

Thursday 8 December 2022

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR REGIONAL NSW CHARITIES WITH OVER \$770,000 OF FUNDING GRANTED

More than \$770,000 has been distributed amongst nine charities and community groups by Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation today, supporting the delivery of projects and initiatives aimed at improving the health and social wellbeing of vulnerable people in regional New South Wales.

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation offers two rounds of funding each year, with this round seeing the Foundation surpass \$25 million in grants since 2003.

Jennifer Leslie, Chair of Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, said the foundation's momentous 25 million milestone made this funding round a cause for extra celebration.

"Whilst \$25 million is a significant amount of money, what's even more significant is the collective difference it's made in thousands of lives across regional communities over the past two decades," said Ms Leslie.

"Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation is in the privileged position of witnessing firsthand, year after year, grant after grant, the tremendous amount of hard work and dedication that goes into these projects and the meaningful, long-lasting impacts they create.

"This funding round is certainly no exception, with today's recipients each recognised by the Foundation for their outstanding contribution to projects and initiatives that we're confident will deliver positive outcomes for disadvantaged and at-risk people across regional NSW."

The projects which will benefit from this funding round are:

- [Jenny's Place](#) - The Sunshine Hut - \$127,000
- [Spinal Cord Injuries Australia \(SCIA\)](#) - Community peer support Program for the Hunter- \$121,000
- [Wheelchair Sports NSW ACT](#) - Northern Region Road Safety and Disability Awareness - \$120,000
- [Hunter Medical Research Institute \(HMRI\)](#) - New treatment for the two inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD): Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis - \$98,700
- [The University of Newcastle](#) - Social and Economic Resilience (SER) of Young Migrants and Refugee Women - \$88,600
- [LeaderLife](#) – Let's GROW with Aquaponics – \$70,000
- [Caring for Our Port Stephens Youth \(COPSY\)](#) - Early Intervention Youth Mental Health – \$50,000
- [Batyrs Australia](#) - Normalising help-seeking to improve health and social outcomes - \$49,000
- [Epilepsy Action Australia](#) - Youth Peer Support - Connecting Young Australians with Epilepsy - \$46,600

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“We look forward to working closely with these nine partners in 2023 to support their passions and bring their diverse range of projects - which address everything from mental health to domestic and family violence, to youth support and overlooked medical conditions - to fruition to be utilised by those who need them most,” Ms Leslie said.

“As we come to the close of another grant round, we acknowledge there are still so many good people doing so many good things in our local communities.

“This is why it is so important for us to continue to give back, so that we can help local groups do what they do best and make a meaningful difference in people’s lives now and for future generations to come.”

Today’s grant recipients are scheduled to launch their projects in the new year, with all expected to be completed by 2025.

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation holds two grant giving ceremony each year and has provided more than \$25 million in grants to 547 projects.

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Region	Organisation	Project name	Project brief	Amount
Hunter	Jenny's Place	The Sunshine Hut: A project to deliver an early-intervention children's support program in domestic violence crisis refuge.	The Sunshine Hut clinic delivers children’s support services at Jenny’s Place Crisis Shelter. This project will support operation of the clinic, helping over 50 children receive expert help to recover more quickly from trauma and build resilience. It aims to improve outcomes for children who have experienced domestic and family (DFV) violence by developing an innovative support program.	\$127,000
Hunter	Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA)	Community peer support to improve health and wellbeing for people living with spinal cord injury in the Hunter region.	SCIA will expand their community-based Peer and Family Support Program to people living with a spinal cord injury through every stage of life, from acute care and rehabilitation to independence at home and in the community.	\$121,00
Central Coast	Wheelchair Sports NSW ACT	Northern Region Road Safety and Disability	The Road Safety and Disability Awareness Roadshow will visit schools (from K-12), vacation/after school care	\$120,000

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		Awareness Roadshow.	centres, tertiary institutions, and businesses. Presenters will deliver targeted messaging around the topics of road safety and living with a disability. Other themes such as resilience, overcoming adversity and anti-bullying will also be covered.	
Hunter	Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI)	A new treatment for the two inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD): Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.	HMRI is working on a therapeutic intervention that can be used early after diagnosis of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, halting disease progression and lifelong suffering. This could be especially beneficial for children and young adults.	\$98,700
Hunter Central Coast Central West	The University of Newcastle	Social and Economic Resilience (SER) of Young Migrants and Refugee Women.	The SER of Young Migrants and Refugee Women project is an employment and skills development program for young at-risk migrant and refugee women in culturally and linguistically diverse and "hard-to-reach" communities in Regional NSW. The aim is to increase female workforce participation and career development.	\$88,600
Central West	LeaderLife	LeaderLife: Let's GROW with Aquaponics	LeaderLife has partnered with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to deliver GROW: Guiding Rural and Outback Wellbeing. GROW supports the health and wellbeing of young people in Dubbo through learning sustainability and aquaponics. Aquaponics is a system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic creatures supplies the nutrients for plants grown hydroponically, which in turn purify the water.	\$70,000

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Hunter	<u>Caring for Our Port Stephens Youth (COPSY)</u>	Early Intervention Youth Mental Health - Port Stephens.	COPSY's Early Intervention Youth Mental Health program provides free youth counselling services which are person-centred and culturally appropriate, providing dignity for youth experiencing difficulty with mental health and wellbeing. This will see the expansion of youth counselling services to Raymond Terrace.	\$50,000
Mid North Coast	<u>Batyr Australia</u>	Normalising help-seeking to improve health and social outcomes for 700+ youth across Mid North Coast communities.	Batyr will equip over 700 Mid North Coast youth (ages 14 - 18) with the skills and knowledge to understand, discuss and address the mental health impacts of both bushfires and COVID-19.	\$49,000
Central Coast Central West Hunter Mid North Coast New England Northern Rivers	<u>Epilepsy Action Australia</u>	Youth Peer Support - Connecting Young Australians with Epilepsy.	Epilepsy Action Australia's Youth Peer Support program will create in-person and online connection to foster community, reduce social isolation, and improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people with Epilepsy.	\$46,600