

Thursday, 24 May 2018

## **Grants given today mark more than \$18 million donated to local communities**

Fifteen community programs and initiatives across central, western, and northern NSW will be brought to life following the presentation of funding grants at Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation's grant giving ceremony held in Newcastle today.

This round of grant funding totalled almost \$800,000 and was the first grant giving ceremony for 2018. The grants presented today brought the total amount donated to the community by the Charitable Foundation to more than \$18 million.

From the grants presented today, more than \$375,000 will directly go towards improving community health and well-being; \$170,000 will facilitate projects targeted at improving the lives of disadvantaged and at-risk youth; and more than \$240,000 will support the social well-being of marginalised and isolated members of the community.

"The quality of candidates and applications in this round was incredibly high and selecting the final recipients was challenging. We were incredibly impressed with the projects that were presented to us for consideration," Phil Neat, Charitable Foundation Chair, said.

"Today we provided funding to four new partners and committed to working on eleven new projects with partners we've previously supported.

"It's important that we're able to support the programs and initiatives of new partners, as well as support those partners we've successfully worked with in the past who are now applying for support for new programs and initiatives. This is evidence that the support provided by the Foundation has a real and positive impact in our communities," Phil said.

Each project that received a funding grant today will commence in the coming months and all projects are scheduled to be completed within two years. This means that the community will begin to reap the benefits of the funded initiatives and projects by early next year.

"The Foundation provides financial support to projects and initiatives that address community disadvantage in regional NSW. The grants presented today bring the total amount we've donated to the community to more than \$18 million since 2003. In this time, we've supported tens-of-thousands of people throughout Newcastle Permanent's regional NSW footprint.

"After announcing today's grants, the Foundation Board is keen to work with these charitable community groups see their initiatives and projects come to fruition in the next 24 months," Phil concluded.

**A full list of today's grant recipients is attached.**

[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 \$18 million to 435 community initiatives.

Region	Organisation	Project	Amount
All regions	Cancer Council NSW	<b>Transforming Transport to Treatment</b> To enable Cancer Council NSW's Transport to Treatment program to become an online booking platform for transport to cancer treatment. The online system will transform the 28 existing independent services into one convenient online booking system. Along with future expansion of the vehicle fleet, the aim of the project is to enable access to free transport for patients needing transport for cancer treatment.	\$154,000
Hunter	Procure Mental Health Services	<b>Next Step Mental Health Program</b> To fund a program to incentivise graduating psychiatrists to develop a locally-based practice in the Hunter region. It is expected this program will increase psychiatrist services in the region by 1,200 patients in the first year.	\$113,300
Hunter, New England, Mid North Coast	John Hunter Children's Hospital	<b>NICview expansion</b> This project includes installation of specialised web cameras on each of NICU's 12 new beds with a live-feed accessible by the baby's family through a secure, password protected connection to any computer or device.	\$53,000
Hunter	Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Advancement Group	<b>Mobile BBQ project</b> A portable BBQ trailer and equipment will be purchased to enable isolated people to be reached through local community events.	\$30,300
Hunter	Caring for our Port Stephens Youth	<b>The Port Stephens Youth Centre (Tomaree Peninsula)</b> The grant will be used to fit out a dedicated space at Salamander Library to deliver a free community-based mental health and counselling service aimed at youth in Port Stephens.	\$53,000
Mid North Coast	Riding for the Disabled (NSW – Manning Great Lakes Centre)	<b>Shelter Cover for Riders, Carers, Volunteers, and Supporters</b> To fund an all-weather shelter over the mounting ramp, install spectator covered seating, and construct concrete paths for wheelchair participants.	\$30,000
New England, Northern Rivers, Central West	National Stroke Foundation	<b>Ambassador Programs for regional and rural NSW</b> Will fund the expansion of the StrokeSafe Ambassador Program, a public education program, in Tamworth, Armidale, Dubbo, and Coffs Harbour.	\$22,000
Central Coast	Options Disability Support	<b>Options Theatre Community Performance Space Development</b> This grant will fund the completion of the new sustainable enterprise performance space and café at Tuggerah.	\$50,000
Central West	Macquarie Home Stay	<b>Macquarie Home Stay Outdoor Area</b> This grant will fund the construction of a landscaped outdoor social area for guests and their families to enjoy.	\$43,000
Hunter	Centre for Hope	<b>Wheels for Hope Social Enterprise</b> Will establish a Port Stephens chapter of Wheels for Hope to refurbish bikes and skateboards teaching 15-18 year olds mechanical, entrepreneurial, and business skills.	\$40,000
Central West	Lifeline Central West	<b>Lifeline / Country Women's Association / Newcastle Permanent Women's Mental, Physical, and Financial Presentation</b> Will fund a series of talks in regional NSW about issues that cause mental illness and how help can be sought. The talks will target women and educate about what they can do to help as a way to overcome the issue of male resistance to seeking help.	\$41,000
All regions	Wheelchair Sports NSW Inc	<b>2018/19 Wheelchair Sports NSW Member Grant Program – Northern Region</b> Will provide up to 100 Wheelchair Sports members access to funding to support their individual sport participation enabling those in a wheelchair to remain active and maintain good mental wellbeing.	\$33,000
Hunter	Mentor Support Network	<b>Education and Career Development for Refugee &amp; Migrant Youth</b> Will provide 10 disadvantaged refugee and migrant young people with a Scholarship to help cover education and career development assistance costs and provide mentoring and career coaching.	\$30,000
Hunter, New England, Mid North Coast	Camp Quality	<b>Program support vehicle</b> Purchase of a dedicated van to deliver Camp Quality programs in Northern NSW.	\$47,000
Central Coast	Central Coast Outreach Services	<b>Starting Over</b> Purchase 100 starting over kits to help people escaping domestic violence. Each kit contains furniture, whitegoods, kitchen appliances, and linen.	\$48,000