



Annual Report 2011 - 12



supporting communities for 10 years





About the Bennelong Foundation

Established in 2002 by the Bennelong Group, the Bennelong Foundation's mission is to enhance community wellbeing and provide opportunities for positive and lasting change in our community. The Foundation also aims to provide opportunities for employees within the Bennelong Group to personally get involved in the activities of the organisations it supports.

Since inception, the Bennelong Foundation has made a wide variety of grants totalling over \$5.6 million. The grants cover all areas of interest, from small grass-roots organisations to well established larger organisations.

The activities of the Foundation are overseen by an independent Board made up of the following individuals:

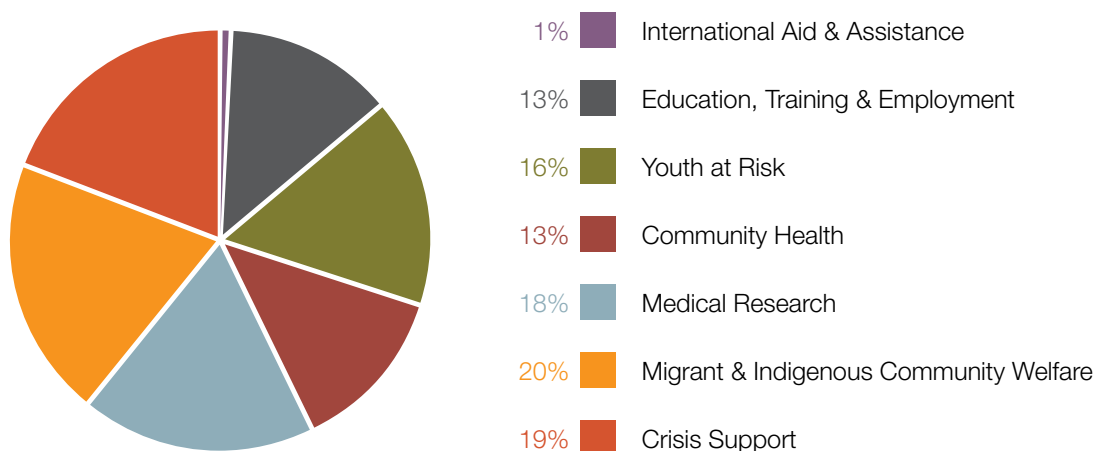
- **Jeff Chapman**, Chairman;
- **Chris Cunningham**, Non-Executive Director;
- **Malcolm Gray**, Non-Executive Director;
- **Peter Polson**; Non-Executive Director;
- **Carena Shankar**, Non-Executive Director;
- **Michael Pratt**, Non-Executive Director;
- **Hon. Phil Honeywood**, Adviser;
- **Dr Bruce Reid**, Adviser; and
- **Susan Frances**, General Manager.

The Foundation welcomed Non-Executive Director Michael Pratt to the Board in April 2012. Michael has had an outstanding career in the Australian and New Zealand banking industry with both NAB (CEO Australian Financial Services) and Westpac (CEO Australian Business & Consumer Banking). More recently, he has returned to Melbourne with his family from a senior posting in Shanghai with Standard Chartered Bank as Regional Head of Consumer and SME Banking North East Asia. Additionally, Michael has served as Chairman of the Australian Institute of Banking and Finance, and as Joint Chairman of Finsia.

The Foundation also has a Youth Committee, comprising employees from each business unit of the Bennelong Group. The committee specifically considers small grants with a particular emphasis on issues impacting young Australians.

Information on all aspects of the Foundation including areas of interest, grant rounds, funding principles and exclusions can be found on our website (benngroup.com/foundation).

The following graph shows the allocation of grants since the Foundation's inception in 2002.



Chairman's report



Through Twitter, Philanthropy Australia recently recognised the contribution and longevity of the oldest philanthropic foundation in Australia, the Wyatt Benevolent Institution, established in 1886.

Compared to the Wyatt Benevolent Institution and so many other Australian organisations like it, the philanthropic activities of the Bennelong Group are in their infancy, but we are pleased in 2012 to be recognising the Bennelong Foundation's 10th year of supporting the community.



The recent Philanthropy Australia tweet highlighted two things. Firstly, the benefits of longevity and how, with some foresight, a sustainable philanthropic legacy can be established. And secondly, the benefits of embracing change with the use of new technologies such as Twitter to promote giving.

Since the establishment of the Bennelong Foundation 10 years ago, much has changed.



Although there has been a lot of discussion recently about the level of giving in Australia being below that of our peers from other countries, the growth of private ancillary funds over the last decade has been impressive. The Bennelong Foundation was the first of only a handful to be established in Australia, but today there are close to 1,000 in existence with over \$2 billion in corpus available to promote sustainable giving.

The activities within the Bennelong Foundation have also expanded during this time. Not only in terms of the quantity of our grants, but also in terms of employee engagement, in-kind support, governance and programme innovation.

Our areas of focus and grant guidelines have continued to evolve as we have moved from providing grants largely on the basis of good intentions by good causes, towards making the funding increasingly dependent on the probability of good outcomes.

So after 10 years, I am pleased to present the Bennelong Foundation Annual Report for the 2011/12 financial year.



During the year the Foundation made a total of 27 grants, although many more were also positively impacted by in-kind support provided by Bennelong Group employees. We also enjoyed the continued support of the Dubai Duty Free Foundation who continued to co-fund a number of grants throughout the year.

In addition to the provision of grants, we were particularly proud of two new projects.

- After many years of planning, 2012 witnessed the arrival of the Bennelong Foundation digital clocks which were erected around Melbourne's iconic Tan Track. Working with Mission Australia and the City of Melbourne, the clocks will serve as a practical encouragement for locals and visitors alike to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.
- With an increased focus on education, it was also pleasing to develop an innovative programme with Melbourne University. In coming months, the first Bennelong Foundation scholarship and internship will be awarded to a student through the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Business and Economics Access Melbourne programme.

For those from the Bennelong Group who have been actively involved in the Foundation's philanthropic activities over the last 10 years - donating both goods and their time - there is no doubt the personal benefits and rewards that have flowed as a result of that involvement far outweigh the monetary value of the grants provided to deserving recipients.

Once again, thank you to my fellow Directors, Advisors to the Board, Youth Committee members, Susan Frances and Phil Henty for your guidance and efforts throughout the year.

And finally, to the wider Bennelong Group and its employees (including our UK colleagues who continue to provide philanthropic support directly through Crown Golf), I would like to thank you for significant contributions throughout 2012.

I look forward to continuing to build a sustainable foundation into the future much like Dr William Wyatt way back in 1886!

Jeff Chapman
Chairman



General Manager's report

The Bennelong Foundation reaches an important milestone this year as it turns 10 years old. We have certainly come a long way from those early years!

Areas of interest

In 2002, Jeff Chapman and Carena Shankar decided they wanted to give back to the community and decided to form the Bennelong Foundation. They identified several areas of interest, and deliberately spoke to people involved in the charitable sector to ensure they were heading in the right direction.

After much consultation, Jeff and Carena originally chose five areas of interest. Following recent strategic planning sessions with the Board, this selection has now been expanded to seven:

- community health;
- crisis support;
- education, training and employment;
- international aid and assistance;
- medical research;
- migrant and Indigenous community welfare; and
- youth at risk.

I joined the Bennelong Foundation in 2005 and was in the wonderful position where I could target certain organisations within our areas of interest. I could speak to them directly about relevant projects which the Bennelong Foundation could fund. As we were not well-known in 2005, we invited organisations to submit applications and approved 15 grants. This has changed dramatically and in the 2011-12 financial year, we received over 200 grant applications and approved 27 grants.

Inspiring projects

We have funded many inspiring projects over the 10 years, and I am particularly proud of two organisations:

- **Victorian Arabic Social Services (VASS) – Anti-Racism Action Band (ARAB):** the Board approved a grant of \$50,000 p.a. for three years in October 2005 after I approached VASS to look for a suitable project. This project covers several areas of interest, in particular youth and migrant community welfare.

ARAB is a community development, youth performing arts project with a long-term vision for its youth, their families, schools, and local communities in Melbourne's northern region. The project opens its doors to youth aged 12 to 25 of any cultural or ethnic background (not just Arab speaking backgrounds) as a proactive initiative to raise self-esteem, increase confidence, challenge racial tensions and promote social inclusion. At the same time, they intend to impart performance skills, generate employment or mentoring opportunities, and build life and social skills.

At the end of the three-year funding period, we again approved a grant for three years co-funded with Dubai Duty Free Foundation for \$25,000 p.a. each. This has meant a total of six years funding to ARAB. We have seen it grow from a small group working with 80 youth to an organisation supporting over 250 young people. You can read more about ARAB in the 'Charities in focus' section of this report.

- **Ganbina – Jobs4U2:** Ganbina is the peak Indigenous representative body in the Goulburn Valley for economic, employment and training issues. In the absence of government funding, Ganbina is delivering programmes (with a preventative focus) for Indigenous youth. The core philosophy of the Jobs4U2 project is to help Indigenous youth to realise their full career potential and make a positive contribution to local businesses and industry. The main aim is to facilitate the transition of young Indigenous people into the mainstream workforce and address the issue of low school retention rates. From 2006 to 2010, we made grants totalling \$130,000 and saw the project grow from an initial 40 participants to 265 registrations in 2010. We continue to be involved with Ganbina through their Leadership Group, comprised of year 10 students. Each year, we host them for a day in Melbourne so they can experience a boardroom lunch, visit a university and TAFE to hear about tertiary opportunities, and enjoy a guided tour of Parliament House. It is a very successful project ably managed by Adrian Appo, who received an 'Order of Australia' Award for his work with Indigenous Youth on Australia Day in 2011.



Staff involvement



As the Foundation is an integral part of the Bennelong Group, we aim to involve staff of the various business units in the Foundation's work. We have achieved this through several activities outlined below.

- The establishment of a Youth Committee comprised of a member of each business unit, who meet every second month to discuss and research organisations put forward by staff members for presentation to the Board.
- Make a Difference Days have been organised, giving staff a day out of the office to volunteer time to an organisation such as the Mirabel Foundation at their Luna Park Day for children orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use.
- Staff lunches have been held where we invite organisations to speak about the projects we are funding.
- The distribution of regular staff newsletters sharing information about projects we are currently supporting, and reinforcing the Youth Committee's role and volunteering opportunities.
- In-kind support for charities such as the 'Share Lunch Fight Hunger' campaign.



It has been a fantastic 10 years and a privilege to work in the philanthropic sector. I hope you enjoy reading about the organisations we have supported during the 2012 financial year.

Susan Frances

General Manager - Bennelong Foundation



Crown Golf supports the community in the UK

"Crown Golf celebrated success for a host of individual and team-driven achievements across the Group, bearing fruit for a wide variety of worthwhile causes raising over £300,000 for dozens of charities in a variety of sporting, social and community endeavours. Each year, every Golf Club Captain nominates their chosen charity which is supported by staff and members.

Numerous marathons were run, children's parties held, parachute jumps and community volunteer work were all undertaken with a view to raising funds for charities including Children with Cancer, Oxfam, British Heart Foundation, Marie Curie, Cancer Research, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Prostate Cancer, Save the Children, British Red Cross, Age UK and many more.

Company support was also given to The Golf Foundation, Street Games, Enduro Challenge, and Help for Heroes."

Stephen Lewis
Chief Executive Officer
– Crown Golf UK

Harmony Day lunch

Harmony Week is celebrated each year in March and Bennelong Foundation held a Harmony Day lunch for staff from all Bennelong Group business units in March 2012. Forty people crammed into the boardroom to enjoy exotic dishes prepared by staff to reflect their cultural background.

We also had presentations from participants of the Vietnamese Parent Support Group that we are supporting with Mackillop Family Services. Judy Reid and Jane Sheahan presented the Two Mama's Schools in Myanmar, and Renata and Hannah spoke about Pereira's School in India.



Participants of the Vietnamese Parent Support Group with Mackillop Family Services.



Jane Sheahan and Judy Reid – Two Mama's Schools, Myanmar.

Bennelong Foundation Youth Committee's report



During the 2011/2012 financial year, the Bennelong Foundation Youth Committee (the Committee) directed its focus on supporting young Australians, particularly in the areas of education and crisis support. This acknowledges the Foundation's belief that education is a key element to changing lives and creating opportunities for young people, particularly given the current economic climate.

2011/12 grants

- **Cathy Freeman Foundation:** this grant funded a scholarship for a year 9 student from Palm Island to continue their studies at a private school on the mainland. The scholarship also covers the costs of boarding given the remote location of Palm Island;
- **Oasis Youth Network – Young Parents Programme:** this Salvation Army initiative supports vulnerable young parents through the provision of social and educational workshops, e.g. cooking and nutrition, child development and behaviour, as well as individual referral and support as required; and
- **New Stars Basketball:** Study Hall and Ball, a programme providing multicultural youth with a positive place to study and socialise before and after school hours. The Committee was thrilled to be able to support this charity for a second year given their fantastic work with youth in the City of Greater Dandenong region.

In-kind support

An ongoing focus of the Committee has been the creation of a variety of volunteering opportunities for Group staff, as well as coordinating drives/ collection of goods for chosen charities. A number of opportunities were organised by the Committee this year including:

- **Luna Park fun day with children from the Mirabel Foundation:** this has become a regular fixture on the Foundation calendar, with Bennelong providing volunteers for Mirabel's Sydney and Melbourne Luna Park functions;
- **clothing and toy drive for the Children's Protection Society:** new and quality second hand clothing, toys, books and nursery furniture

were donated by staff to support children (and their families) in the Society's kindergarten programme; and

- **'Share lunch fight hunger' day:** staff donated what they would normally spend on one day's lunch to the Feed Melbourne Campaign, with The Lord Mayor's Foundation and Bennelong Foundation matching the donation dollar for dollar.

In addition, a number of staff members have been involved in personal volunteering opportunities with the charities we support, including mentoring young people with Concern Australia.

Representing Bennelong's diverse businesses

The make-up of the Committee continues to represent staff across the diverse businesses of the Bennelong Group, and I would like to thank Committee members for their time and active contribution to the Foundation's work:

- Kelly Chapman (*Bennelong Group Family Board*)
- Madeline Ryan (*Crown Content*);
- Jay Doherty (*Bennelong Group*);
- Nick Chapman (*Sportsbrand Media Group*);
- Andrew Aitken (*Bennelong Funds Management - Sydney*);
- Darlene White (*Bennelong Funds Management - Melbourne*); and
- Susan Frances (*Bennelong Foundation*).

On behalf of the Committee, I extend our thanks to all Bennelong Group staff for their personal time and donations to our in-kind drives and Make a Difference Days.

Darlene White

Chair – Youth Committee

In April 2012, 12 staff from Bennelong Group business units volunteered to assist children from Mirabel Foundation during a visit to Luna Park. Mirabel Foundation supports children orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use and they had 80 children enjoying a day out, taking in all the rides at Luna Park. Mirabel also took the carers to a picnic lunch at the St Kilda Botanical Gardens, giving them some much needed respite. A lot of the carers are grandparents of the children who have taken over the full-time care of their grandchildren.



Bennelong Group volunteers at the Luna Park Day.



"I just wanted to say a huge 'Thank you' to all the Bennelong staff who volunteered their time. The smiles on the kids' faces said it all, there were some very happy and exhausted kids, and the volunteers looked a little worn out too!"

The feedback from the kids has been totally positive. Our favourite has been a carer ring up and say: "She went to bed with a smile on her dial and woke up eating her doona - she was dreaming she was at Luna Park eating donuts!"



It would just be impossible to run such a large event without Bennelong's support. The day is really chaotic and busy, but the volunteers did a great job. They asked questions when they had concerns, were flexible and helped to provide a perfectly fun day for the kids. All the volunteers were wonderful, but in particular Sonya did a wonderful job being one-on-one with a new Mirabel child who was quite busy and challenging, and didn't want to hang out with her group. Sonya took it in her stride and that little girl had a great day thanks to her!

The family support workers who were at the Carers Relax day also commented on how caring and helpful the volunteers were. One said the carers felt like they were being treated like royalty by them. It's nice to offer our carers a special day too because they are so often the ones doing all the work and putting themselves last."

Chloe McCarthy
Child & Youth Support
- Mirabel Foundation

Bennelong Foundation in the community

Tan Track clocks

A partnership between Mission Australia, the City of Melbourne and Bennelong Foundation saw two new digital clocks installed at Melbourne's iconic Tan Track, helping runners and walkers record their lap times as they make their way around the Tan.

The four metre high clocks were installed in March 2012. They are located at the start/finish line on Alexandra Avenue and at the half-way mark on Birdwood Avenue.

Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley launched the Tan Track Clocks with the Bennelong Group and Foundation Chairman Jeff Chapman. Susan Riley

described the Tan as a symbol of Melbourne's strong sporting culture, and she is delighted with the addition of the clocks to the much-loved running track.

Jeff Chapman is a local resident and keen sportsman, who has been a regular jogger around the Tan for many years. The idea for the Tan clocks initially came to Jeff as he was running on the track almost a decade ago. The clocks feature the names of the 10 men and women to have recorded the fastest times around the Tan, and the history of the track since it was established in 1901.

Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley and Bennelong Group and Foundation Chairman, Jeff Chapman at the launch of the Tan Track Clocks.



"The Tan Track has been used by Melbournians for more than 100 years and around 350,000 people use the track every year. These fabulous new clocks have greatly added to the enjoyment and ease of using the track. The clocks were a wonderful idea by the Bennelong Foundation and we are very grateful for this generous gift. They complement the recent work the City of Melbourne has undertaken on the Tan, including widening the track and installing lighting."

Susan Riley
Deputy Lord Mayor

"The new clocks recognise the history and tradition of Melbourne's much loved Tan Track in the beautiful Botanic Gardens, and are a practical encouragement to Melbournians and visitors to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, which is one of the strong themes of the Bennelong Foundation. In addition, the clocks will enhance Melbourne's reputation as Australia's pre-eminent lifestyle and sports-oriented city."

Jeff Chapman
Bennelong Group and
Foundation Chairman

Tan Track clock at the start/finish line in Alexandra Avenue. Kristiaan Rehder and Mark Burgess (Kardinia Capital, a Bennelong Funds Management boutique) after the inaugural timed run around the Tan.



Not-for-profit workshop

Bennelong Foundation hosted a not-for-profit workshop in November 2011, facilitated by Lisa Cotton of Funding Edge. Lisa was previously with Social Ventures Australia and her one-day workshop, 'Understanding high-net-worth giving', delivers a sensible and balanced approach to the practice of raising funds and developing processes and systems that places relationship building at the centre of the strategy.

Informed by solid theory, it helps participants understand the philanthropic context with new types of funders, institutions and investment models so they can be more deliberate on who they approach to achieve their mission. Bennelong Foundation invited six organisations that we currently fund to take part in the workshop. Everyone who attended appreciated the information and found the workshop very beneficial.



Reflecting on the Bennelong Foundation

On the 10 year anniversary of the Bennelong Foundation, previous Directors reflect on their time associated with the Bennelong Group's philanthropic arm.

Mark Hardgrave

former CEO of Bennelong Group (from 2002 to 2008) and a Non-Executive Director of Bennelong Foundation (from 2002 to 2010)



I recall when we set-up the Foundation in 2002. There was a last minute rush to distribute funds to a number of needy charities. It was early days and there were no specific categories of giving, but the Board's objective was to seek out smaller niche organisations, where the funds were used for a specific purpose or for an item of equipment. Those early recipients such as Harrow Bush Nursing Centre, Carronbank School for Deaf/Blind Students or Lifeline – Mountains to Murray were very appreciative of the generosity of the Bennelong Foundation. It made a real difference to these people. Some groups were very disorganised, which was frustrating, as it was hard to help them, but they were equally needy and passionate about their cause as the organisations that were well-run.

As the Foundation began to mature, this objective remained the same. Areas of focus were identified and giving became more targeted. In the early days, when the Foundation was not as well-known, there were fewer applications and less competition for funding, which was fortunate for some groups.

The advent of Susan Frances and Board advisers Phil Honeywood and Bruce Reid really lifted the Foundation to a new level, where it was professionally run and managed with sound, objective and independent advice. There is no doubt that the Foundation has been successful in establishing itself over the last 10 years as an effective body supporting needy areas in the local community.

Finally, I fondly recall visits (bus tours) to a number of groups that were recipients of the Foundation's giving. These were always humbling experiences and ones I am glad I had the opportunity to experience. The Vietnamese Mothers group were a joy to meet, very culturally disadvantaged, but very brave and happy through the support of groups like the Bennelong Foundation.

Grant Latta

former Non-Executive Director of Bennelong Foundation (from 2002 to 2010)



Over the many years, I experienced great satisfaction with the work we were doing at the Bennelong Foundation, but also sometimes some frustration.

The satisfaction comes from the great work the Foundation is able to do amongst the community in supporting a number of very important causes and charities, and ultimately making a real difference in the lives of many people.

The frustrations included, on many occasions, wishing that we could do more but unfortunately, with only a limited amount of funds available, one had to make choices as to which causes met our criteria and were within our funding allocation.

There were many very worthy applicants that we were unable to assist and this was disappointing and frustrating for me.

I would often sit down reading through the applications that were forwarded to me for consideration with my daughter, who at the time was completing her medical degree.

My daughter felt every cause was very worthy and should warrant our support. I had difficulty convincing her that there was only a certain amount of funds to go around, and that we had to make choices to allocate those funds in a fair way and in a manner that would result in a good outcome for people in the community.

It is a very special feeling and experience when you have the opportunity to visit the many organisations and causes we were able to assist, including children from Indigenous communities, refugees, mothers and children in need, new migrant children learning to speak English, medical research, people suffering from depression...the list goes on and on.

I wish to say to Jeff Chapman and all the people that make up the Bennelong Group and Foundation, "Well done and I am very proud of the time I spent with Bennelong and the positive impact we had on so many people. Bennelong has made a real difference and has had a very positive impact on our community."

Alison Watkins

former CEO of Bennelong Group and a Non-Executive Director of Bennelong Foundation (from 2008 to 2010)



Jeff Chapman approaches everything he does with a vision and dogged determination that is both inspiring and daunting for most of us mere mortals. In business and in sport, Jeff loves to compete and to win. He loves to think and act boldly and internationally. The Bennelong Foundation is in one sense Jeff to a tee, established with a vision to make a difference that extends well beyond his and Carena's own lifetimes, and pursued with vigour, independent of the vagaries of the business cycle. In another sense, it's a wonderful demonstration of Jeff's sporting spirit to help those who are definitely not among life's winners and to create a stronger, more inclusive Australia. Jeff and the Bennelong Foundation are a great example of making philanthropy an integral part of life - during your life.





Charities in focus

New grants approved in the 2012 financial year

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

Books for Learning Programme NSW

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation (ALF) was founded in 2003 by Dr Tony Cree. It is an independent not-for-profit organisation which provides literacy support programmes to Indigenous children experiencing major learning difficulties. ALF acknowledges the direct correlation between low literacy levels and unemployment, anti-social behaviour and crime amongst Indigenous people. Their programmes, which include tutoring, literacy camps, literacy resources and expertise, provide direct assistance to young Aboriginals and provide encouragement and hope for the future.

The ALF will provide the Books for Learning Programme to Indigenous children living in Central and Northern Coastal areas of NSW. Indigenous children in regional and remote areas are at greatest risk of becoming disengaged in education at an early age, and leaving school with no formal qualifications and limited skills. ALF's aim is to break the cycle of poor literacy, low education levels and high unemployment, and create a new generation with more life choices and opportunities which ultimately benefits the whole community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Support a Match

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has been operating in Australia for over 30 years, supported by over 100 years of international experience and expertise. BBBS is Australia's leading mentoring programme for vulnerable young people, providing young people in need of support with guidance and friendship through a caring volunteer mentor. This mentor aims to be a long-term positive role model. BBBS' mentoring programmes aim to reduce marginalisation and/or self-destructive behaviours in young people, and assist them to realise their potential.

This grant covers the activities required to make and support a match between a young person at risk (Little) and a volunteer mentor (Big). This includes extensive screening, testing and training for the Big, along with regular support provided during the first

two years of the match. The aim of the community-based mentoring programme is to empower young people at risk to reach their potential and make positive changes in their thinking and behaviour, building self-worth and trust in their relationships, both at home and at school.

Children's Hospital at Westmead

Back on Track Programme

The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the largest paediatric centre in NSW, providing the most advanced care and treatment options for children aged 0 to 18 years from NSW, Australia and across the Pacific Rim. Over 70,000 sick children and their families are cared for each year in a family-focused, healing environment. Many of the families are from low socio-economic areas including rural NSW, metropolitan Sydney and the Pacific Island Nations.

The Oncology Department at the Children's Hospital at Westmead is the largest in NSW, each year supporting around 150 families whose child has been newly diagnosed with cancer, and around 250 children come through the outpatient clinic each year. For children with cancer, the treatments affect their immune system and as a consequence, they are unable to attend their normal schools. The hospital runs a programme for these patients called 'Back on Track', where qualified teachers work with the children for 12 months, or until they are well enough to return to school, ensuring they do not miss out on their education. This programme provides the strong message to the young person and their family that the hospital believes in their future.

Community Spirit/Cathy Freeman Foundation

Scholarship Programme (Youth Committee application)

The Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) was established in 2007 to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, and provide pathways to success. Designed to target the educational needs of Palm Islanders, the issues addressed by CFF and its programmes not only have the power to effect change through all areas of a child's life, but also to influence change in the lives of their parents, extended family and the broader community.

The purpose of this grant is to provide scholarships to Palm Island children to broaden their educational experiences and opportunities during secondary school. Many Indigenous children on Palm Island don't have the option of exploring alternative education pathways due to a lack of financial assistance and choice. The Scholarship Programme provides them with access to a range of quality education pathways, exposing them to greater opportunities and strengthening their prospects for success later in life.

ISIS Foundation

Seven maternity nurses in Uganda

The ISIS Foundation was established in 1998 as an international development organisation which improves the wellbeing of children and families living in poverty. ISIS has grown from its early beginnings

as a small family run organisation, to a significant international non-government organisation. Each year, ISIS provides support to over 11,000 people, touching the lives of more than 100,000 people over the past 14 years of operation. The ISIS Foundation focuses on health and education programmes, and develops its projects in partnership with communities and local partner organisations in Nepal and Uganda.

Bennelong Foundation provided a grant to support the salaries of seven maternity nurses at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda for one year. The main objective of this project is to maintain quality care of mums giving birth at the hospital by supporting the salary of trained Ugandan maternity staff.



Cathy Freeman Foundation.

New maternity and NICU building, ISIS Foundation.





Spotlight on ISIS Foundation in Uganda

The ISIS Group works side by side with children and communities in remote areas in Nepal and Uganda to improve their lives through health, education and other community development projects. ISIS also aims to change the way people think about the role of business in the world, and the power of business/non-profit partnerships.

ISIS' work in Uganda is mainly focused at a rural hospital called Kiwoko Hospital. It supports the hospital by providing high-quality, specialised, new-born care, maternal health care, community-based health care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Kiwoko Hospital is located in an area once called the Luwero Triangle, now re-districted as the Nakaseke District. It is an infamous part of central Uganda because of the atrocities committed there during Uganda's civil war in the 1980s.

Kiwoko Hospital was started as a clinic under a tree in 1986. Irish missionary, Ian Clark, founded the hospital to aid the 500,000 people in the community who were devastated by war. It is now a 25 acre compound employing over 350 staff with 270 patient beds, offering a wide range of medical services.



A nurse's story

Meet Ann Mukisa. She is 31 years old and a nurse working in the maternity ward at Kiwoko Hospital. She also lives on the grounds of the hospital. Ann received her nurse training from Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery in the capital city Kampala. Ever since her childhood, she dreamed of being a nurse and taking care of people.

In 2008, Ann began working for Kiwoko Hospital in the maternity ward. She feels that maternity is her true area of interest; it is the area of nursing that she wants to concentrate on to fulfil her dreams. In the ward, Ann is responsible for conducting deliveries, administering drugs, admitting mothers into the ward, assisting on caesarians, and also counselling and supporting mothers emotionally. Through the programmes at the hospital, she has also learned a number of new techniques to help babies and their mums, including neonatal resuscitation, foetal heart monitoring using a cardio tocography machine to make diagnoses.

Ann is very happy in the maternity ward at Kiwoko Hospital and plans to stay with them for many years to come.

John Pierce Centre

Upgrade to website

The John Pierce Centre (JPC) provides services to the deaf community in Victoria. It is a not-for-profit organisation relying almost totally on public donations and philanthropy for its funding. JPC provides a community centre for the deaf community, state-wide welfare and family support, and pastoral care services.

This grant enabled JPC to upgrade their website which addresses the needs of deaf and hearing impaired people in Victoria, particularly those in remote and isolated areas. The website provides information about the pastoral care services and family support programmes offered by JPC, and information on other services, activities, workshops and newsletters. This information contributes to the wellbeing and social inclusion of people in the deaf community.

Oasis Youth Support Network

Young Parents Programme (Youth Committee application)

The Oasis Youth Support Network (Oasis) is the Salvation Army's response to the issue of youth homelessness in Sydney. Oasis provides a place of safety and care, where through compassion and skilful intervention, disadvantaged and homeless young people find refuge, hope and are given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Oasis first opened its doors to the homeless youth of Sydney in 1992. From humble beginnings as a single drop-in centre, Oasis has grown to deliver more than 25 cutting edge programmes and services for homeless and disadvantaged young people between the ages of 16 and 24.

The Young Parents Programme (YPP) offers professional support and assistance to vulnerable young parents and their dependants, through the provision of weekly social and educational activities and individual support and referral. The programmes offer a mixture of educational and social activities, both formal and informal, including nutrition classes, scrap booking, dental visits, music workshops, child development and behaviour workshops, picnics in local parks, and outings to the library, Lollipops Playland, museums and the zoo. The key objective of the YPP is to break the cycle of disadvantage by up-skilling young parents in all areas of parenting.

Oasis Young Parents Programme.



John Pierce Centre website.



Charities in focus

Rotary International Aid & Assistance

MLDT Project in India

Through the Rotary Club of Balwyn and Rotary Australia Overseas Fund, Bennelong Foundation made a grant to support the expansion of the Rural Homoeopathic Hospital in India through the Dr M L Dhawale Memorial Trust (MLDT). MLDT has been working in the field of homoeopathic clinical care, education and research. The aim has been to deliver quality and holistic care, particularly to those who have poor access to medical facilities, having been bypassed by modern technological developments and globalisation. The people they serve live in impoverished tribal zones, neglected rural areas and overcrowded urban slums of India.

The Buttery

INTRA Adventure Therapy Treks

The Buttery was founded in 1972 as a drop-in centre for young people with drug and alcohol misuse issues and has grown to become a successful residential therapeutic community. The Buttery is a

long-term, residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility which also operates outreach services. One of these services is for people who are problem gamblers, and another service (INTRA) is for those with drug and alcohol addictions or are 'at risk' due to misuse of drugs and alcohol, including young people of 13 to 20 years of age. INTRA is also engaged in drug and alcohol education.

The grant provided to The Buttery allowed for young people with complex behavioural problems who come from disadvantaged family backgrounds to undertake a wilderness adventure therapy trek for nine days, accompanied by registered therapists. Participants in the trek are referred by local general practitioners, school counsellors and other professionals. The treks are seen as a preventative measure, an intervention in the case of youths who are deemed at risk of drug addiction, anti-social behaviour, committing petty crime and not satisfactorily completing school studies. The treks give the psychologist and trained counsellors who participate in the treks an opportunity to provide intensive counselling and intervention.



The Huddle

CLASS computers, languages and study skills

The Huddle is an innovative facility offering multicultural educational and community programmes to young people within North Melbourne and surrounding areas. Uniquely located within the North Melbourne Football Club, the purpose of the Huddle is to improve social cohesion and connectedness in one of the most culturally diverse areas of Australia, by systematically addressing the causes of disengagement among young people.

The grant provided to the Huddle supports CLASS, a study support programme for 15 to 25 year olds. CLASS (computer, language and study skills) is open to everyone, but particularly targets migrant youth for whom English is a secondary or additional language. CLASS provides one-on-one and small group subject-specific tutoring, English language support and teaching, mentoring, a safe study environment, computer access, skills development, VCE specialist support (including text and mathematics intensives) and study skills development.

The Song Room

Music Mates

The Song Room's vision is that all Australian children have the opportunity to participate in music and arts to enhance their education, personal development and community involvement. Programmes are based on research and have been demonstrated to improve educational and social outcomes, and to help schools create and sustain their own music and arts programmes.

Music Mates is a structured, long-term creative arts project based at Dandenong South Primary

School and Holy Eucharist School in St Albans. The programme aims to enhance learning and development for students experiencing high socio-economic disadvantage, and additional cultural and linguistic barriers to education. This project uses creative arts to encourage and improve self-confidence, engagement with learning, cross-cultural understanding, language acquisition skills, and to increase the sense of social inclusion at school.

Variety, the Children's Charity NSW

Vision for Life

Originally known as the Variety Club, Variety was first established in Australia in 1975, but Variety's genesis dates back to Pittsburg in 1928. All funds raised in Australia remain in Australia to support Australian children. Since 1975, Variety has purchased and granted almost \$200 million of vital equipment for individual children and children's organisations. Currently, Variety is granting equipment worth more than \$1,000,000 each month across the country. Variety believes in real opportunities and outcomes for all Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs, enabling them to live, laugh and learn.

The Variety-funded Vision for Life initiative provides a newborn and paediatric emergency transport service communications hub, whereby specialist doctors can control tele-medicine units located in maternity and children's emergency wards from anywhere in Australia or worldwide. It enables them to very accurately access, diagnose, help treat or decide to transport a child in real-time.

Previously this service depended on audio only, leaving room for error. Variety's Vision for Life adds vision, allowing a much more accurate assessment. The ability to see a child from a distance will save money by taking away long road or air retrieval transport cost, and more importantly, by providing first class help when it is needed most.



Vision for Life tele-medicine units.

Charities in focus

Small grants programme

Alfred Health Headride

A small grant was provided to assist in the purchase of a Cappabianca Tumour Resector, which will enable the neurosurgery department at the Alfred Hospital to access and remove tumours originating from the pituitary gland.

Tabitha Foundation Australia

College Crescent for Cambodia Project

Tabitha Foundation Australia (TFA) was established in 2002 to support Tabitha Cambodia. TFA Board and members work on a voluntary basis and all donations are sent to support the programmes in Cambodia. Its purpose is to support and aid impoverished

and underprivileged Cambodians in their journey to 'graduate from poverty'. Tabitha now supports more than 33,000 families (representing over 264,000 Cambodians) in their journey to a better life, including food and income security, safe water, housing and education for the children.

Bennelong Foundation provided funds to build a house for a Cambodian family through College Crescent for Cambodia, with TFA. College Crescent for Cambodia is an entirely student-run initiative by 30 students from Trinity, Ormond, Newman and Queens Colleges (University of Melbourne). The main objective of the project was to raise enough funds to build 30 low cost houses, and then for the students to travel to Cambodia to construct those houses alongside local tradesman, forming a relationship with the community they wish to support, that will continue well into the future.

Students and locals working together through the Tabitha Foundation Australia.





Continued funding projects

Igniting Change Foundation

Increasing Philanthropy (Extra year of funding)

Igniting Change (formerly Pilotlight Australia) was founded in 2001 by Jane Tewson when she came to Australia from the UK. Jane has a strong social commitment and founded several charities in the UK which continue today. She sought to continue the work she had been doing in the UK through the establishment of this organisation. Her vision is to inspire and enable others to find new ways to make a difference to significant social issues.

The main objective of this project is to manage and evaluate increased levels of new and sustainable philanthropic support for pressing social issues, including through the giving of cash, time and goods, and creating new ways for people to get involved.

“Bennelong’s support has been invaluable to Igniting Change in enabling us to continue our unique programme of visits to meet the people, feel the issues which open doors to worlds often hidden, and engage more and more people new to philanthropy with cutting edge issues and often unmet needs in our community.

Through these visits, we take people out of their comfort zones, allowing them to speak directly to, for example, asylum seekers who have fled war torn homelands, young homeless people here in the heart of Melbourne, families living hand-to-mouth in caravan parks, and prisoners whose lives were changed in an instant of poor judgement. We start to break down the barriers that divide our community. It was on one such visit that we introduced Bennelong to New Stars, which has proved an enduring and invaluable relationship for both parties over the years.

Igniting Change works hard to give people a voice, people who don’t normally have one. It allows others to see the person, not the label; the positive, not the problem; and so unleashes potential that allows people to flourish rather than flounder. Bennelong has been integral to our work and the huge social outcomes we have achieved.”

Jane Tewson
CEO, Igniting Change Foundation

Kids Under Cover

Scholarship Programme (Extra year of funding – two years in total)

Kids Under Cover (KUC) assists children and young people, from newborn to 25 years old, who are at serious risk of homelessness or have experienced homelessness. Many of the young people KUC assist are in foster care for various reasons such as physical, emotional or sexual abuse, or parents with issues surrounding drug and alcohol dependency.

Young people and their carer families fall predominantly within the lower socio-economic bracket. We were very pleased with the outcomes of the original grant and the Board decided to extend the grant to award 15 scholarships to young people studying in years 11 and 12, to assist disadvantaged students who have the motivation and the ability to succeed.

Spotlight on Kids Under Cover



It's a sad fact that the rate of youth homelessness continues to grow in Australia. Largely due to family relationship breakdown, some young people find themselves without permanent shelter and the means to continue their education. Jo Swift, CEO of Kids Under Cover, talks to us about the pioneering work of the organisation and its positive impact on the young people they support.

Over two decades ago, President of the Variety Club, Ken Morgan saw a gap in the support provided to Victoria's homeless young people. He started Kids Under Cover and started building accommodation dedicated to young people, particularly homeless young mothers.

Twenty-three years later, Kids Under Cover has grown to offer assistance to young people and their families in Victoria, the ACT and Queensland with the aim of helping at risk young people reach their full potential by providing accommodation, study assistance and mentoring. With staff members and volunteers around the country, Jo Swift, who became CEO in 2007, leads the organisation from Melbourne. When asked about her day-to-day duties, she replied "Stakeholder management and business development make up a large part of my role. We are a 'for-purpose' business, not a 'for-profit' business, yet, in both cases the management principles remain the same. Most importantly, however, I learned early that one phone call can turn my whole week upside down. That's the nature of dealing with families and young people in crisis. Everything becomes immediate and time is of the essence."

Youth homelessness in Australia is increasing

Dealing with families and young people in crisis is at the core of Kids Under Cover's work. "We respond to the needs of young people who are at risk of becoming homeless," Jo said. "Unfortunately, however, on any given night, there are over 100,000 homeless people in Australia with nearly half aged under 25. Yet, despite the best efforts of Government and many wonderful organisations, the rate of homelessness in Australia continues to grow. The reasons why a young person becomes homeless today are complex and involve a number of triggers. These can include conflict in the family home, blended families, mental health issues, substance abuse and physical or sexual abuse," said Jo. "Unfortunately the need for our services is growing with more families reaching crisis stage than ever before."

Buildings help re-build relationships

Kids Under Cover offers several responses to young people and families in need. One is accommodation in the form of a home-based studio. "This unique accommodation allows families to stay connected, giving them extra room to live in, while providing the young person with a stable environment to grow into healthy adulthood," Jo said. Kids Under Cover's demountable studios are constructed on the grounds of a family or carer's home for the young person to stay temporarily. When no longer needed, the organisation dismantles the studios and moves them to another family in need. With a lifespan of approximately 15 years, the studios can be moved up to four times. So far, the programme has had a significant social and economic impact. "Our studio programme has been independently assessed as having a 317 per cent return on investment. The more young people we can support, the more we save Government and the community in the long run," said Jo.

Scholarships give freedom to focus

Another key area of focus for Kids Under Cover is providing educational assistance through study scholarships. Launched in 2004, the Kids Under Cover Scholarship Programme, which the Bennelong Foundation supports, helps young people cover their study costs. "Any young person who has been, or is currently living in Kids Under Cover accommodation, can apply for a scholarship. We fund years 11 and 12, training courses, higher education and TAFE courses. Our focus is on providing practical assistance, such as travel tickets, books, equipment, computers and internet access. To date, we've funded everything from car registration for a young man living remotely, to safety boots for a young person training on a building site." As part of the scholarship programme, Kids Under Cover also introduces the young person to a mentor.



Taking away the constraints of educational fees and associated costs, Kids Under Cover has found its programme gives students more freedom to focus on achieving positive personal results. Testament to this is a story Jo shares about one of Kids Under Cover's scholarship recipients. "We supported a young person through a long and difficult period to see her graduate in her chosen field. Not long after, she sent us a small donation with a note that read, 'I got my first pay cheque this week. I never thought I'd be here. I thought I'd be dead, I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks.'"

Power to change someone's life

Focused on improving the outcomes for at risk young people, Kids Under Cover continues to work with several community service organisations, Government, corporate, community and philanthropic supporters to provide the financial assistance and practical support required to prevent and respond to youth homelessness. "In particular, thanks to the support of the Bennelong Foundation, Kids Under Cover can continue to offer scholarships to young people who have the passion and the motivation to go on to higher education but do not have the resources to do so."

Learning for Life Autism Inc.

*Early Intervention ABA Programme
(Second year of two-year commitment)*

Learning for Life Autism Centre provides intensive, early intervention programmes to children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The centre's programmes are based on Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) therapy, one of the few therapies for treating autism spectrum disorders to have been subjected to rigorous scientific investigation around the world. Its positive results have been published in world-recognised journals of psychology, psychiatry and medicine.

Bennelong Foundation provided a scholarship for a young boy to participate in the ABA programme and his progress after the first 12 months has been extremely encouraging. The intensive therapy has produced some wonderful results and the child is now able to attend a three-year-old kindergarten group with an aide once a week. This grant will allow him to continue this intensive therapy with the view to him being able to attend a mainstream four-year-old kindergarten group.

"Two years ago Cohan was diagnosed with autism. Isolated and unable to understand the world around him, he was a little boy lost to his family. Cohan's best hope was intensive, one-on-one therapy, but the cost of such therapy was simply beyond the reach of his parents. However, thanks to

a grant from the Bennelong Foundation, Cohan was thrown a lifeline and given the chance to start an intensive therapy programme.

Since then, this little boy's progress has been inspirational. He now wants to be hugged, enjoys his parents' company and has started saying his first words. This year, Cohan's programme has involved going to his local kindergarten where he will now join in with the other children at mat time. He loves music, imitating actions to songs and is developing basic self-help skills such as getting dressed and eating. Amazing achievements that would never have been possible without this intensive therapy. The Bennelong Foundation Grant has given the gift of hope to a family and the chance of a much brighter future for a special little boy."

Mary Muirhead
Director, Learning for Life Autism Centre



Charities in focus

Mackillop Family Services

*Vietnamese Parent Support Group
(Extra year of funding)*

Mackillop Family Services provide a range of welfare services to those most in need in the community in Melbourne and Geelong. All Mackillop's services confront higher than average state-wide levels of poverty, family breakdown and violence, disability, families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, family homelessness, burden of disease, mental health issues, gambling, and drug and alcohol issues.

The main objective of this project is to lessen community isolation within the Vietnamese community, as there is a perceived stigma towards anyone with a disability. Mackillop also encourage Vietnamese families of children with a disability to connect with services and social support in the wider community to improve the quality of their lives. They currently have over 50 families involved in the project.

"MacKillop Family Services' Vietnamese Parent Support programme is unique in that it addresses both culturally sensitive issues, while supporting a section of the community which has often found itself isolated. The lasting benefits of the project are enormous to the families involved: isolation is decreased, depression lessened and fears to participate in community are overcome."

Families are provided with access to educational resources and are linked to other services and information they might otherwise not be aware of. They gain a greater understanding of their child's disability and are provided with the opportunity to discuss ways to manage difficult behaviour and other issues they may find challenging. Most importantly, they form friendships and develop the strength they need to participate in the wider community. Without the continued support of the Bennelong Foundation this truly unique programme would struggle to achieve the great results it does."

Grant Thomas

Director of Community Relations,
Community Relations,
Mackillop Family Services

Mission Australia

*Tan Track clocks
(Second year of two-year funding)*

Mission Australia is one of Australia's leading charities and community organisations. They have in excess of 450 services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia, in every State and Territory. Mission Australia endeavour to make a real difference by working with people to meet their challenges and enabling them to pursue more positive, independent lives. As they focus on community wellbeing, they were keen to partner with Bennelong Foundation in this project. Several participants in their Urban Renewal Employment Enterprise project participated in preparing the ground and surrounding area for the clocks. The Urban Renewal Employment Enterprise programme assists Melbourne youths who are disadvantaged and long term unemployed to gain gardening and construction experience and a qualification.

New Stars Basketball Association Inc.

*Study Hall and Ball (Youth Committee
application – extra year of funding)*

New Stars Basketball was founded in 2007 to empower, inspire and make a positive difference in the lives of multicultural youth through the combination of education and sport. It operates out of the community centre in Springvale and have over 250 boys and girls involved from various migrant backgrounds, including Australian born children.

The project we are funding, Study Hall and Ball, has a 'no pass, no play' system, which means the students have to pass their subjects at school in order to continue to play basketball. Tutors assist the students each afternoon at the community centre to complete their homework prior to them being allowed to practice on the basketball court. They also run a 'Life and Sport' programme which uses open discussions and films to teach the young people how to react in different situations.



Royal Flying Doctor Service



*Scholarship for Indigenous Medical Student
(Third year of four-year commitment)*

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is a not-for-profit charitable service providing aero-medical emergency and primary healthcare services to people who live, work and travel in regional and remote Australia. They provide extensive primary healthcare services including 24-hour emergency evacuation, regular remote health clinics, specialist clinics, female GP clinics, inter-hospital transfers, dentistry, mental health counselling and community health nursing.

This is the third year of our grant to provide a scholarship for an Indigenous student to undertake the Graduate Medical Course with Flinders University in South Australia. The Indigenous medical student will undertake a return of service for five years with the RFDS based in Broken Hill once he has graduated.

The Study Hall and Ball project of the New Stars Basketball Association.





Charities in focus

Victoria University

Achievement Scholarships (Second year of three-year commitment)

Victoria University (VU) is a multi-sector university which offers excellence in teaching, training, research and scholarship, and is the only university based in Melbourne's western suburbs.

The VU Achievement Scholarships programme offers a scholarship package to each of the 50 secondary schools in Melbourne's west. Each package provides two scholarships: one for a student enrolling in a vocational educational course, and one for a student enrolling in an undergraduate degree at VU for the duration of their course. The Achievement Scholarships programme encourages secondary school students to further their education, gain recognised industry qualifications and attain fulfilling careers. It also fulfils VU's commitment to transforming lives through the power of tertiary education.

The objective of the project is to replicate Family Life's successful model of assisting vulnerable young people to become active, engaged and participating citizens. Where possible, participants are encouraged to return to study or become employed. The model involves the following key criteria:

- operation of a sustainable up-market Op Shop;
- work experience in the shop;
- certificate II in retail operations training;
- personal support and mentoring from trained adult volunteers, many of whom are retired professional people;
- counselling and case-management from Family Life's service team, if necessary; and
- community support and endorsement, critical for the donation of the goods and seed-funding.

Continued funding of projects co-funded with Dubai Duty Free Foundation

This is the third year of our unique three-year co-funding arrangement with Colm McLaughlin's Dubai Duty Free Foundation, where we have partnered with them to support three projects in Australia.

Family Life

*PeopleWorx/YouthWorx
(Third year of three-year commitment)*

Family Life's vision is to enable children to thrive within strong families supported by capable and caring communities. Family Life works to prevent family breakdown and promote wellbeing across generations by providing counselling and support services for families, children and young people, in particular those who are most vulnerable. They work with government, businesses and the community to develop networks of support for promoting social change and wellbeing. Family Life focuses on developing holistic initiatives, which facilitate sustainable change to improve the life-course of children, young people and adults by assisting them to become engaged and responsible citizens.

Redkite/Ponting Foundation

*Exceptional Needs Assistance (ENA) Programme
(Third year of three-year commitment)*

The combined grants of Dubai Duty Free Foundation and Bennelong Foundation are matched by the Ponting Foundation to provide financial assistance to families facing exceptional levels of need during the active treatment, palliative care or early bereavement phase of their childhood, adolescent or young adult cancer experience. A committee comprising of Rianna Ponting, Bennelong Foundation General Manager Susan Frances and Emilia Armytage of Redkite meet regularly to assess applications submitted by social workers for exceptional needs assistance to families affected by childhood cancer.

The ENA programme is making a significant difference to the lives of individuals who are facing exceptional circumstances. Grants are being used for the following purposes, after exceptional needs have been identified by the social workers and approved by the grants committee:

- special equipment needs;
- mortgage repayments;
- rent;
- food vouchers;
- fuel vouchers; and
- car payments and repairs.

*Redkite/ Ponting Foundation providing assistance
to families affected by childhood cancer.*



Victorian Arabic Social Services

*Anti-Racism Action Band (ARAB)
(Third year of three-year commitment)*

Victorian Arabic Social Services (VASS) started in 1986 as a network of workers who met regularly to discuss issues of concern to Arabic Speaking Background (ASB) communities in Victoria. VASS grew over the years to become a state-wide key service provider with specialist expertise and knowledge in working with ASB communities and advocating on their behalf. VASS acknowledges the cultural, religious, ethnic and regional diversities of ASB communities. They also acknowledge the factors which may be shared by ASB communities, as well as their distinct historical, ethnic, national and cultural identities. VASS is committed to serving ASB communities by remaining non-political, non-religious, non-sectarian, and inclusive of all ASB community groups. VASS' work is underpinned by community development principles which aim to develop the citizenship status of ASB communities through improved access to services, decision-making and civic participation.

The ARAB programme's priority group is disadvantaged youth aged 12 to 25 years in Melbourne's northern region and some regional areas. They currently work with approximately 250 young people in 11 secondary schools from various cultural backgrounds. Over 50 different cultural groups are represented as well as a broad range of religions. ARAB offers its youth a solid, accessible and creative vehicle for the broadening and strengthening of ideas, collaborative artistic practices and social relationships around notions and themes of race, culture, difference, generational and familial conflict, and individual identity and aspiration.



Spotlight on Family Life

Family Life is dedicated to helping families, children and young people in Melbourne's south east. Taking a 'whole-of-family' approach, the organisation believes engaging the entire family allows for more effective and sustainable change.

In 1970, a small group of people wanted to help families in their local community who were experiencing hardship. Through their pioneering efforts and determination the group established Family Life.

Based in Melbourne's bayside suburb of Sandringham, Family Life now has 80 staff and 350 volunteers. It continues to expand and develop its programmes and services to meet the ever-changing needs of the local individuals and families it supports, while creating strategic alliances with partner agencies that have specialist counselling expertise.

Changing social landscape

Family Life offers a number of important services from counselling, mediation, mental health services, community development, personal support and community educational services, to outreach to homes, case coordination and advocacy. While their services are available to individuals and families, they remain focused on those who are vulnerable or at risk in the community. Judith Latta, Family Life's Community Relations Manager, believes that it is the needs and personal circumstances of this at risk group that has changed the way the organisation develops and delivers many of its initiatives.

"Clients are coming to Family Life with an ever-increasing range of complex problems. Sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, social isolation and child neglect are intertwined and difficult to manage," said Judith.

In response, Family Life has developed several targeted programmes, such as its PeopleWorx, MATES and Child FIRST initiatives, and invested in staff training to ensure counsellors' skills are up-to-date and remain appropriate for effectively helping clients.

"We have also established a mental health team and a mental health prevention programme that focuses on supporting 8 to 12 year old children with early signs of mental health issues, or whose parents have mental health problems. In addition, we have invested in developing strategic alliances with partner agencies that have expertise in specific areas such as drugs and alcohol."

'PeopleWorx' at work

Developing programmes to meet the changing needs of the local community is challenging. With competition for funding fierce, not-for-profit organisations must be creative in the way they generate and allocate funds. To this end, Family Life's pioneering and innovative founders established the organisation's first opportunity shop in 1971. Decades on (and more opportunity shops later) Family Life's shops have formed the cornerstone of one of the organisation's most successful initiatives, PeopleWorx.

Sponsored by the Bennelong Foundation and Dubai Duty Free Foundation, the PeopleWorx programme aims to help those who have had difficulty securing employment or who may be socially isolated. By providing the opportunity to work in one of Family Life's opportunity shops under the supervision of trained volunteers, it gives candidates the ability to gain work experience and to develop the skills and confidence needed to find employment and to become active and engaged in the community.

Judith recounts a PeopleWorx success story:

'Jason' had held a senior job, but after being diagnosed with a mental illness, he lost confidence. He plucked up the courage to join PeopleWorx. After six months, he was offered casual office work with a local company. Not long after, the company offered him a permanent job.

"From a social return on investment perspective, this is a powerful outcome for the community. No longer is he receiving Centrelink benefits. This represents a saving of about \$15,000 per year. He is now paying tax. This is a benefit to the community of another \$3,000 per year. While not 'cured', his mental health problems have reduced with the resultant saving to the community on medications and medical appointments. Conservatively this is worth \$1,000 per annum.

I think Jason's story shows how anyone's life can change, but with support and professional intervention, people can move on to lead healthy productive lives."

Helping the helpers

Despite the selflessness of their volunteers, like many charities, Family Life must develop and maintain its income streams to ensure it can continue its work and to remain competitive for high-calibre staff. While funded in part by the state and federal governments, Family Life also raises necessary funds through its opportunity shops, fundraising campaigns, business development initiatives and philanthropic grants. As a result it is able to continue funding programmes, while being in the position to offer competitive salaries. Similarly, with much of Family Life's work helping vulnerable families, the challenges and emotions faced by staff can be significant, therefore funds are also allocated to 'helping the helpers'. "For example, our Child FIRST team deals with at-risk babies, which can be emotionally draining for staff," said Judith. "To help them carry out their roles effectively, our human resources department has implemented professional development programmes that provide additional training, professional support and the opportunity to rotate roles through internal recruitment."

Community commitment today and beyond

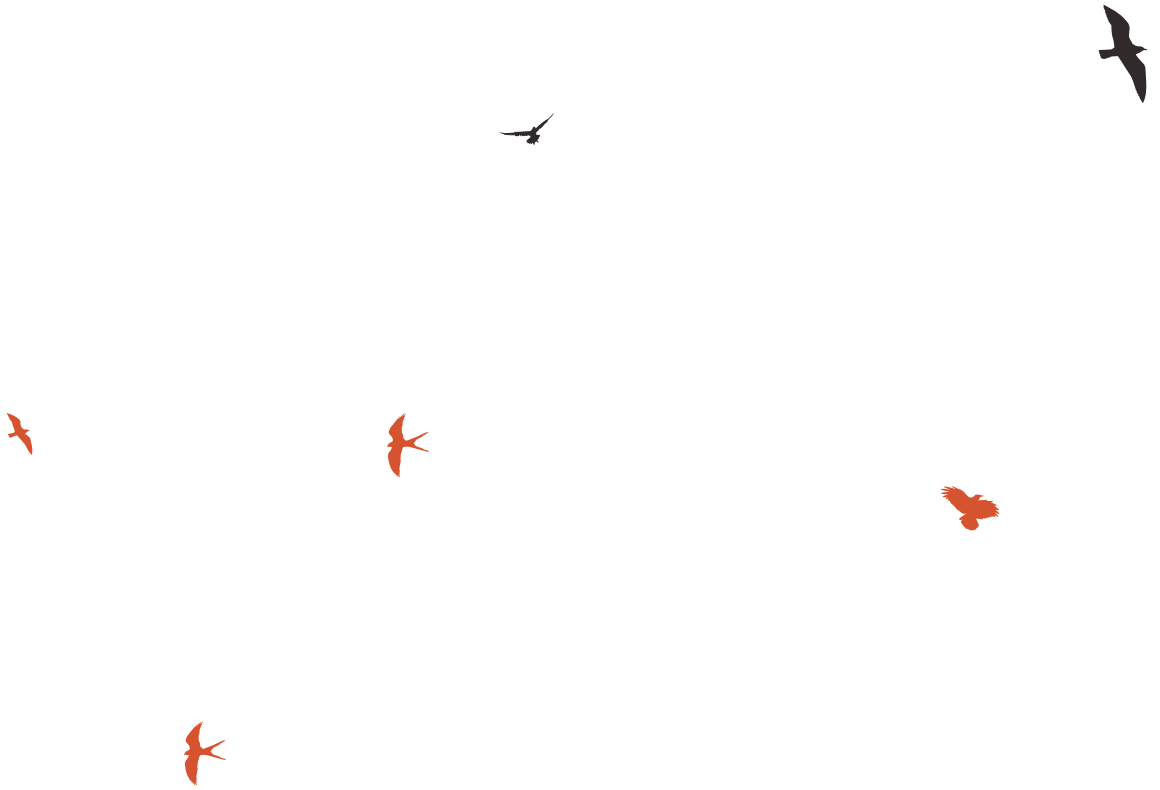
With a continued focus on improving the wellbeing of families, children and young people in Melbourne's bayside areas, Family Life remains committed to helping its local community. "Going forward, we aim to replicate and expand our services, grow our volunteering work, and further develop the PeopleWorx programme. With the support of both Bennelong Foundation and Dubai Duty Free Foundation, Family Life can continue to help those who need it most."

For more information about Family Life, visit familylife.com.au





Governance and financial information for the 2011/12 financial year



Governance and financial information for the 2011/12 financial year

Governance

The Bennelong Foundation is a Private Ancillary Fund and is subject to the Private Ancillary Fund Guidelines 2009.

The Board of Trustees meet twice a year to consider Foundation matters including:

- administration: to ensure it is meeting its compliance obligations;
- investing: to ensure its assets are achieving its investment aims and objectives; and
- grant making: the distribution of funds to eligible entities.

Financial reports

The Bennelong Foundation is not a reporting entity. Accordingly, the Trustee prepared a special purpose financial report for the year ended 30 June 2012 to satisfy its reporting requirements under the Trust Deed and compliance with the Private Ancillary Fund Guidelines.

Investment aims and objectives

The Bennelong Foundation operates under a formal investment policy statement. The policy statement sets out the investment aims and objectives, approved investments, the asset allocation profile approved to meet the funds objectives, and also details the rules governing the management of the Foundation's investments.

The investment aim and objective of the Foundation is to:

- generate a current year's income consistent with its portfolio asset allocation; and
- maintain the inflation adjusted earnings base and therefore grant making capacity of the fund.

The Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank our investment fund managers, Phil Henty, Carena Shankar, Bennelong Funds Management and Evans and Partners for their professional advice and support during the financial year.

The special purpose financial report is audited by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

List of grants paid by the Bennelong Foundation in financial year 2012

- Aboriginal Literacy Foundation
- Alfred Health
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Community Spirit/Cathy Freeman Foundation
- Family Life
- FareShare
- Friends of Autism
- Igniting Change Foundation
- ISIS Foundation
- John Pierce Centre
- Kids Under Cover
- Learning for Life Autism Inc.
- Mackillop Family Services
- Mission Australia
- New Stars Basketball Association Inc.
- Oasis Youth Support Network
- Redkite/Ponting Foundation
- Rotary International Aid & Assistance
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Tabitha Foundation Australia
- The Buttery
- The Huddle
- The Song Room
- Variety the Children's Charity NSW
- Victoria University
- Victorian Arabic Social Services

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