since 2024, helping coordinate their medical care.

“The children are extremely traumatised,” Dr Hassan says. “They have been exposed to unimaginable horrors.”

Rahma Health supports Arabic-speaking migrant and refugee families across Australia by strengthening secure, nurturing relationships between parents and children, and improving both mental and physical wellbeing.

Psychiatry-informed sensory excursions are helping children and families rebuild their lives. An initial therapeutic farm visit proved such a powerful healing experience that Rahma sought to offer it to more Gazan families and used funding from The Jack Brockhoff Foundation to coordinate two special excursions.

“We had seen remarkable results from the first farm visit with a few families,” Dr Hassan explains. “Children who had displayed aggressive behaviours became gentle and calm after supervised interactions with guinea pigs and goats. One of the children who had spoken only single words for six months began forming complete sentences by the end of the visit.”

More than 300 people participated in an excursion to Werribee Zoo, which not only helped with sensory healing across generations, but also fostered community connection and belonging.

“It was such a healing experience for the children who were able to share their experiences, meet other families, and build that sense of connection here in Australia that helps them feel less alone and is such an important part of healing and dealing with grief,” Dr Hassan says.

“To see their tangible happiness and appreciation for these excursions made this one of the most special projects I’ve ever been a part of.”



Children and their families enjoying the Werribee Open Range Zoo

“I remember one young girl was looking around and said to her mum, ‘Oh, this is our community’. She realised that there were other people there who had been through the same thing.”

“Many of these families are experiencing extreme financial hardship and don’t have cars and are unable to work because of visa restrictions so simply could not afford to take their children to activities like this,” Dr Hassan explains. “To be able to provide the tickets, transport, and lunch so that they didn’t have to worry about the cost or transport barriers was wonderful.”

A subsequent excursion that included dinner and an evening visit to a trampoline park was just as happily received by the families and children.

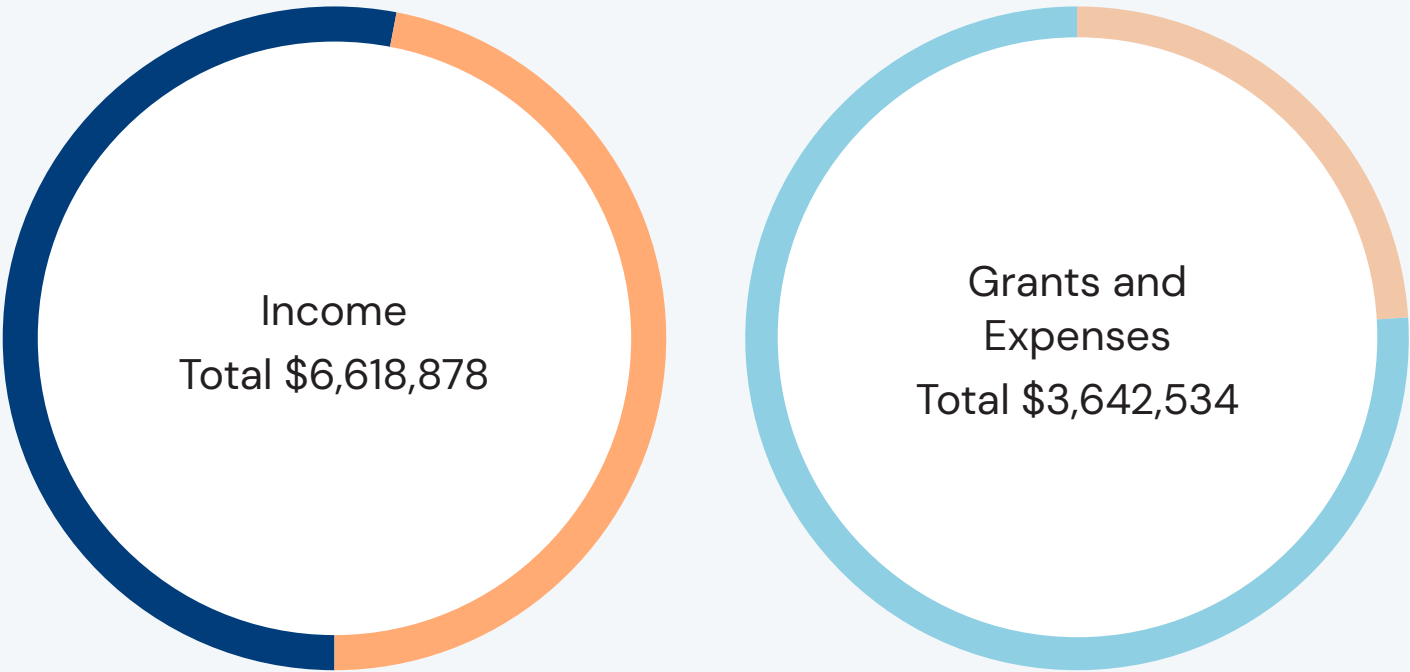
“The children were running around from start to finish, making new friends,” Dr Hassan says. “Families were meeting each other and feeling less alone which is so important when there are so many things going on in their lives in the day-to-day, getting food on the table, and worrying about their relatives overseas.”

“To see their tangible happiness and appreciation for these excursions made this one of the most special projects I’ve ever been a part of.”



Financial Summary

2024-2025



Profit and Loss	Amount (\$)
Total income	3,503,595
Total expenses	(891,031)
Total grant distributions	(2,751,503)
Net gain on revaluation of investments	3,115,283
Net surplus (deficit)	2,976,344
*including investments revaluations	

Balance Sheet	Amount (\$)
Total cash at bank	122,758
Total investments	65,588,980
Other assets	
* including franking credits receivables and accrued income	556,793
Total assets	66,268,531
Total liabilities	(340,587)
Net assets	65,927,944

Thank you





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