

\$773,000 AN EARLY CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR 13 REGIONAL CHARITIES

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation today announced funding grants of \$773,000 to community projects across the central, western and northern NSW to support a range of community initiatives and projects.

A total of 13 important community projects were recognised at the Newcastle grant ceremony, bringing total funds distributed by the Charitable Foundation in 2018 to more than \$1.56 million.

Celebrating its 15th year, the Charitable Foundation was established as a gift to the community by the Newcastle Permanent on its 100th anniversary. The total value of grants has now reached more than \$19.1 million and supported more than 448 community initiatives.

All new grants announced today will directly improve the lives of those in the community to address disadvantage, marginalisation and isolation across the areas of health, youth and social wellbeing. A total of \$170,000 will facilitate projects targeted at improving the lives of disadvantaged and at-risk youth; more than \$400,000 will support projects aimed at improving the social wellbeing of marginalised and isolated members of the community; and \$200,000 will go directly towards improving community health and wellbeing.

“Every funding round receives high-quality applications from worthy organisations and projects,” Charitable Foundation Chair, Phil Neat said.

“Selecting the final recipients is always a challenging yet satisfying responsibility for the Charitable Foundation Board, however the innovation presented by the applications from this round’s grant receivers is clearly recognised,” he said.

“Today, we have provided funding to six new partners and seven new projects put forward by charitable organisations we’ve previously supported. It’s important to the community that we support programs and initiatives of new partners, as well as support those we’ve successfully partnered with before and who are now applying for support for new projects and initiatives.”

Each community project will begin within 12 months with the aim of been fully completed by the close of 2021. This ensures that communities benefit from access to these projects in a timely, efficient and effective way without delay.

A full list of today’s grant recipients is attached.

Media enquiries: Georgia Metcalfe, 0411 195 179

[The Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation](#) distributes more than \$1.5 million in grants each year to facilitate projects that address disadvantage in local communities throughout the Hunter, Central West, Central Coast, New England, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers regions of NSW. The Foundation was established in 2003 by Newcastle Permanent Building Society as a permanent gift to the community with a \$30 million endowment. Since this time the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has provided more than \$19.1 million to 448 community initiatives.

Region	Organisation	Project	Amount
Hunter, Central West, Mid North Coast	Cerebral Palsy Alliance	Magic Carpets – Technology for Therapy A grant to purchase two state-of-the-art virtual magic carpets to create a virtual world of inclusive play possibilities set to revolutionise occupational therapy outcomes for children living with Cerebral Palsy.	\$71,000
All Regions	The University of Newcastle, out(fit)	out(fit) outreach design truck out(fit) will design, engineer and build a bespoke community engagement truck to engage with, and help improve the shared community spaces within, disadvantaged communities.	\$123,000
Mid North Coast	Touched by Olivia Foundation	Taree inclusive playground project The creation of the city's first inclusive play space in Fotheringham Park, Taree, featuring passive areas, sensory and tactile play zones and visual cues, to cater for and improve participation of children of all abilities.	\$55,000
Central West	Housing Plus	Orange Crisis Centre Playground Construction of a secure playground at the Crisis Centre for children escaping domestic violence.	\$77,926
All Regions	KIDS Foundation	SeeMore Safety Program The KIDS Foundation will roll out its SeeMore Safety educational program, aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework, in child care centres and pre-schools throughout rural and regional NSW to address major health concerns such as childhood injury or death resulting from bullying or domestic violence.	\$98,000
Hunter	The Kaden Centre	Exercise studio extension including equipment The Kaden Centre will refurbish and expand its facility in Warabrook which provides a dedicated exercise space for patients undergoing cancer treatment	\$63,000
Central West	Veritas House Incorporated	Transitional Homeless Youth Project This grant will enable the refurbishment of Veritas House, which provides accommodation and support services for more than 150 of the Central West's most vulnerable young people aged 16-24.	\$50,000
Central West	The Northcott Society	Everyday Life Dubbo facility upgrade Refurbishment of The Northcott Society's Dubbo facility to allow it to continue delivering its Everyday Life Skills program helping people with a disability to maximise their potential, develop life skills, and live rewarding lives.	\$33,000
New England	Life Education NSW	Mobile Learning Centre Upgrade Life Education NSW's Northern Mobile Learning Centre serving schools throughout the New England and North West of NSW.	\$22,000
Northern Rivers	Mental Health Support Group	Vans for volunteers Purchase a new van to help Mental Health Support Group volunteers deliver and collect furniture and household goods to support people living with mental illness in the Byron Bay and Lismore areas.	\$60,000
Central West, Mid North Coast, Hunter	Compass Housing	GROW A Star Scholarship Program Expansion of the GROW a Star program with 25 scholarships to be delivered to young people in Compass's Dubbo, Taree, Cessnock and Singleton communities.	\$55,000
Central Coast	Central Coast Kids in Need	Born to Live To help 100 disadvantaged families care for their seriously ill or injured child by providing specialised pharmaceutical or equipment support through the Born to Live program.	\$44,000
Hunter	Hunter Women's Centre	Group Therapy for Historical Childhood Sexual Abuse Funding for a pilot therapeutic group program for women who have been victims of childhood sexual abuse.	\$22,000