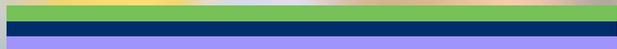


ANNUAL REVIEW **2023**

Creating brighter  
futures for children  
and young people



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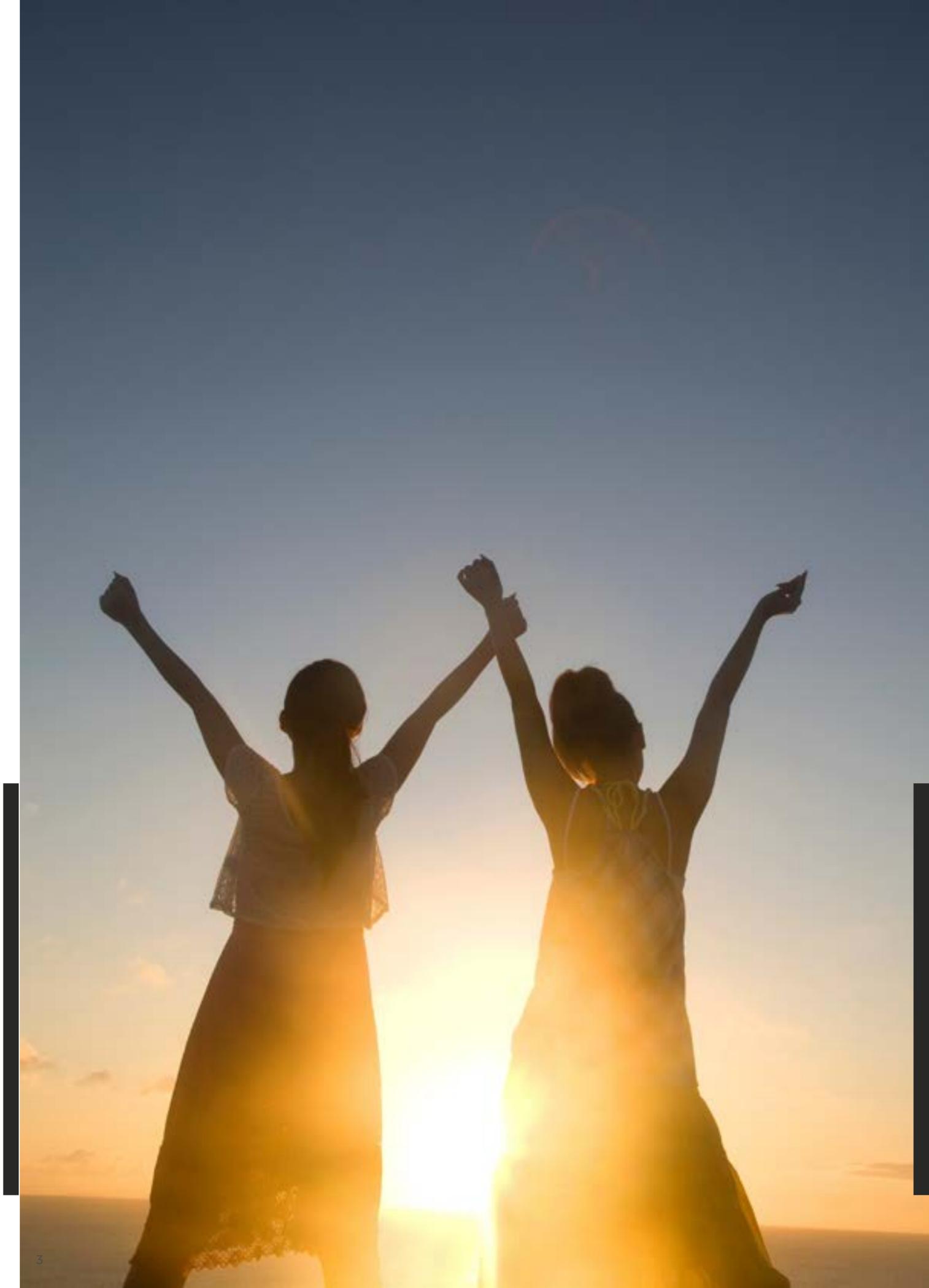
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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Zahra Foundation



## Message from the Chair



Welcome to the 2023 Annual Review of St.George Foundation, BankSA Foundation and Bank of Melbourne Foundation.

I'm very pleased to report that this year our Foundations supported 60 charities across Australia with grants totalling more than \$3.2 million, an increase from last year's \$2.6m, to help create brighter futures for children and young people.

A notable highlight was the award of a new Multi-year Grant, adding to the seven previous Multi-year Grants endowed since 2019, demonstrating our commitment to long-term support for Australian children's charities to drive greater impact. This year's recipient is Down Syndrome Victoria, awarded a grant by Bank of Melbourne Foundation of \$270,000 over three years to expand its inclusive education programs to more schools across Victoria.

During the year we farewelled the Foundations' CEO Lisa Grinham. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa for the significant contribution she made during her time with us.

We also welcomed new CEO, Sally-Anne O'Brien, who has hit the ground running since joining us in February 2023 with a focus on renewing our fundraising strategy after the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the Foundations' many flagship fundraising events this year, I had the pleasure of attending the St.George Foundation Luncheon where we heard from Megan Maack, CEO and founder of Childhood Dementia Initiative, which is leading research, treatment and care for children living with dementia. St.George Foundation has supported Megan and her work since 2017 and we're very proud to be a part of her journey.

On behalf of everyone at the Foundations, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and supporters for their ongoing generosity. I'd also like to thank the Board of Governors and the Foundations' team for their commitment, hard work and valued contributions over the year.

Most importantly, I would like to recognise the wonderful work of our charity partners in providing the programs and services that are supporting children and young people in our communities to thrive.

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Christine Parker

### **CHAIR**

St.George Foundation, BankSA Foundation  
and Bank of Melbourne Foundation

## Message from the CEO



Our Foundations have a shared purpose to create brighter futures for children and young people, and we have aligned our grants programs to bring this purpose to life.

It's my great privilege to join the Foundations this year as CEO.

I'm pleased to be sharing our 2023 Annual Review, which shines a spotlight on the charities we're supporting to improve health and education outcomes and social inclusion for children and young people.

It gives me so much pleasure to know that our funding this year is helping these organisations in their efforts to support more than 21,000 young beneficiaries.

The diversity and breadth of challenges being addressed by charities since the COVID-19 outbreak along with the impacts of cost-of-living pressures were evident in our grant applications this year. We hope the funding provided through our Community Grants goes some way to assist the recipient charities to respond to these challenges.

The Foundations' impact is made possible through the support of our donors. This year we held events in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide to raise funds and build awareness of the wonderful work of our charity partners. Particular thanks go to our long-term supporters across Westpac Group's supplier network and customers who continue to make incredible contributions to these events.

I'd also like to acknowledge the tremendous support of Westpac Group employees. They have spearheaded their own local fundraising activities, supported our annual raffle and continued to donate via payroll giving. This has helped us to sustain and grow the funds we provide via our grant programs, 100% of which is given to our charity partners.

Special thanks to the Board of Governors and Foundations' team for their ongoing passion, commitment and hard work. This year, we farewelled Olivia Thomas and welcomed Nancie-Lee Robinson in the role of Senior Manager Grantmaking. I'd like to thank Olivia for her contribution to the Foundations during her six years with us.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and continuing to assess how we can maximise the social impact of our programs and charity partner relationships to best support the creation of brighter futures for children and young people across Australia.

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Sally-Anne O'Brien

### **CEO**

St.George Foundation, BankSA Foundation  
and Bank of Melbourne Foundation



# Our Board of Governors



**Christine Parker**  
St.George Foundation Chair, Group Executive Human Resources, Westpac Group



**Ross Miller**  
Chief Customer Engagement Officer, Westpac Group



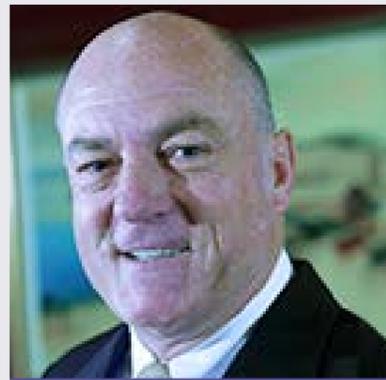
**Emily Gatt**  
General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Community, Westpac Group



**Michael Rebelo**  
Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Groupe ANZ



**Penny Fowler**  
Chairperson, Herald Sun & Weekly Times



**Danny Robinson**  
Chief Financial Officer, St.George Leagues Club



## About this Annual Review

The purpose of St.George Foundation, BankSA Foundation and Bank of Melbourne Foundation is to help create brighter futures for children and young people. We raise funds to provide to charities supporting lasting change for children and young people in need.

This Annual Review provides a summary of the grants approved and our fundraising activities during the year ending 30 September 2023.

- Dollar values and grant numbers are for grants approved during the financial year.
- Information and data in descriptions of Multi-year Grant activities is provided by the relevant funded charity.
- Information about Community Grant activity is derived from grant applications.
- 'Target reach' totals are determined by the stated targets in grant applications and indicate intended reach.
- 'At-risk' refers to children or young people who are at risk of disengaging from school, community or family, or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.
- The names of children or young people used in case studies have been changed to protect privacy.



## Giving

**\$3.2M** | Awarded to 60 charities in 2023

**46%** | Supporting education

**28%** | Supporting health & wellbeing

**26%** | Supporting social inclusion

**21,700** | **Children and young people** target beneficiaries

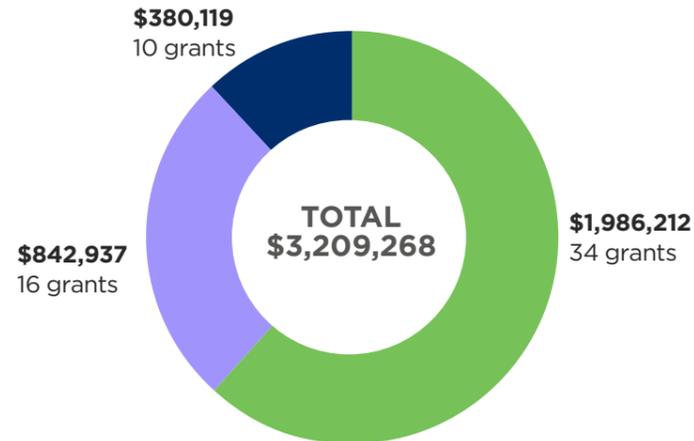


# Giving Summary

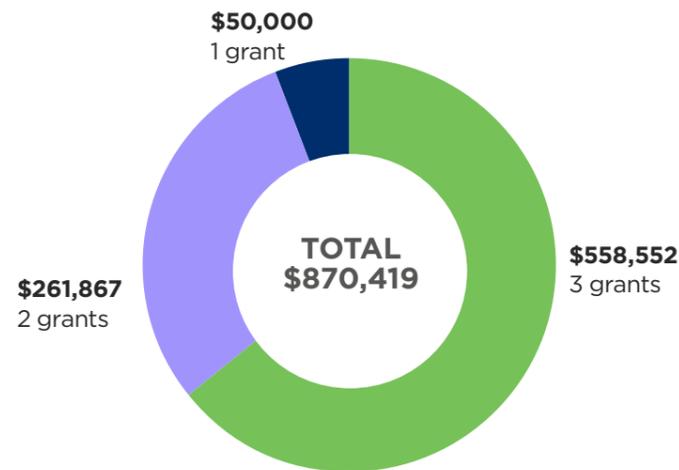


- St. George Foundation
- BankSA Foundation
- Bank of Melbourne Foundation

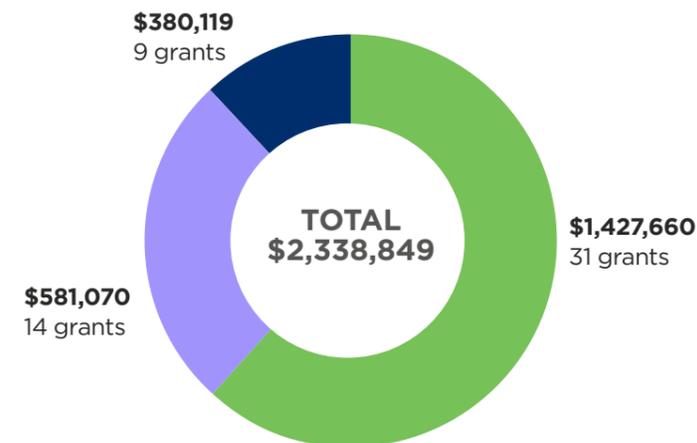
## Total Grants



## Multi-year Grants



## Community Grants



## Investment by focus area



Focus area	Total \$	%	SGF	%	BoMF	%	BSAF	%
Health & wellbeing	\$897,749	28%	\$516,080	26%	\$193,200	23%	\$188,469	50%
Social inclusion	\$839,698	26%	\$532,478	27%	\$164,870	20%	\$142,350	37%
Education	\$1,471,821	46%	\$937,654	47%	\$484,867	57%	\$49,300	13%
	<b>\$3,209,268</b>		<b>\$1,986,212</b>		<b>\$842,937</b>		<b>\$380,119</b>	

## Grants by location

Area	No. of charities	% of charities
Metro	29	49%
Regional	13	22%
Remote	3	5%
Metro, regional & remote	5	8%
Metro & regional	8	13%
Regional & remote	2	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	

## Investments by location

Area	Funding	% of funding
Metro	\$1,321,788	42%
Regional	\$640,987	20%
Remote	\$299,873	9%
Metro, regional & remote	\$397,200	12%
Metro & regional	\$470,120	15%
Regional & remote	\$79,300	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,209,268</b>	

## Investment by State or Territory

State	Funding	% of funding
National	\$40,000	1%
NSW	\$1,090,685	34%
VIC	\$842,937	27%
SA	\$365,469	11%
NT	\$200,650	6%
QLD	\$495,109	15%
WA	\$144,418	5%
ACT	\$30,000	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,209,268</b>	

Fundraising



**October 2022**  
St. George  
Foundation Ball

**March 2023**  
BankSA Foundation  
Fringe Dinner

**May 2023**  
St. George Foundation  
Luncheon

**July 2023**  
Employee  
Car Raffle

**August 2023**  
Bank of Melbourne  
Foundation Luncheon

# Fundraising

Our Foundations rely on the generous donation of funds to support charity organisations delivering vital programs aimed at helping create brighter futures for children and young people. Our operational costs are funded by Westpac Group.

Our fundraising approach has three key elements – events, raffles and payroll giving. These are supplemented by employee-led, local fundraising activities, where Westpac Group employees volunteer their time to rally support of co-workers to donate. Westpac Group suppliers and customers also support our work with generous donations of goods and services, which helps to ensure the success of our fundraising events.

## Signature Events

Throughout the year we held a number of key fundraising events, bringing together Westpac Group suppliers, supporters, customers and employees to raise awareness and funds. Our events continue to be well supported and provide us with the opportunity to showcase the charities we support and the difference they are making to the lives of children and young people.

## Raffle

Our annual car raffle provided an opportunity for Westpac Group employees to enter for a chance to win a first prize of a new Nissan X-Trail 4WD Ti e-Power valued at \$58,000 and a second prize of a Flight Centre gift card valued at \$12,000. This year, ticket sales hit a new record with 6,040 tickets sold, a 14% increase on the previous year, raising a total of \$302,000.

## Payroll Giving

Westpac Group partners with not-for-profit organisation Good2Give to provide employees with a simple way to donate to charities directly from their pay. Every dollar donated by eligible employees of Westpac Group to St.George Foundation, BankSA Foundation and Bank of Melbourne Foundation is matched by Westpac Group, amplifying the contribution our Foundations are able to make to support charities across Australia. This year, we upgraded a mobile phone app to make it even easier for Westpac Group employees to donate and promoted payroll giving through a series of “Foundation Fridays”, which helped to further increase donations.

## Employee Fundraising

Whether it’s cooking up a storm, judging the best in show for a Bake Off, training for a fun run in Sydney, Adelaide or Brisbane or serving soup for hungry colleagues, many Westpac Group employees volunteered their time during the year to raise funds for our three Foundations.



Car raffle winner Varun Kaul with St George Foundation CEO Sally-Anne O'Brien

# St. George Foundation

**\$2.0M** in grants

**47%** Supporting education

**26%** Supporting health & wellbeing

**27%** Supporting social inclusion

**10,500** Children and young people target beneficiaries



## Multi-year Grants

### Aurora Education Foundation

#### 2022 recipient

\$600,000 over 3 years

300 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

This year marked the second of three years of funding for Aurora Education Foundation after it was named St.George Foundation's Inspire Grant recipient in 2022. The multi-year funding is supporting the organisation's 'High School Program', a unique Indigenous-designed and led, intensive student-centred program, which positions cultural strength alongside academic progress to support Indigenous students and their families to access educational, wellbeing and cultural opportunities.

Since 2022, more than 300 students have participated in Aurora's 'High School Program', with 94% reporting they felt supported to achieve their goals. Natalie Foster, Aurora's National High School Program Manager, says participants of the program are the epitome of Indigenous leaders "who encourage younger Indigenous students to participate and think about their futures."

### Schools Plus

#### 2021 recipient

\$596,000 over 3 years

870 target beneficiaries: 10-14 years

Schools Plus was named St.George Foundation's Inspire Grant recipient in 2021, receiving three-year funding to support its 'Australian Virtual STEM Academy'. This initiative, which focuses on students in Years 5-9 in rural and remote areas experiencing social-economic disadvantage, uses an interactive online platform to deliver STEM learning opportunities to children who wouldn't otherwise have access to them.

With the support of the Inspire Grant, in 2023 the Academy expanded in New South Wales, almost doubling the number of schools participating from 17 to 31

by the end of the first Semester. It was also rolled-out in the Northern Territory with teachers delivering the first course to students at four schools, including Katherine School of the Air. Schools Plus report that of the children enrolled, 92% were from rural and remote communities, 35% were girls and 42% identified as Indigenous. Student enrolments are on track to exceed the organisation's targets.

### Community Spirit Foundation

#### 2020 recipient

\$600,000 over 3 years

250 target beneficiaries: 3-18 years

The 2020 recipient of St.George Foundation's Inspire Grant is Community Spirit Foundation, which received three-year funding for its 'Starting Block' program. Available to students from kindergarten to Year 12, the program is centred on building student wellbeing and resilience. Through the delivery of Community Spirit's workbooks, local staff engage students in discussions aimed at developing self-efficacy and confidence, and incentives are offered to help improve school attendance.

Community Spirit Foundation report that since 2020, more than 400 participating students have improved their school attendance by five days - that equates to an additional 2,005 school days. "The Starting Block program is a great help to get them to school every day and improve their reliance and attendance," says Khanita, Community Spirit Foundation Senior Program Coordinator at Woorabinda.

### PCYC NSW

#### 2019 recipient

\$575,294 over 3 years

345 target beneficiaries: 12-17 years

Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) NSW was named St.George Foundation's 2019 Inspire Grant recipient, receiving three-year funding to support the expansion of its 'Fit to Learn' program across metropolitan and regional NSW. The innovative program is designed to re-engage disengaged youth and provide alternative pathways to education for teenagers experiencing physical, social or economic disadvantage.

With the Inspire Grant support, PCYC NSW has delivered 32 Fit to Learn programs in partnership with NSW Police and local school communities. PCYC NSW has also created a new program, 'REENGAGE with GRIT' (Growth-mindset Resilience Intervention for Teenagers), which blends physical fitness, nutrition education and specific mental resilience skills training, to develop more resilient children. The program targets Years 7-9 and is co-designed with participating schools to ensure content is tailored to meet specific needs.



## Community Grants

### Education

#### The Pinnacle Foundation

##### **Scholarship Program**

*100 target beneficiaries: 18–24 years*

This program awards scholarships to young LGBTIQ+ people to support full-time university or TAFE study to help realise their potential. It recognises that many of these young people experience exclusion, rejection, lack of safety and loss of family support. This grant supports scholarships for three years and matches students with mentors who identify as the same gender or sexuality and academic field.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

#### Chain Reaction Foundation

##### **Mt Druitt Learning Ground**

*50 target beneficiaries: 12–17 years*

This program supports at-risk adolescents to engage in their education more confidently. The grant will enable Learning Ground to meet increased demand by supporting the costs of participation over one school term. Each student attends twice a week, once for the behavioural change and re-engagement program and once for the recreational program focusing on relational growth.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

#### LiteHaus International

##### **Digital Inclusion Program**

*1,250 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

Thousands of students across Australia face being left behind without digital access as education moves online. This program distributes free refurbished digital devices to students who need them. It focuses on students who are Indigenous, living in rural locations, and refugee and asylum seekers. This grant will assist the distribution of 1,250 laptops across regional and rural New South Wales.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

#### Woolloomooloo & Inner-City Police Community Scholarship Foundation

##### **Community Scholarships**

*15 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

Many children and young people living in Woolloomooloo and inner-Sydney experience entrenched, intergenerational disadvantage and crime. This grant will be used to pay school fees and bursaries for 15 scholarship recipients. Bursaries will provide uniforms, textbooks, and laptops, with intensive tutoring where required to improve reading and writing levels.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

#### Morris Children's Fund

##### **Music Therapy**

*700 target beneficiaries: 5–18 years*

Music Therapy gives children with severe physical and multiple disabilities the opportunity to learn and communicate through music and musical instruments. It enables mostly non-verbal children to develop social and communication skills such as making eye contact and taking turns. This grant will support the program's expansion, serving seven Schools for Special Purposes and two hospital schools in Sydney.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$20,000*

#### SunnyKids

##### **SunnyKids in Early Education (SKEE)**

*120 target beneficiaries: 0–5 years*

Using a child-aware approach to understand the impact of parental family violence issues, SKEE works with families to effect meaningful change. Local early learning centres help to identify children experiencing vulnerability and/or who are at risk of disengaging from school. This grant will provide 12 months' case management, emotional support and links to services for both the identified children and their families.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$49,152*

#### Gunawirra

##### **Early Intervention for School Readiness**

*70 target beneficiaries: 0–5 years*

Through extensive community consultation, Gunawirra identified inadequate occupational therapy services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Armidale NSW. Without intervention many of the region's children face delays in reaching developmental milestones, impacting future health and wellbeing. This grant enables an Occupational Therapist to provide individual therapy and programs for children with additional needs for 12 months.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

### Health & Wellbeing

#### Childhood Dementia Initiative

##### **The Family Voice**

*2,273 target beneficiaries: 5–12 years*

Around 2,300 children in Australia live with dementia. Treatments are non-existent, research is fragmented and underfunded and services do not meet family needs. This grant will assist to improve the experience of children with dementia and their families and develop critical evidence to raise awareness, influence policy leadership, inform research and identify effective solutions.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$40,000*

#### Raw Potential Canberra

##### **Mobile Outreach Support**

*100 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

Raw Potential supports young people experiencing homelessness, drug dependency and mental health challenges, by using a mobile outreach van with a meeting space, homeless kits, emergency food packages and toiletries, laptop with internet connection and accredited outreach workers. The grant will support outreach worker capacity to provide early intervention.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$30,000*

#### Stewart House

##### **School Children in Need from Lismore, Ballina & Tweed Heads**

*80 target beneficiaries: 7–14 years*

At Stewart House each year, 1,600 public school children in need are provided with optometric, dental and medical treatment as well as emotional support, health and education programs and out-of-school activities. The grant will assist a cohort of children from Northern NSW that suffered significant social, environmental and economic adversity due to severe and recurring flooding in 2022.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

#### LeaderLife

##### **LeaderLife with Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives**

*65 target beneficiaries: 5–24 years*

Based in an East Dubbo social housing estate where many residents experience significant intergenerational disadvantage and trauma, LeaderLife works with young people with significant mental health complexities, grief, alcohol and substance addiction, loss and disconnection. This grant will fund the employment of a qualified counsellor to provide free counselling services and holistic wellbeing support through flexible mentoring, coaching, counselling.

*St.George Foundation contribution: \$47,840*

## Human Nature Adventure Therapy

### Activ8

10 target beneficiaries: 14–18 years

Human Nature offers innovative, nature-based mental health support for young people across the Far North Coast of New South Wales. This grant will fund one-to-one therapy and mentorship over 12 months to flood-affected young people who are experiencing persistent trauma symptoms and have not been engaged by conventional service providers. It will also fund recreational activities, free transport and a safe introduction to small group activities.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Be Centre Foundation

### Play Therapy Program

30 target beneficiaries: 3–12 years

Be Centre provides age-appropriate, evidence-based early intervention mental health support to children across Sydney impacted by an adverse childhood experience. This grant will cover wages of a qualified Play Therapist to provide twelve individualised play therapy sessions for children facing complex issues such as domestic violence, neglect, medical trauma, grief and loss, family breakdown and bullying.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$48,240

## Reason to Thrive

### Youth “Maverick” Program - Life-Skills for At-Risk Youth

80 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years

Through Equine Assisted Learning activities, the Youth Maverick program offers safe, therapeutic experiences with horses to young people experiencing mental health issues, social isolation, family breakdown, violence and learning and behavioural issues. This grant covers costs to deliver 10 programs over four Queensland school terms, building essential life and personal skills for beneficiaries to better handle daily challenges.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Streetwork Australia

### Change Your Course

150 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years

This early intervention program supports young people impacted by crime through community-based service delivery. The collaborative program combines a network of specialist youth services to deliver individualised support through mentoring, counselling and legal advocacy to reduce offending or re-offending and improve social wellbeing. This grant will fund four programs over 12 months at Streetwork’s three northern Sydney branches.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Earbus Foundation of Western Australia

### Listen, Learn, Live: Health Promotion & Community Literacy Program

378 target beneficiaries: 0–12 years

Working to reduce the incidence and impact of middle ear disease in Aboriginal children to below the World Health Organisation benchmark of 4%, this program will provide regular ear health services and increase health literacy for children in Carnarvon, Western Australia. The grant will fund doctors, audiologists, nurses, and ENTs to diagnose and treat middle ear disease and hearing loss in collaboration with local Aboriginal Medical Services.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Ngak Min Health

### Pathways to Wellbeing and Resilience

250 target beneficiaries: 5–18 years

Ngak Min Health provides services to support better health and education outcomes for at-risk First Nations students at Cape York Girl Academy and partner school, Djarragun College. This grant will employ a qualified and culturally competent mental health professional to provide appropriate, trauma-informed counselling sessions, resilience-building exercises, cultural identity restoration, education and social development.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Central West Women’s Health Centre

### Kids Matter Most

45 target beneficiaries: 5–12 years

This trauma-informed program supports children and young people in Bathurst, New South Wales, experiencing ongoing social effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased exposure to domestic and family violence, abuse and feelings of isolation and anxiety. This grant will fund the employment of an accredited

child and adolescent trauma counsellor for group and individual therapy sessions in outdoor settings, delivered two days per week for six weeks in four school terms.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Social Inclusion

### Variety Queensland Inc

#### Financial Literacy for Children with Disabilities

150 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years

The Real Money program teaches young people living with disability about key money concepts, its value and management. Funding will cover wages for trained Financial Literacy Facilitators who will work closely with teachers and aides to meet the individual learning needs of students in five Special Education Schools in Brisbane, Queensland, over 12 months.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Think & DO Tank Foundation

### INFINITE

275 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years

INFINITE supports young people from linguistically diverse backgrounds to develop English language skills while celebrating their language of origin, recognising that bilingualism enhances intergenerational connection and belonging. This grant will support the employment of a skilled bilingual educator to deliver free creative multi-arts and literacy programs at Fairfield, New South Wales, where up to 78% of the population speak languages other than English at home.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000



## Traction for Young People

### 136 Supported

136 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

For some marginalised young people, traditional education structures and programs do not always meet their needs. Traction's programs provide support with mentors and tools to help young people face their challenges, build resilience and confidence and develop teamwork skills for wellbeing. This grant will fund the materials needed for the organisation's Build Bike program and Fuel Up nutrition program for 136 young people.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$48,960

## Milk Crate Theatre

### Youth Program

60 target beneficiaries: 5-12 years

Young people living with systemic economic or social disadvantage, including homelessness, face significant barriers to support and services. The arts can positively impact mental health, improve lives and help build more cohesive communities. This grant supports the facilitation of four series of free arts workshops for young people accessing the services of Mike Crate Theatre's social services partners.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Glebe Youth Service

### Positive Pathways

50 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

Positive Pathways will engage at-risk and vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in and around Glebe with individual, tailored support to achieve their goals and holistically address barriers to education or vocational pathways. This grant will help to support the employment of an Aboriginal identified community development or youth worker with their lived and contextual expertise enabling a strengths-based approach.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Stepping Stone House

### Residential Services Program

8 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

Many young homeless people in Australia have escaped family violence, child abuse, poor living conditions or family breakdown. Stepping Stone House's program supports these young people to beat homelessness through a holistic model of care, long-term housing and developmental support. This grant funds a semi-independent living program in Dulwich Hill, New South Wales, with dedicated youth workers, case managers and house coordinators.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## JUTE Theatre Company

### Dare to Dream - Safer Children, Safer Communities Program

1,300 target beneficiaries: 5-12 years

Through a captivating play, engaging theatre-based in-school residency workshops, and a comprehensive wrap-around program, this First Nations-led and delivered initiative imparts knowledge and life-skills to promote early intervention and provide better access to support networks for youth at risk. The grant will enable JUTE Theatre Company to take this tour into five remote Indigenous communities.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## The Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF)

### Music for Life

500 target beneficiaries: 5-12 years

Children in regional areas lack access to many creative opportunities that can improve learning and wellbeing. ACMF will provide free, culturally specific and all-abilities musical tuition weekly for 12 months, along with community concerts for children at two primary schools in the Geraldton region of Western Australia. Funding will support the costs of teaching musicians, instruments, program setup and evaluation.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$44,545

## Ethnic Broadcasting Association QLD (Radio 4EB)

### 4K WAVE Program

300 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

Radio 4EB will work collaboratively with youth service providers Ted Noffs Street University, Youth Family Services Logan, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service through the Streets After Dark initiative. 4K WAVE will address the needs of young people exiting detention through a 40-week youth engagement and skills-based radio, broadcasting and music program, culminating in an event for Youth Week 2024.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$46,997

## Theatre Kimberley

### Dragonfly Outreach

175 target beneficiaries: 5-12 years

This program travels to remote Aboriginal communities for up to five weeks of daily teaching and skills development with students from kindergarten to high

school, offering performing arts skills for every ability. The project culminates with a celebratory whole-of-community performance. This grant will support the delivery of three repeat projects in the remote Aboriginal communities of Yiramalay, Beagle Bay and Bidyadanga.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$49,873

## The Lysicrates Foundation

### Martin-Lysicrates Prize Event

2,000 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

This initiative brings a live theatre experience to children and young people in Western Sydney and regional New South Wales. Held in Parramatta, the event is a competition for plays written for children, with live and online audiences from regional areas voting to select a winner. Funding will cover the actors' and writers' wages, filming, live streaming and video production.

St.George Foundation contribution: \$50,000



## Ditching Digital Poverty

Jack Growden believes it is “shameful” that many thousands of students in rural, regional and remote Australia don’t have access to technology, yet many laptops are simply thrown away.

“I’ve been to landfills where I’ve watched brand-new laptops get crushed into dust,” says the Founder and CEO of LiteHaus International.

“Imagine just throwing your laptop in the bin when there’s a kid outside with no access to technology. It’s unacceptable that a first-world country like Australia has this problem.”

Recognising that a connected laptop has become a necessity for students to access quality education as schools’ digital transformation marches on, Jack has made it his mission to conquer digital inequality. Through his ‘Digital Inclusion Program’, LiteHaus International provides students experiencing device poverty with free laptops, along with e-safety and digital literacy skills to safely navigate the digital world.

To support this program, a Community Grant from St.George Foundation this year is enabling LiteHaus to equip 1,250 students across Queensland and New South Wales with a personal laptop, by covering the cost of delivery and procurement logistics, software, equipment and human resources.

“We’re so appreciative of the funding from St.George Foundation. Ultimately the laptops stay in the storage shed if it wasn’t for the funding,” Jack says.

LiteHaus works with those most affected by digital inequality across rural, regional and remote communities, including young Indigenous people, new Australians and those living with disability. Beneficiaries of the program have used their devices to study online, apply for university, start online businesses and access mental health support programs.

“Millions of students don’t have the tools to learn, dream and achieve in the digital age. We are changing this,” Jack says. “Ultimately, I’d like to grow the organisation with a vision to empower around a million by 2030 with digital tools and opportunities.”



“Imagine just throwing your laptop in the bin when there’s a kid outside with no access to technology. It’s unacceptable that a first-world country like Australia has this problem.”  
**Jack Growden** Founder & CEO of LiteHaus International.

# BankSA Foundation

**\$380K** in grants

**13%** Supporting education

**50%** Supporting health & wellbeing

**37%** Supporting social inclusion

**4,200** Children and young people target beneficiaries



## Multi-year Grants

### Youth Opportunities

#### 2022 recipient

\$150,000 over 3 years

216 target beneficiaries: 15–16 years

The recipient of BankSA Foundation's 2022 Multi-year Grant is Youth Opportunities, an organisation that, for more than 25 years, has supported young people experiencing disadvantage or disengagement through its Personal Leadership Program. With the support of trained facilitators, face-to-face programs are delivered to Year 10 students, one day a week, over a school term. Young people learn the skills to make positive choices and, as a result, are more motivated in school, confident in themselves and better able to tackle life's challenges.

BankSA Foundation's funding will support around 216 young people in South Australia (aged 15–16 years) to take part in Youth Opportunities' Personal Leadership Program over three years.

### Operation Flinders Foundation

#### 2020 recipient

\$150,000 over 3 years

30 target beneficiaries: 13–18 years

Named as BankSA Foundation's 2020 Multi-year Grant recipient, Operation Flinders is supporting young people to build resilience to tackle the challenges of life through remote, outback intervention programs.

Its Step Out program is an 8 week adventure program including a 100km trek over eight days in the northern Flinders Ranges, providing demanding experiences, personal development and pathways to wellbeing and life success. The program acts as a psychological circuit breaker and is especially designed for young people from environments with family dysfunction, drug abuse and physical abuse. Since 2021, 67 young people have participated the Step Out program.

## Community Grants

### Education

#### Grandcarers SA

##### Grandcarers' Education & Development Fund

50 target beneficiaries: 5–21 years

Grandparents can become the informal primary carers of children for a large variety of reasons, often creating financial stress. This grant will provide financial support to eligible Grandcarers to help cover education, arts and sport expenses, enabling the children in their care to engage with their peers in extra-curricular activities, supporting social, emotional and cultural development.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$20,000

### DeadlyScience

#### DeadlyLearners

960 target beneficiaries: 5–18 years

According to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) educator for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners, DeadlyScience, the gap in university STEM qualifications for Indigenous (0.5%) and non-Indigenous (5.2%) people is significant. Remote and regional students are often not able to access the same learning experiences as those in cities. This grant will support 40 'DeadlyLearners' sessions, presented by Indigenous STEM experts in South Australian and Northern Territory schools, and provide role models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to spark interest in STEM.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$29,300

## Health & Wellbeing

### Childhood Cancer Association

#### Paediatric Oncology Counselling Support

80 target beneficiaries: all ages (children and families)

Issues associated with a diagnosis of cancer in childhood can be complex and varied, including anxiety, depression, sleep problems, self-harm, drug and alcohol abuse and post-traumatic stress. This grant will enable one year of evidence-based counselling support provided by psychologists to children with cancer and their families.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$25,000

### Restless Dance Theatre

#### Restless Wellness Program

150 target beneficiaries: 18–24 years

Restless provides professional dance career opportunities for people with disability. Touring up to 40 weeks each year can take its toll on physical and mental health. This grant will support the development and delivery of a wellness program focusing on resilience, injury prevention and rehabilitation, and self-care for dancers, program participants and employees.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$41,876



## Sammy D Foundation

### *Keeping Young People Safe from Harm*

2,700 target beneficiaries: 10-18 years

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities are experiencing increased levels of violence according to Sammy D Foundation, including a spike in violent incidents in the South Australian education system, with one-in-four adolescents reporting engagement in a violent altercation. The grant will support 30 violence prevention and alcohol and other drugs harm minimisation programs in schools to educate on smart choices, consequences and de-escalation strategies.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$46,593

## Social Inclusion

### Lighthouse Youth Projects

#### *Cadence*

250 target beneficiaries: 12-18 years

Cadence is a bicycle-based mentoring program designed to engage and inspire young people of all abilities via bicycle-based learning and hands-on mechanical experience in a workshop. The program supports young people experiencing disadvantage who may be at risk of incarceration or recidivism. This grant will support set up of a new and larger workshop and mentoring space and a new custom-built trailer to take participants to and from sessions.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$50,000

## Zahra Foundation Australia

### *Early Paths Increasing Financial Independence*

33 target beneficiaries: 18-25 years

Violence against women can be intensified by intersecting forms of oppression and inequality, resulting in higher rates of violence for certain groups. The grant will support the integration of one-on-one financial counselling sessions into the Pathways to Empowerment program. With a focus on budgeting skills, financial literacy, and education on financial abuse, the program targets young people who identify as female, non-binary, culturally and linguistically diverse, Aboriginal or LGBTIQ.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$42,350

## The Gold Foundation Incorporated

### *Shine Like Gold! Mobile Café*

90 target beneficiaries: 14-25 years

Many young people on the autism spectrum face barriers to employment, are less likely to have paid employment during high school and may lack the social skills needed for traditional job interviews and workplace relationships. This grant will fund wages and operational costs to support young people with autism to build real-life, practical skills through paid employment at the Shine Like Gold! Mobile Café, a commercial coffee trailer serving the community.

BankSA Foundation contribution: \$50,000



“We want people to have their friends for the rest of their lives, because we know Sam’s friends would do anything to have him back.”

**Neil Davis** Founder of Sammy D Foundation and father of the late Sam Davis.

## Banishing Violence

When he saw his teenaged students “thinking deeply” after an in-school session run by educators from the anti-violence Sammy D Foundation, a teacher at Adelaide’s St. Michaels College sensed it was a life changing experience.

“I sincerely believe our students will think twice before resorting to violence,” he says of the session on the impacts of bullying, violence drug and alcohol misuse.

“The program has a timeless universal message for all Australians, especially younger adults in Year 11.”

The Sammy D Foundation was established 15 years ago by the parents of Sam Davis who was 17 years old when his life was tragically cut short after falling victim to a one punch attack. Their ultimate aim is to provide skills to young people to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

Since then, the foundation has educated more than 220,000 young people about the consequences of violent behaviour, and the risks associated with alcohol and drug misuse, providing relevant age-

appropriate information, knowledge and tools.

A grant this year from BankSA Foundation is funding the delivery of 15 violence prevention and alcohol and other drugs education programs by the Sammy D Foundation, at no cost, to low socioeconomic schools across Adelaide, reaching 1,840 young people.

The program supports students to understand the consequences that actions or choices can have on victims, perpetrators, bystanders and the broader community, and empowers them to make choices that will keep themselves and their mates safe from harm.

“We want people to have their friends for the rest of their lives,” says founder and Sam’s dad Neil Davis, “because we know Sam’s friends would do anything to have him back.”

# Bank of Melbourne Foundation

**\$840K** in grants

**57%** Supporting education

**23%** Supporting health & wellbeing

**20%** Supporting social inclusion

**7,000** Children and young people target beneficiaries



Project Rokit Foundation



## Multi-year Grants

### Down Syndrome Victoria

#### 2023 recipient

\$270,000 over 3 years

680 target beneficiaries: 4–18 years

Down Syndrome Victoria was named this year as Bank of Melbourne Foundation's Multi-year Grant recipient for 2023. Over the next three years, the funding will support Down Syndrome Victoria to expand its inclusive education program to more schools in Victoria and help students with Down syndrome achieve better learning outcomes. It will also support development of an online platform to provide learning modules and resources for educators to support students with Down syndrome.

This program recognises that families of children with Down syndrome frequently face challenges in mainstream educational settings, with schools often citing insufficient support or funding. Many teachers feel ill-equipped and lack the resources to adequately assist these students. Down Syndrome Victoria's

education service is partially funded by the Victorian Department of Education and supports more than 70 Victorian schools, half of which are in regional Victoria.

### Skyline Education Foundation

#### 2020 recipient

\$500,000 over 3 years

165 target beneficiaries: 16–18 years

The 2020 recipient of Bank of Melbourne's Multi-year Grant is Skyline Education Foundation, which supports high potential academic students navigating economic and social adversity to flourish and complete their final two years of secondary school.

The three-year funding will enable Skyline Education to support young Australian's experiencing disadvantage, enabling them to complete their secondary education and proceed to their preferred tertiary courses or employment opportunities. This will help to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and give them a fair chance of becoming the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow.

## Community Grants

### Education

#### The Pyjama Foundation

##### Love of Learning Program

50 target beneficiaries: 0–18 years

Children and young people living in foster care are at higher risk of lower education outcomes and employment prospects than the broader community, and higher rates of arrest and teen pregnancy. This program supports children in care with volunteers, called 'Pyjama Angels', delivering evidence-based literacy and numeracy programs out-of-school. This grant will support the recruitment, screening and training of 50 volunteers.

Bank of Melbourne Foundation  
contribution: \$50,000

#### Ganbina

##### Education Scholarships

310 target beneficiaries: 5–18 years

According to Indigenous school-to-work transition organisation Ganbina, more than 38% of Indigenous children do not complete Year 12 or its equivalent compared with fewer than 14% of non-Indigenous children. This grant will enable Ganbina to support Indigenous children from low-income families to complete their education, learn critical life skills for employability and provide scholarships to support education access and expenses.

Bank of Melbourne Foundation  
contribution: \$49,500

#### Western Chances

##### Geelong Chances

25 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years

Geelong is home to some of the most disadvantaged secondary schools in Victoria, with literacy levels, high school completion and tertiary enrolments significantly lower than the state average.

This grant will support talented and motivated young people experiencing financial disadvantage with scholarships and support to realise their potential through educational achievement and transition to a career aligned with their strengths and interests.

Bank of Melbourne Foundation  
contribution: \$50,000

#### Cerebral Palsy Education Centre

##### Specialised playground equipment

75 target beneficiaries: 5–12 years

Accessing play equipment safely will help children with cerebral palsy to develop gross motor, strengthening and coordination skills. This grant will support the purchase of a tailored, high-quality playground equipment set for use by trained physiotherapists with children with milder forms of cerebral palsy and complex disabilities, so they are safe and confident when using similar playground equipment in their local communities.

Bank of Melbourne Foundation  
contribution: \$23,500

#### 100 Story Building

##### Story Hubs

1,900 target beneficiaries: 5–12 years

Children in socio-educational disadvantaged schools have less access to arts opportunities, but much to gain from arts-rich teaching and learning. Story Hubs is a systems-based, whole-of-school and place-based approach that embeds creative learning by developing the skills and capabilities of each school community, improving literacy, learning and wellbeing outcomes. This grant will help establish three new Story Hubs.

Bank of Melbourne Foundation  
contribution: \$50,000



Down Syndrome Victoria

## Health & Wellbeing

### The Malpa Project

#### ***Young Doctors for Life***

*180 target beneficiaries: 9–12 years*

Health outcomes for many Aboriginal children continues to lag behind peers, impacting school attendance, education outcomes and career pathways. Delivered through schools, and aligned with Pintupi and Warlpiri tradition, Young Doctors for Life supports 9–12 year-olds develop skills and practices that help them make wise health and wellbeing choices. This grant will support staffing, project activities, professional development and evaluation.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

### The Reach Foundation

#### ***Reach Heroes Day***

*1,200 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

Many young people experience mental health challenges and social isolation. Heroes Days, designed and delivered by Reach Crew members, are experiential day-long, facilitated workshops that use the metaphor of the ‘Hero’s Journey’ to help students explore their own lives, understand the experiences of others and reframe their own challenges. This grant will support two Heroes Day workshops.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$47,895*

### Project Rokit Foundation

#### ***Ready to Rokit***

*2,000 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

According to Project Rokit Foundation, 27% of young Australians report being bullied offline and 10% online. Bullying is associated with long-term negative outcomes such as criminal behaviour, suicidal ideation, poorer health and leaving school early. This grant will support Year 7–9 students in five Victorian high schools with identified socio-economic barriers

with face-to-face, youth-led workshops and digital resources for teachers and parents, which address cyber bullying, mental health and online safety.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

### The Venny Inc

#### ***The Venny to You***

*300 target beneficiaries: 5–16 years*

Children and young people living in North Melbourne and Flemington public housing estates deserve the freedom to safely play outdoors. The grant will support 108 free outdoor pop-up play sessions over 27 weeks for children on both estates, helping to foster trust, creativity and social cohesion. The grant will cover staffing and transport costs for the initiative.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$38,200*

## Social Inclusion

### Little Dreamers Australia

#### ***Big Dreamers Personal Development and Leadership Program***

*15 target beneficiaries: 14–18 years*

Teenagers with caring responsibilities can be isolated and unsupported at the same time they are developing their identity and making sense of their place in the world. The program works with young carers over a six month period with workshops to support their health, wellbeing and emotional resilience. This grant will support participation in the program for 15 young carers in metropolitan Melbourne.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$40,000*

### L2R Dance

#### ***Igniting Legends + Next Gen***

*40 target beneficiaries: 12–25 years*

L2R harnesses the power of hip-hop dance to strengthen communities in Melbourne’s west. 79% of its participants speak a language other than English and 71% are new Australians. The grant will support young people who can’t access commercial or tertiary dance education due to social or financial barriers, including four paid internships to build pathways to employment in the arts, and a free weekly hip-hop dance program in Braybrook.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

### Polyglot Theatre

#### ***When the World Turns - a collaboration with Oily Cart (UK)***

*600 target beneficiaries: 5–16 years*

This program strengthens social development skills among young people with complex disability who face significant barriers to accessing creative and artistic opportunities. This grant will be used to deliver the program in three specialist or supported inclusion schools in Melbourne, and one specialist or supported inclusion school in regional Victoria.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$50,000*

### Australian Business and Community Network Scholarship Foundation

#### ***Financial Firsts Literacy Program***

*20 target beneficiaries: 12–18 years*

Instilling positive financial habits in children and young people will set them up for financial success and resilience. This grant will support 20 high-potential Victorian students experiencing disadvantage with \$500 for educational expenses and cover the costs of development and distribution of the Financial Firsts educational materials, including real-world money management topics related to students’ life stages.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$16,975*

### TLC for Kids Inc

#### ***Rapid TLC Service***

*100 target beneficiaries: 0–21 years*

Sick children and their families often experience vulnerability and financial stress, with reduced earning capacity and an increase in bills. The ‘Rapid TLC Service’ is a fast referral system that enables approved healthcare professionals to request free emotional or practical support for sick children and their families. This grant will support the fulfilment of up to 100 requests, often covering bills, support services and material goods.

*Bank of Melbourne Foundation contribution: \$15,000*

# Chance To Thrive

Like many young refugees seeking asylum in Australia, Shahlyla knew the value of education as a path to independence but struggled for the financial resources to attend school.

After being awarded a scholarship in Year 8 by Western Chances – an organisation which identifies and nurtures talented young people experiencing financial barriers – Shahlyla, now 19, seized the opportunity and excelled academically.

In 2020, with an impressive ATAR under her belt, she was admitted to an engineering degree at RMIT in Victoria. She now holds scholarships offering security and choice, continuing her volunteer and mentoring work while exploring her engineering career.

Western Chances' vision is for talented and motivated young people from Melbourne's western suburbs who – like Shahlyla – face financial barriers to achieve their potential. By awarding merit-based scholarships, the charity provides the resources needed for these students to complete secondary school and pursue education and training.

CEO of Western Chances, Zac Lewis, says Western Chances recognises that "talent is everywhere, but opportunity is limited by your postcode".

"Through the strength of our community at Western Chances, we can provide the financial assistance, connection and support that empowers our young people to thrive," he says.

In 2023, Western Chances provided tangible support to 991 young people aged 14–21 years. Every recipient is attending a government secondary school, TAFE or university and is demonstrating talent and commitment to their education. The scholarships ranged in value from \$850–\$1200 depending on each recipient's needs, with the average value of \$987.

A grant of \$50,000 from Bank of Melbourne Foundation is helping these students to purchase whatever is needed, such as textbooks, Myki tickets, stationery, printing, internet, calculators, uniforms, laptops, art materials and desks.

"This is not something that we can do alone – individuals, foundations, business and

community can all play a role in supporting these young people," Zac said.

**"Our work is all about supporting talented and motivated students who may not otherwise have an opportunity to pursue their educational dreams."**

**Zac Lewis**  
CEO of Western Chances.



# Our Team

**Sally-Anne O'Brien**

Chief Executive Officer (since February 2023)

**Lisa Grinham**

Chief Executive Officer (until January 2023)

**Georgia Stryker**

Fundraising Lead

**Rebecca Wall**

Partnerships Manager

**Nancie-Lee Robinson**

Senior Manager Grantmaking and Social Impact (since June 2023)

**Olivia Thomas**

Senior Manager Grantmaking & BankSA Foundation Lead (until February 2023)

**Matthew Ferns**

Manager Grantmaking

**Janine Birch**

Manager Marketing & Communications

**Erin Doyle**

Manager Marketing & Communications

**Melissa Jacka**

Finance Manager

# Thank you

By supporting our Foundations, you help create brighter futures for children and young people in need in our local communities. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

# Donate



# Contact



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