



The Ian Potter  
Foundation



# A SUSTAINED VISION

ANNUAL GRANTS  
REPORT 2018–19

[ianpotter.org.au](http://ianpotter.org.au)



Welcome	1
About the Foundation	2
Board & Staff	3
Chairman's Report	4
Vision & Funding Objectives	6
Chief Executive Officer's Report	8
A Sustained Vision of Grantmaking	10
Facts & Figures	12
Program Areas	14
Finance & Investment	28

Cover Image: This wattle's DNA is being sequenced as part of the GAP project.  
(Species: *Acacia pycnantha*).  
Image Credit: Dan Murphy,  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Right: Sir Ian Potter, Founder, 1902–1994.



# WELCOME

The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors and endeavours.

## OUR VISION

A vibrant, healthy, fair and sustainable Australia.

## OUR MISSION

Honour the legacy of founder and benefactor, Sir Ian Potter, and his commitment that the Foundation make a difference to Australia.

Maintain a tradition of encouraging excellence and enabling innovation to facilitate positive social change, and develop Australia's creativity and capacity as a nation.

Support outstanding charitable organisations, invest in Australia's innovative and creative people, protect the environment and alleviate disadvantage.

GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED  
SINCE 1964

**\$325m+**



# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Ian Potter Foundation was established in 1964 by Australian financier, businessman and philanthropist, Sir Ian Potter (1902–1994). The Foundation is now one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations.

Based in Melbourne, the Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors and endeavours.

Through its grants, the Foundation seeks to invest in Australia's intellectual capital, encouraging excellence and supporting Australia's talent: the visionaries, social entrepreneurs, scientists, academics and researchers, artists and teachers, and those who dedicate themselves to bettering our communities for the benefit of all.

Grants are made through program areas which reflect Sir Ian's interest in the arts, and his visionary approach to issues concerning the environment, science, medical research, education and community wellbeing.

In 2015–16 the Foundation's Board decided to separate Major Grants within its grantmaking program. Through the Major Grants stream, the Foundation continues to fund iconic or significant projects, most of which will not fit within defined program area funding guidelines. These projects are proactively sought out by the Foundation and select applications are considered once a year by the Board of Governors.

Since 1964, The Ian Potter Foundation has contributed over \$325 million to thousands of projects, both large and small. Led by its Board of Governors, the Foundation has a strong track record of funding projects that respond decisively to key issues and develop our creativity and capacity as a nation.

## PROGRAM AREAS

In 2018–19, The Ian Potter Foundation operated eight program areas: the Arts, Community Wellbeing, Education, Environment & Conservation, Health & Disability, Medical Research, Science, and Knowledge & Learning (incorporating Travel, Conference and International Learning & Development).

The Foundation also manages The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift which makes grants through the Education, Community Wellbeing and Arts program areas.

From fiscal 2020, the Foundation has revised and re-organised its funding areas to align with the four elements of its vision: Vibrant, Healthy, Fair and Sustainable. Details on funding areas and objectives from 2020 are set out on pp. 6–7.

## FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Grantmaking across all program areas is underpinned by the following principles:

### *Excellence*

We support organisations, programs and individuals who are outstanding in their field.

### *Prevention*

To maximise the value of our grants, we try to identify and support projects that address the causes of any problems rather than treat the symptoms. Supporting research is fundamental to this approach.

### *Innovation*

We seek to fund programs and projects that take a new approach to solving problems, especially those that can be evaluated and have potential for expansion and further development.

### *Leverage*

Our grants have greater impact when combined with support from other sources such as other trusts and foundations, government, and business. We are happy to be one of a number of supporters of a program.

We encourage grantees to have collaborations and partnerships that facilitate combining knowledge and resources to achieve a shared goal.

### *Long-term thinking*

We try to fund projects that will continue to have an impact well beyond the period of our grant. The long-term sustainability of the project is an important consideration.

### *Social leadership*

We aim to cultivate leadership in the Australia social sector that is highly skilled, well prepared and best placed to fulfil an organisation's mission.



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### LIFE GOVERNOR

Lady Potter AC, CMRI

### GOVERNORS

Mr Charles Goode AC (Chairman)

Mr Anthony Burgess

The Hon Alex Chernov AC, QC

The Hon Susan Crennan AC, QC

Mr Leon Davis AO

The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, CB, QC

The Hon Sir James Gobbo AC, CVO, QC

Professor Thomas Healy AO

Professor Richard Larkins AC

Mr Allan Myers AC, QC

Professor Graeme Ryan AC

(resigned from Board November 2018)

Professor Brian Schmidt AC

Professor Fiona Stanley AC

## STAFF

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Craig Connelly

### SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Dr Alberto Furlan

### PROGRAM MANAGERS

Louise Arkles

Rikki Andrews

(maternity leave replacement for Nicole Bortone)

Nicole Bortone

Lauren Monaghan

Mairead Phillips

### PROGRAM OFFICER

Subhadra Mistry

### RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OFFICER

Dr Squirrel Main

### COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Sara Hearn

### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Nina Beer

### ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Gail Lewry

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Sue Wilkinson

### RECEPTION AND OFFICE COORDINATOR

Nicole Hunter

### CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Anna McCallum

### FINANCE OFFICER

Viktoria Kritharelis

L-R: Anna McCallum, Rikki Andrews, Lauren Monaghan, Louise Arkles, Nina Beer, Craig Connelly, Viktoria Kritharelis, Squirrel Main, Subhadra Mistry, Gail Lewry, Nicole Hunter, Alberto Furlan, Mairead Phillips, Sara Hearn.  
Absent: Nicole Bortone, Sue Wilkinson.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



There are many problems that need to be addressed in our society. No one philanthropic foundation can expect to focus on all issues. That is why the Board of Governors continues to refer back to the Foundation's Vision and Mission to maintain focus on making a difference.

 **200**  
NUMBER OF  
GRANTS PAID

 **\$28.5m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS PAID

 **113**  
NUMBER OF  
GRANTS AWARDED

 **\$25m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS AWARDED

In October 2018, the Board added 'sustainable' to the vision of the Foundation to reflect the history of The Ian Potter Foundation as a strong supporter of Australian environmental and conservation initiatives.

The four pillars of our renewed vision – vibrant, healthy, fair and sustainable – inform all of our funding objectives. From 2020, the Foundation's funding areas will align with these pillars. Further details can be found on pages 6–8. It is, however, important to note that our funding principles which have underpinned the Foundation's grantmaking remain constant. We support social sector organisations and leaders that are outstanding in their field; we focus on prevention and innovation; we encourage long-term thinking; and we look to leverage philanthropic funding to gain support from other sources such as government, business and community.

Reading through this report, you will see one or more of these attributes in all the not-for-profit organisations that were awarded \$24,492,163 in 112 grants in fiscal 2019.

Over the past year, we have also celebrated the successful completion of a number of major grant projects with the opening of several landmark cultural centres and one world-leading mental health facility. The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts at Monash University and The Ian Potter Southbank Centre (the heart of the new campus of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music) are state-of-the-art education facilities and performance venues that will encourage artists to create and audiences to participate in Australia's vibrant arts scene for decades to come.

We also saw the opening of Orygen's National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health, which the Foundation supported with a five-year major grant in 2016. This centre is the new home for Orygen's national and international leadership of innovative clinical care, cutting edge research, and education and training in mental health.

Two major grants awarded in 2018–19 focused on seeking to address disadvantage for vulnerable groups in our society. Specifically, the \$2,237,500 grant to World Vision Australia provides support for the expansion of the successful Derby Region Aboriginal Early Childhood Care and Development program in north-west Australia. The grant of \$2,500,000 to Wintringham Housing Limited will assist in funding a \$10m public housing project for elderly homeless people in Shepparton.

The Foundation also awarded a major grant of \$1,770,000 over five years to the Karrkad Kandji Trust in partnership with Warddeken Land Management Ltd. This major grant will fund the employment of Indigenous women rangers who will systematically record and conserve arguably the largest collection of undocumented and threatened Indigenous rock art galleries in the world.

Over the past four years, the Foundation has conscientiously evaluated its grants in order to improve outcomes for future grants. Aside from using this knowledge to improve our grantmaking practice, we also actively share the knowledge we gain with the wider philanthropic and not-for-profit sector. We were therefore pleased to receive the inaugural #OpenForGood Award from Candid (formerly the Foundation Center), alongside



Above: L-R Charles Goode AC, Chairman of The Ian Potter Foundation; University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell; broadcaster Virginia Trioli; and Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley at the launch of The Ian Potter Southbank Centre, Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at the University of Melbourne in 2019. Image by Sav Schulman.

the Rockefeller Foundation and the C&A Foundation, in recognition of our efforts in the area of sharing knowledge.

In May 2019, the Governors and staff of the Foundation were deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Thomas Hurley AO, OBE. Dr Hurley was a Governor of the Foundation for 36 years from 1978 to 2014.

As a senior medical practitioner at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, committee member of NHMRC and board member of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (among many other appointments), Dr Hurley brought a wealth of knowledge, experience and contacts to the Foundation. These were a great asset in the Foundation's ability to make informed decisions about major medical research and health grants – many of which are continuing to contribute to the knowledge and treatment of diseases.

Dr Hurley possessed great insight, and when asked in 2007 which key issues the Foundation might best address, Dr Hurley said:

*“The deleterious effects of substance abuse (notably alcohol), obesity, the profligate use of limited natural resources leading to environment degradation and the breakdown of relationships within families. The parlous situation of Indigenous communities and other disadvantaged*

*groups in our community. These and other problems are made worse by a difficulty in clearly identifying their cause and a failure to develop long term evidence-based strategies to address them.”*

A decade on this statement still encapsulates The Ian Potter Foundation's grantmaking strategy and its commitment to a vision of a Vibrant, Healthy, Fair and Sustainable Australia.



Below: Vale Dr Thomas Hurley AO, OBE, Governor of The Ian Potter Foundation 1978–2014.

# The Ian Potter

## Vision – A vibrant fair and sustainable FUNDING AREA

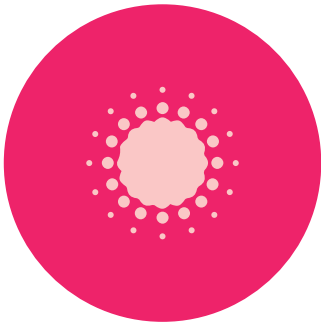
MAJOR GRANTS

Health Service Delivery  
Mental Health  
Indigenous Health

### VIBRANT

### HEALTHY

## OUR VISION



FUNDING AREAS

#### Arts

To support first-rate artistic institutions:

- To foster development across a sector or art form.
- To host artists in high-calibre professional development and/or leadership opportunities.

#### Medical Research

To support the provision of equipment and capital infrastructure to support outstanding research groups.

#### Public Health Research Projects

To support outstanding tertiary institutions, medical research institutes or suitably qualified public health organisations to conduct translational public health research projects.



# er Foundation

## orant, healthy, nable Australia

### S & OBJECTIVES

#### FROM 2020

The Foundation will implement revised funding guidelines aligned directly with the four pillars of its vision: **VIBRANT, HEALTHY, FAIR** and **SUSTAINABLE**.

Each pillar contains funding areas with specific funding objectives.

Homelessness  
Indigenous Community

#### FAIR



##### Early Childhood Development

To support innovative programs and sector initiatives in early childhood (0–8 years old), including programs that recognise and foster parental engagement in children's learning and development.

##### Community Wellbeing

- To create employment pathways for people with disabilities or other vulnerable individuals.
- To assist individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and all that goes with it.

Freshwater  
Great Barrier Reef  
Indigenous Land and  
Sea Management

#### SUSTAINABLE



##### Environment

To support ambitious and transformative environmental initiatives including:

- Support for environment sector.
- Applied environmental science research projects.
- On ground conservation of natural environment projects.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This past year has been one of reflection and renewal at the Foundation. The Board's decision to add 'sustainable' as a fourth element in the Foundation's vision at its planning day in October 2018 informed this renewal.



During the first half of 2019, the grants management team spent considerable time reviewing all the Foundation's existing program areas and funding objectives to align them directly with our vision. The revised funding areas and guidelines have been announced and are effective from the first funding round of 2020 (opening in November 2019). See pp 6–7 for these revised funding guidelines.

The Governors of the Foundation believe the revised funding guidelines will lead to impactful and catalytic grantmaking as the Foundation narrows its focus to areas we believe justify increased effort and attention. Strong alignment of the Foundation's vision with its grantmaking, combined with focused funding guidelines will allow our program management team to become 'subject matter experts', ensuring the Foundation can engage and partner with not-for-profit sector leaders to achieve the greatest impact for the benefit of many Australians across a range of issues.

In conjunction with these changes, in fiscal 2019, some program areas were permanently closed. In September 2018, the Board decided to close the Conference program, and in May 2019, the Travel program also closed. In total, more than 2,900 grants were awarded in these areas over 55 years valued at approximately \$5.5 million. The Foundation is proud to have been a leader in opening up this area of international experience and exchange, and we will continue to support early career and established researchers via the strong focus on research within the new Healthy and Sustainable funding pillars.

The International Learning & Development program was also closed during 2018–19 subsequent to a detailed review of this program area. Due to the closure of these areas,

we are not reporting on them this year. The Environment & Conservation area was also closed this year as we undertook research on where to best invest in the future. See further details on this on pp 9–10.

In early 2020, the Foundation will again be engaging The Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) to conduct surveys of the Foundation's grantees and declined applicants. CEP previously conducted the same surveys on behalf of the Foundation in 2015, the results of which led to a variety of changes to our grantmaking practices.

The CEP surveys are designed to assess the Foundation's performance against its goals and strategy. It allows us to pause and reflect on whether or not our actual grantmaking has improved in the eyes of those organisations we seek to partner with and to inform our future grantmaking. Undertaking these CEP surveys in 2020 is a key part of the Foundation's commitment to continuous improvement as we strive to be the best grantmaker we can be. The Foundation's Board recently approved a recommendation for CEP to undertake these surveys every five years, embedding this important review and reflection into our practice.

The grantee and declined applicant feedback received in the 2015 CEP surveys confirmed the Foundation's decision to invest in our research and evaluation capability but also highlighted a need for the Foundation to increase the transparency of our practice with our grantees and with the broader philanthropic sector.

We seek a partnership with our grantees, to pursue a strategic relationship built on mutual respect and trust in an environment that promotes transparency and open, honest



conversation. By investing time and effort into better understanding our prospective grantees and their place in the not-for-profit landscape, we can achieve genuine partnerships with organisations we believe can benefit many Australians through their particular missions.

Examples of this transparency are the learnings gleaned from our grantees and from our own grantmaking that we share with the broader sector. We're getting very positive feedback from both funders and grantees on the quality of the learnings that we're sharing and the value that they add to the thought processes that many non-profit organisations and other funders go through when considering how best to achieve their particular mission.

Being recognised for this approach, alongside the Rockefeller Foundation and the C&A Foundation, by receiving the inaugural #OpenForGood Award from Candid was a highlight this year and a great honour.

In this report, we reveal other ways The Ian Potter Foundation seeks to adopt best practice, collaborate with other foundations and engage experts to understand complex issues to determine how best philanthropic support can fill identified gaps. There is always room for improvement so, above all, our team will continue to develop their capacity to support the best organisations, people and projects to achieve the greatest impact.

*Above: L-R Craig Connelly; Charles Goode AC; Sir James Gobbo AC, CVO, QC; and Professor Richard Larkins AC attend the opening of The Ian Potter Centre for Performing Arts at Monash University.*

*Below: #OpenForGood award received by the Foundation from Candid.*







# A SUSTAINED VISION OF GRANTMAKING

EVALUATION,  
RESEARCH,  
COLLABORATION

For more than five decades, The Ian Potter Foundation has been a leader in the Australian philanthropic landscape. The Foundation's vision and purpose have remained clear: to work towards a vibrant, healthy, fair and sustainable Australia. To do this, the Foundation's Board and program management team actively engage with many organisations within the not-for-profit sector to understand the prevailing issues and learn from those on the ground about how best to address specific problems.

These problems are complex, so in attempting to put effective preventative measures in place, it is necessary to work in partnership with not-for-profits, other funders and government. Not all projects work, some work to varying extents, and some result in proven models. To be able to improve our own grantmaking, we evaluate all our grants to identify the elements of successful grants we might then seek to incorporate into our future grantmaking. We then share our learnings as a funder and the learnings of our grantees with other philanthropic organisations and the wider not-for-profit sector. Some interesting data on how evaluation impacts leverage is on page 13.

Measuring outcomes is not the only path to improvement. At the Foundation, we plan for success by researching issues and sector needs, engaging with experts, and collaborating with other



funders to clearly understand how to best invest in organisations we are keen to support in a strategic and impactful way.

To this end, over the past year, The Ian Potter Foundation and The Myer Foundation have collaborated, co-funding a study of significant issues affecting Australia's fresh water systems to understand how philanthropic investment might transform the management of Australia's fresh water resources, protect the ecological integrity of those resources and ensure Australia's long-term water security.

This research has been conducted by two leading research consulting firms who have prepared a series of issues papers with input from Australia's scientific research community, industry, leading bureaucrats, farmers, agriculture and conservation experts, Indigenous representatives and government; all of whom have a long-term stake in how Australia's fresh water is managed and used.

The key recommendation recently approved by the boards of both foundations is to establish a new organisation that will be an independent, trusted source of water and catchment policy advice with a specific mandate to achieve improved management of Australia's land and water resources that will benefit all Australians. Negotiations

are underway with other prospective co-funders to establish such an entity that will have adequate funding support to sustain it for at least a 10-year timeframe.

It is a bold ambition, in a highly contested and complex area and one that the foundations have researched in a considered and a thorough manner.

It is also an issue of fundamental importance to us all, and one where philanthropic investment might catalyse significant improvement in the management of Australia's lands and waters as we all grapple with the dual impacts of strong population growth and reduced rainfall as a result of climate change.

We are not alone in seeking ways to tackle these issues. In late 2018, the Wyss Foundation announced a US\$1 billion 10-year campaign to help rapidly expand the proportion of the Earth's lands and oceans that are conserved, so current and future generations can drink clean water, breathe clean air, and experience the wonders of the natural world.

The one new area internationally that the Wyss Foundation was interested to invest in was Australia. In response to this, The Ian Potter Foundation coordinated a key group of Australian organisations and experts in environmental conservation

to ensure a cohesive and consistent approach to this large-scale philanthropic investment opportunity. With input from this expert group, The Ian Potter Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Greening Australia and Pew Charitable Trust commissioned a detailed brief for the Wyss Foundation which prioritised nationally significant opportunities that the Wyss Foundation might consider for investment, and which, if supported would likely have a significant and sustained environmental benefit.

Wyss Foundation's first conservation investment in Australia is as a co-funder alongside The Ian Potter Foundation and a range of other funders including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to assist in the purchase by TNC of 34ha of land in the Great Cumbung Swamp in the Riverina in NSW (see Major Grants on page 27).

The Ian Potter Foundation will continue its practice of working with these foundations and the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network to collaborate with other funders to effectively support critical projects. We will also seek to partner with key research institutions and on-the-ground organisations to understand critical issues and learn how philanthropic support can best be leveraged.

*Left: L-R Mary Katatjuku Pan, Ilawanti Ungkutjuru Ken, Niningka Lewis, Imiyari Frank, Tjunkaya Tapaya, © Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council. The grant to Tjanpi Desert Weavers came about after the program management team visited the Northern Territory in August 2018.*

*Right: A fence splits the land and waters in this aerial photo taken near the Macquarie Marshes in NSW, showing the impact of different land management practices on vegetation, soil runoff and water quality. Image credit: Peter Soleness.*



# FACTS & FIGURES

## 2018–19

### GRANTS OVERVIEW

FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED

207

GRANTS APPROVED

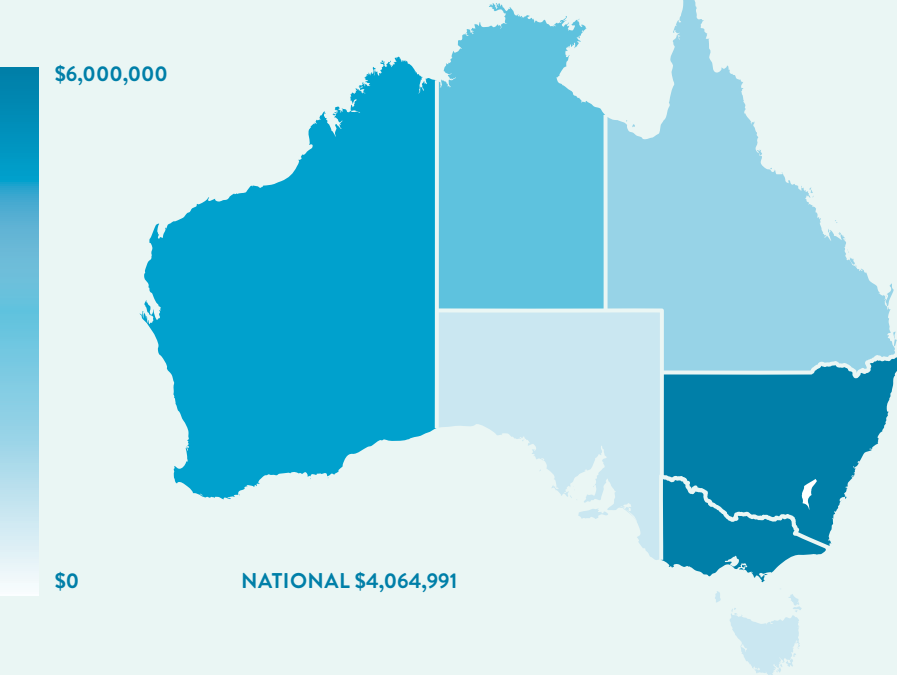
113\*

TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED










\$25m

*\*Includes grant to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust*

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



### GRANTS APPROVED BY PROGRAM AREAS

<p>ARTS</p>  <p>GRANTS 12*</p> <p>AMOUNT \$3m*</p>	<p>COMMUNITY WELLBEING</p>  <p>GRANTS 15</p> <p>AMOUNT \$3.3m</p>	<p>EDUCATION</p>  <p>GRANTS 6</p> <p>AMOUNT \$1.5m</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT &amp; CONSERVATION</p>  <p>GRANTS 2</p> <p>AMOUNT \$50k</p>	<p>HEALTH &amp; DISABILITY</p>  <p>GRANTS 11</p> <p>AMOUNT \$2.3m</p>
<p>MEDICAL RESEARCH</p>  <p>GRANTS 15</p> <p>AMOUNT \$2.3m</p>	<p>SCIENCE</p>  <p>GRANTS 8</p> <p>AMOUNT \$2.8m</p>	<p>KNOWLEDGE &amp; LEARNING</p>  <p>GRANTS 38</p> <p>AMOUNT \$130k</p>	<p>ALEC PRENTICE SEWELL GIFT</p>  <p>GRANTS 2</p> <p>AMOUNT \$600k</p>	<p>MAJOR</p>  <p>GRANTS 4</p> <p>AMOUNT \$9m</p>

*\*Includes grant to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust*



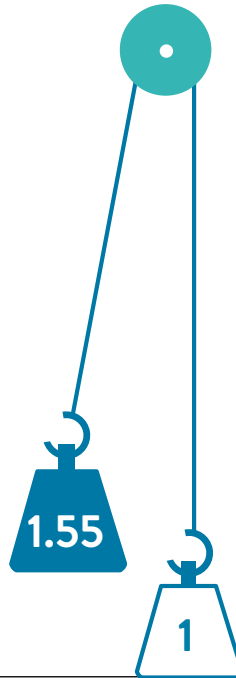
# THE VALUE OF EVALUATION

Detailed interrogation of the Foundation's past grants data by Research & Evaluation Manager, Dr Squirrel Main, highlights the real value of evaluation.

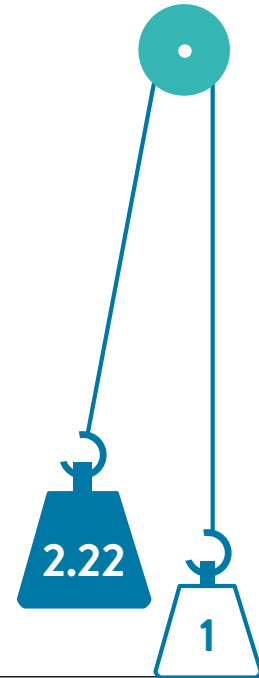
- Programs with evaluation had 3x the leverage
- Not evaluating programs will negatively impact leverage
- An evaluated program with poor outcomes can attain the same leverage as a program that is not evaluated but has strong outcomes
- \$.10 per invested dollar is lost due to no evaluation which justifies a 10% evaluation budget
- Programs that reflect through evaluation are more likely to have improved outcomes and consequently achieve greater leverage.

 **LEVERAGE (\$)**     **GRANT (\$)**

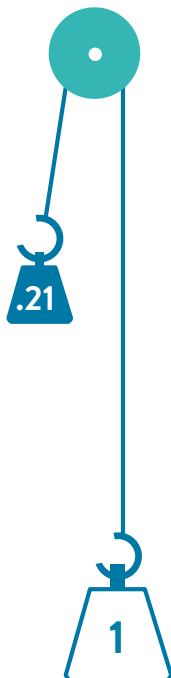
**EVALUATED  
(MEDIAN)**



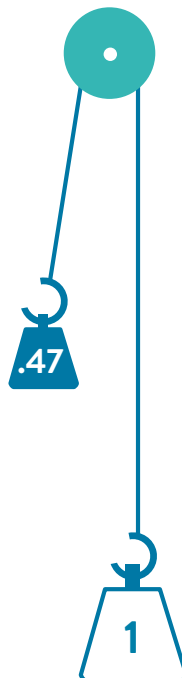
**EVALUATED +  
STRONG OUTCOMES**



**NOT EVALUATED +  
POOR OUTCOMES**



**NOT EVALUATED  
(MEDIAN)**



**NOT EVALUATED +  
STRONG OUTCOMES =  
EVALUATED + POOR OUTCOMES**



# ARTS

PROGRAM MANAGER  
LOUISE ARKLES

Left: Dancenorth, A.R.T. Indigenous Cross-Artform Residency, Artist Zane Saunders.  
Image credit: Robert Crispe.

Right: Prudence Andy from Pukatja (SA) participating in the Tjanpi Young Women's Weaving Project. 2019. Image by Nadine Taylor.  
© Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council.



59

EOIS RECEIVED



36

SITE VISITS



13

FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED



11

GRANTS APPROVED



\$2.5m

TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- To support first-rate artistic institutions and organisations in metropolitan and regional Australia which are distinctive in artistic achievement, imagination and innovation in fostering development across a sector or art form.
- To support such institutions to host artists in high-calibre professional development and/or leadership opportunities of at least 12 months (e.g. fellowships, apprenticeships, mentorships, internships).

## REVIEW

This year the Arts program team have sought to better understand the broader context of the sector – current highlights, ambitions and challenges. We continue to have productive and insightful conversations with peak bodies such as National Association for the Visual Arts and Theatre Network Australia to understand what is happening on the ground, in organisations and with independent artists. We were also pleased to be able to attend the 'Australian Cultural Policy: The Next Decade' symposium organised by Deakin University, which laid out a roadmap that will better inform our grantmaking into the future.

Entering the second year of our new Arts funding objectives has enabled the program management team to better understand the scale, scope and ambitions of the Arts sector in Australia. We learn from all the expressions of interest submitted, and from the many meetings with organisations and key leaders in the sector. From these it is clear that professional development, leadership and training are vital to encouraging innovative approaches and developing the core capacity of the people who devote their time and expertise to creating and producing art.

We continue to see the need for collaboration and knowledge sharing across the sector and several projects that have received funding this year have put forward innovative ways of doing this in their respective fields, whether it be arts funding bodies or small-to-medium regional arts organisations.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*



## EXEMPLAR GRANTS

### Country Arts WA Inc

\$500,000 over four years

#### WA Regional Arts Network

Over the next four years Country Arts WA will establish 10 Regional Hubs, connecting regional artists, audiences and arts workers to enable better service delivery, improved communications, increased local decision making and more integrated and coordinated planning.

This holistic approach is designed to support access to arts across a broad geographic area – the whole of Western Australia. Country Arts WA intends to build a sustainable and thriving ecosystem of connected, creative communities which are self-directed, and which contribute to the Western Australian arts sector.

Over the next decade Country Arts WA plan to have the Hubs established with the capacity to drive data collection, information sharing and contribute to sector planning, and manage government arts funding themselves. In turn, each region will make decisions locally about the allocation of those funds for the best effect.

The initiative emerged from an 18-month pilot project with four Hubs in Broome, the Pilbara, Narrogin Wheatbelt and Margaret River. The Ian Potter Foundation is supporting the project alongside the West Australian-based Minderoo Foundation.

### Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)

\$360,000 over three years

#### Building the creative development of Tjanpi Desert Weavers

This grant will build the creative development program for fibre artists (Tjanpi Desert Weavers) in the Warakurna, Irrunytju and Mantamaru communities in remote Western Australia. Employing an additional Arts and Culture Assistant will enable the Field Officer to focus more strongly on creative development for the artists. Development activities will include facilitating an increased number of workshops for Tjanpi artists, managing artist residencies, seeking and managing artistic commissions, reporting on exhibition outcomes, and delivering artist public speaking training so that the Tjanpi Desert Weavers may promote their artwork to a broader audience. This expansion is timely and imperative as the demand for the artwork, collaboration and partnerships with Tjanpi artists is growing.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers has over 20 years' experience representing over 400 artists in remote central Australia and now plan to build its creative development capacity through restructuring its on-ground team. Tjanpi has demonstrated success in delivering high calibre artwork for commissions and exhibitions around Australia and internationally as well as supporting artists to claim prizes.

### North Queensland Ballet and Dance Company Limited (Dancenorth)

\$220,000 over three years

#### Artistic Capacity and Leadership Program

This grant will support Dancenorth in facilitating their extensive suite of professional development programs benefiting dance practitioners from across the country.

These programs include their Artist Residency in the Tropics program for 13 dance practitioners and The Tomorrow Makers program for three seasons. Dancenorth will also offer reciprocal opportunities for two independent choreographers to work with the Dancenorth ensemble, exploring their practice in a full-time company setting; and delivering a Secondment Program working with over 40 young artists from Australia and New Zealand through individual secondments and an annual secondment week.

Dancenorth exemplifies an outstanding organisation who have a strong commitment to supporting Australia's contemporary dance ecology. Their approach to building the capacity and skill base of emerging artists and practitioners is multifaceted and outward-looking.



# COMMUNITY WELLBEING

PROGRAM MANAGER  
DR ALBERTO FURLAN

Left: Ebony and Jimmy on set at Youthworx.  
Courtesy of Youthworx Media 2019.

Right: The Fords Orchard Geeveston.  
Image credit: Kristy Harrison, The Huon News.



 **101**  
EOIS RECEIVED

 **18**  
SITE VISITS

 **21**  
FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED

 **15**  
GRANTS APPROVED

 **\$3.3m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

To alleviate need, our Community Wellbeing program supports organisations delivering early intervention programs in the community such as:

- transitioning from detention under the justice system
- reducing long-term unemployment with a focus on youth, and
- assisting families at risk of, or experiencing, family violence to improve financial skills and maintain suitable, safe accommodation.

## REVIEW

The Community Wellbeing program area seeks to work in partnership with organisations leading in their fields to support disadvantaged Australians when they are most vulnerable. This year we continued to focus on issues such as employment, homelessness, domestic violence and transition out of the justice system.

The Foundation continued to support innovative projects but also increasingly backed several ongoing projects and methodologies that have proved successful in the past but needed further help to consolidate or scale-up.

Conscious of the pitfalls of continuously ‘reinventing the wheel’ we looked to partner with organisations that have implemented proven methodologies that strategically address long-standing issues. An example of this is the grant awarded to Whittlesea Community Connection Inc supporting a program that facilitates access to existing housing stock in the private rental market to address homelessness due to domestic violence.

Similarly, we focused on particular needs for at-risk youth and families via organisations that activate local resources, social entrepreneurs, the business community, local government, other not-for-profits: essentially a whole community approach.

The grants described here exemplify this approach.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*

## Youth Development Australia Limited

\$160,000 over three years

### Youthworx Productions Connect

This is a capacity-building grant to enable Youthworx to take their film production social enterprise to a new level. This funding has allowed the creation of a Business Development role that will capitalise on the unprecedented demand for these kinds of services in the social procurement landscape that is developing within Victoria and nationally. Increasing the number of projects Youthworx are contracted to complete will, in turn, provide more part-time creative employment opportunities to the most marginalised young people in the community.

Youthworx supports young people to build appropriate skills prior to providing employment, therefore maximising the chance of them succeeding within the employment context. It also provides a 'controlled' work environment for youth to transition to before accessing the open employment market.

Youth Workers are embedded inside the class, providing consistent daily support while working to help the young person remove any barriers to engagement with learning. Youth are also paired with industry mentors to develop work-ready technical skills beyond the classroom. This wrap-around support has proved successful over the last five years.

## Geeveston Community Centre Inc

\$140,000 over two years

### Get Picking – Connecting long-term unemployed people and primary producers in southern Tasmania

This grant will support Geeveston Community Centre to address the gap between primary producers and local unemployed people. Currently, there is a disconnect between primary producers and local job seekers, which Geeveston Community Centre aims to address.

With tailored support in place, Geeveston Community Centre will assist local job seekers in moving into seasonal employment during the cherry and apple picking season and have a positive experience. Get Picking will also build goodwill between Huon Valley farms and young job seekers by providing intermediary mentors, work-readiness training and support.

This project aims to assist up to 120 long-term unemployed people through skills and confidence development. Senior mentors will be available every step of the way to support employees working through the harvest season. This will build their capability for work and develop momentum to move into further employment or education.

## Whittlesea Community Connections Inc

\$150,000 over three years

### Family Violence Private Rental Housing Project

This grant will reduce barriers for women that have experienced family violence in accessing and maintaining tenancy in private rental housing. The project will establish relationships with local real estate agencies to build awareness of family violence issues and ensure agents are equipped with the skills to recognise problems when they arise, supporting women to maintain their tenancy rather than terminate it. Other support will include housing case management, financial literacy education and proactive social inclusion activities.

The program aims to house 80 women per annum (240 over the life of the project) in affordable and appropriate private rental housing.

## EXEMPLAR GRANTS





# EDUCATION

PROGRAM MANAGER  
**RIKKI ANDREWS**

*Left: The Great to Eight research agenda will guide investment to improve outcomes for children. Image courtesy of ARACY.*

*Right: Students benefit greatly from Cool Australia's free-to-access lesson plans.*



 **26**  
EOIS RECEIVED

 **11**  
SITE VISITS

 **17**  
FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED

 **8**  
GRANTS APPROVED

 **\$2.1m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- To support innovative programs delivered to young children (ages 0–8) that aim to improve school readiness (as measured by the Australian Early Development Census) and/or foster parental engagement in their children's learning.
- To support the development of evidence and shared measurement tools for the early childhood sector.

## REVIEW

This year six grants were awarded in the Education Program, and an additional two grants were awarded to educational programs through The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift.

Fiscal 2019 was the first year applications were considered under the revised Education guidelines. This program seeks to support a small number of projects that aim to undertake significant pieces of strategic exploration or are innovative expansions of successful existing programs.

This year, two grants were awarded to the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Limited (ARACY), one of which is featured in this report. The other grant is focused on assisting ARACY in determining a national strategy on early learning and literacy.

This Education grant is complemented by a grant from The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift to 100 Story Building to expand their creative writing workshops for children and embed the programs within schools.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*



## EXEMPLAR GRANTS



### Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Limited (ARACY)

\$368,500 over three years

#### A Decadal Plan for Early Childhood Research

ARACY received an Education grant to develop a decadal plan to identify research needs and priorities for the early childhood sector. The Decadal Plan for Early Childhood Research is a nationally significant project to set an ambitious but achievable 10-year research agenda for early childhood development in Australia to drive improved outcomes. The published plan will be used by policymakers, funders, academics and philanthropists to better coordinate and fund research for greater impact.

The ultimate goal of the decadal plan is to ensure future research is targeted, sequential and relevant, and that implementation of programs will improve school readiness and foster parental engagement in children's learning.

This project is timely as Early Childhood Development has been identified as a whole of government issue by the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership, with the Federal Opposition also committed to early childhood funding to ensure better education and child development initiatives for 3 and 4-year olds.

ARACY will develop the plan through collaborative consultation with all stakeholders and will be actively disseminated across Australia.

### The University of Wollongong

\$500,000 across three years

#### Supporting effective service integration through ECEC centres serving families in isolated and vulnerable settings

It is recognised that earlier intervention, service access, family support, and exposure to high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) maximises child outcomes. Unfortunately, the children who would benefit most from these services are the least likely to receive them, particularly in regional and remote contexts. As part of the University's Early Start program, this project will develop systems, capacity and an evaluation framework to achieve effective service integration through ECEC services serving such communities.

Early Start currently partners with 41 ECEC centres across NSW and ACT accessed by 2300 children and their families. Each centre is either community operated or affiliated with a non-profit organisation, and the majority are in regional or remote locations dealing with high proportions of children and families with complex issues, high staff turnover, geographical isolation, and challenges accessing resources.

Over four years, Early Start will work collaboratively with five existing partner centres to build their capacity and local leadership, influence quality practice, improve service accessibility and utilisation, and staff retention. The aim is to develop a systematic and sustainable model of service integration tailored to regional and remote contexts that can be transferred to other regional and remote areas.

## THE ALEC PRENTICE SEWELL GIFT

### Cool Australia

\$300,000 across three years

#### The Democratisation of Science

Cool Australia will collaborate with leading Australian scientific organisations to create curriculum-aligned resources for school students and their teachers. Cool Australia will also partner with ClimateWorks and the Australian Data Science Education Institute, among others to develop teaching resources from evidence-based research to improve climate change knowledge at primary and secondary school level.

This project will also develop online professional development that builds teachers' data literacy and confidence to deliver science research. By providing professional development to schools from regional, Indigenous and low SES backgrounds, this will increase the opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to learn about and care for the environment.

# HEALTH & DISABILITY

PROGRAM MANAGER  
DR ALBERTO FURLAN

Left: Chris Varney, Founder and Chief Enabler and Carla Burn, Online Network Leader, I CAN Network.

Right: A Civic Crew.

Below: SANE Australia staff member providing mental health support via the SANE helpline.



 **117**  
EOIS RECEIVED

 **17**  
SITE VISITS

 **30**  
FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED

 **11**  
GRANTS APPROVED

 **\$2.3m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- Improve health outcomes for the Australian community through public health initiatives with a particular emphasis on mental health, Indigenous health and health in rural and remote areas.
- Encourage innovative approaches to increasing employment opportunities for individuals with disability.

## REVIEW

This year in the Health & Disability program grants were awarded to organisations to either improve or expand service models that had been tested and proven successful in the recent past.

The social enterprise methodology continues to be one of the preferred methods to provide employment opportunities as it provides a safe and supportive environment for people who need that in order to thrive in the work environment.

We continued to see organisations utilising digital technology to more effectively provide support services which are targeted and personal. Two such grants are featured here.

Sites visits were conducted for all shortlisted applicants across the country, continuing the Foundation's commitment to grantseekers to engage and learn directly from those at the coal face about the needs of their community.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*





### I CAN Network Ltd

\$200,000 over two and half years

**Online Mentoring: A gateway to enhanced identity, connectivity and employment opportunities for autistic people**

This grant will support I CAN Network to scale up its online mentoring program for young people on the Autism spectrum. I CAN Network will build a suite of online mentoring programs for Autistic young people that will be self-funding by 2021 and predominantly staffed by Autistic adults. They aim to reach as many Autistic young people in Australia as possible in the 10–20 age range, helping them develop pride, social connections and valuable life skills through a readily accessible medium.

Online delivery of I Can Network's proven Autistic-led mentoring services offers the best opportunity to significantly expand the number of young people they support while concurrently increasing paid employment opportunities for Autistic mentors.

### SANE Australia

\$337,000 over three years

**SANE Assist: Strategic capability transformation of the SANE Help Centre**

SANE Assist will support the transformation of SANE Australia's Help Centre services to provide thousands of people affected by mental illness with integrated online and telephone support.

This project is a strategic capability transformation of the SANE Help Centre, the only support service of its kind in Australia for people affected by complex mental health issues.

This three-year initiative aims to enhance and scale-up SANE's capacity to provide specialised, professional supports to 40,000 Australians per year by 2022, particularly those living in rural and regional areas.

Through the development and trial of an enhanced service model, supported by robust clinical governance and data reporting systems, this project will inform the development of a business case to secure ongoing funding from the Federal Government.

### Civic Disability Services Limited

\$320,000 over three years

**Civic Crews**

Civic Crews is a new social enterprise and employment program for adults with disability. Civic Disability Services (Civic) recognises that meaningful roles within the community, such as employment, significantly contribute to addressing the increasing issues of social isolation and marginalisation, both of which have wide-ranging effects on wellbeing.

Civic Crews provides workplace and employment opportunities within the community as part of a supported team environment. The crews comprise two or four supported employees plus a support worker. Crews will be employed in an open employment environment, for example, landscaping or administration. This approach is designed to offer employment, foster social inclusion for people with disabilities and educate employers about the value of diversity in the workplace.

The Civic Crews model has been developed by Civic through a successful pilot program with two partners.

## EXEMPLAR GRANTS





# MEDICAL RESEARCH

PROGRAM MANAGER  
DR ALBERTO FURLAN

*Left: Dr Gerard Kaiko, a researcher of personalised medicines for lung and intestinal diseases at the University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute.*

*Right: Image courtesy of Cerebral Palsy Alliance.*



 **18**  
SITE VISITS

 **34**  
FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED

 **15**  
GRANTS APPROVED

 **\$2.3m**  
TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- To advance understanding and improve treatment of major diseases by supporting major initiatives by leading Australian research institutes, universities and teaching hospitals in innovative biomedical research.
- To support the provision of equipment and capital infrastructure to support outstanding research groups.

## REVIEW

The Foundation continued to support the capacity of research institutions to foster an environment that leads to breakthrough discoveries. This year grants awarded included support for purchasing of major medical research equipment and strategic projects to share and facilitate the use of data on specific diseases and systematic medical reviews.

In the age of ‘work smarter not harder’ the grants awarded by the Foundation in Medical Research prioritised projects that had collaboration between research institutions at their core fostering a culture of sharing and striving towards a common goal.

The emphasis on collaboration also rang true on the funding side as several projects supported by the Foundation were co-funded by other philanthropic foundations.

We are encouraged by this funding approach and will continue to seek co-funding opportunities in the Medical Research program.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*



## EXEMPLAR GRANTS

### Cerebral Palsy Alliance

\$150,000 over one and a half years

**The CP Commons: a large-scale informatics platform to drive international genomic research in cerebral palsy**

The CP Commons is a large-scale informatics platform that manages the storage, integration and sharing of multidimensional data collected from participants with cerebral palsy and their families to understand the molecular basis of cerebral palsy. The primary outcome of this project is a data repository that will significantly benefit further research into cerebral palsy and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Genomics offers an opportunity to revolutionise health care, but before its utility can be realised, we need to better understand the underlying biology of many disorders.

Cerebral palsy – a lifelong condition for which there is no cure – is one such condition mired by complex causal pathways that are incompletely understood. By pooling data, researchers stand a better chance to discover patterns otherwise obscured in small cohorts, and this may, in turn, identify common biological pathways and processes involved in neurodevelopment and cerebral palsy.

### Veritas Health Innovation Ltd

\$400,000 over two years

**Building the long-term sustainability of the Covidence mission**

This grant supports the scaling up of Covidence, an innovative online platform that accelerates research into action by streamlining systematic review.

This grant follows the Foundation's earlier grant of \$200,000 in 2017, which supported Covidence's expansion to reach international customers. Covidence now has over 60,000 users globally in the medical research sector.

Veritas Health Innovations Ltd (Veritas) has also been able to gain additional philanthropic funding from the Ramsay Foundation and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, both of whom were original co-funders with The Ian Potter Foundation in 2017.

In conjunction with the Foundation's latest \$400,000 grant, Veritas now has \$2m in additional philanthropic support allowing Covidence to capitalise on rapidly emerging opportunities, scale its operations and achieve long-term financial sustainability.

### The University of Newcastle: Faculty of Health and Medicine

\$100,000

**10xGenomics platform for single cell sequencing to identify targets and diagnostics in human disease**

This grant enables The University of Newcastle: Faculty of Health and Medicine to purchase the 10xGenomics Chromium System to high throughput sequence large numbers of single cells from patient samples.

This revolutionary technology allows never before seen resolution of genetic networks at the single cell level, which will produce tremendous new potential for insights into human disease pathogenesis. This equipment will enable many researchers at the University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) to identify new diagnostics and new targets for therapy in a range of human diseases using this transformative single cell platform.

It will aid understanding of disease development in almost every area of biomedical research – including cancer, stroke, heart disease, neurological conditions, asthma, cystic fibrosis, inflammatory bowel disease and fertility.



# SCIENCE

PROGRAM MANAGER  
LAUREN MONAGHAN

Left: Julie Percival from James Cook University collecting *Rhodamnia longisepala*. Roughly a dozen plants of this species are known. Image by Stuart Worboys.

Right: This beautiful plant, Rose myrtle (*Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*), produces seeds that are tolerant of drying but do not appear to be tolerant of freezing. Rose myrtle is one of the target species for the project 'Looking inside' rainforest seeds. Image credit: Graeme Errington.



32

EOIS RECEIVED



28

SITE VISITS



21

FULL APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED



8

GRANTS APPROVED



\$2.8m

TOTAL VALUE OF  
GRANTS APPROVED

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- To support high-quality scientific research programs led by post-doc researchers with preference for research relating to the fields of environmental science and renewable energy.
- To encourage the development of fellowship programs available to early career researchers in the fields of environmental science and renewable energy.
- To support projects and infrastructure that enhance science communication skills and capacity, translate research and embed ongoing collaboration in the sector.

## REVIEW

In 2018 the Foundation's Science Program was open with revised funding guidelines. In recognition of the profound impact of climate change the Foundation has chosen to direct its Science program funding towards mitigating the effects of climate change and creating a sustainable future for Australia.

Despite a narrowed focus, the sheer volume of grant enquiries was staggering, illustrating the scarcity of funding available for scientific research in this area. As always, the number of quality applications far exceeded the available funding.

Given the new focus of the program, many of the grants awarded this year had a clear vision for mitigating plant species loss in the face of changing climate. While some are committed to conserving biodiversity, particularly for plants as habitats change, others, such as the Deakin University project 'Local SDGs: A general framework for charting pathways to sustainability to future-proof local communities', focused on building the resilience of local communities to thrive and prosper sustainably.

We were particularly pleased to note the high degree of collaboration occurring throughout the environmental research community recognising that the greatest impact can be achieved through working together.

*To read the full list of grants in this program area, please refer to the grants database on our website.*



**James Cook University:  
Science, Engineering &  
Information Technology**

\$500,000 over five years

**Securing the future of Australia's threatened  
tropical mountain flora for science and society**

The Australian Wet Tropics contain mountaintop ecosystems which are globally unique and home to many species which are found nowhere else on earth.

Climate modelling now predicts drastic habitat loss from the highlands within as little as 15 years, with droughts being longer, hotter, drier and more frequent. These plants, which rely on the cool tropical mountaintops more than 1000 metres above sea level, are at serious risk of losing their habitat.

This grant will enable James Cook University researchers and their research partners to collect samples and secure climate-threatened tropical mountaintop plants by building a multi-strategy ex-situ conservation reserve to backup at-risk wild populations and support research, display and education.

**The Trustee for Royal Botanic  
Gardens and Domain Trust (NSW)**

\$300,000 over three years

**'Looking inside' rainforest seeds:  
Fast-tracking rainforest seed conservation  
to protect this disappearing ecosystem**

Rainforests are home to over half of all plants and animals in the world. They provide food, water, oxygen and medicines, and regulate our climate. However, rainforests are rapidly disappearing due to deforestation, plant disease and climate change.

While conservation through seed banking is straightforward for many plant species, rainforest plants often have characteristics preventing their conservation by traditional means. Current techniques for understanding these characteristics are laborious, time-consuming and often inconclusive.

This project will fast-track rainforest seed conservation, investigating what happens inside seeds as they freeze and thaw that makes them difficult to conserve using standard seed banking techniques.

Using Differential Scanning Calorimetry, this project will determine the temperatures at which seed damage occurs and customise storage conditions for each species tested, significantly improving outcomes for rainforest conservation in Australia and worldwide.

**Royal Botanic Gardens Board (VIC)**

\$500,000 over five years

**Genomes of Australian Plants (GAP):  
Building capacity and infrastructure across  
Australia's herbaria and botanic gardens**

This national collaboration will bring together leading Australian scientists in the field of plant biodiversity to improve our understanding of Australia's unique plant tree of life using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS). NGS sequencing and assembly of Australian plant genomes using Bioplatforms Australia will provide new tools for systematics and conservation.

The project will deploy funding to identify, sample and prepare appropriate specimens from living collections, assemble sequence data, engage computational biologists to train the plant diversity community in the use of NGS through capacity building workshops, and produce publications. The result will be a long-lasting genomic infrastructure and step change in Australia's plant genomics capability.

EXEMPLAR  
GRANTS

# MAJOR GRANTS

*Left: The Hon Damian Drum MP, Federal Member for Nicholls; a Wintringham resident and Bryan Lipmann CEO of Wintringham.*

*Right: Warddeken Daluk Ranger Elizabeth Dulbin Nabarlambarl entering data from rock art surveys into a bi-lingual database – to safeguard traditional knowledge and language for the future.*



**SITE VISITS**



**FULL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**



**GRANTS APPROVED**



**TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS APPROVED**

## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

As of October 2017, the Board of The Ian Potter Foundation committed to focusing its major grant funding in key areas. From 2017 to 2019 the Board agreed to consider:

- large-scale projects designed to benefit Indigenous Australians, that are consistent with the Foundation’s funding guidelines for Indigenous projects, and
- demonstration projects that seek to build accommodation for the homeless, such projects to be potentially scalable and replicable nationally.

More recently, the Board agreed that for the 2019 to 2021 years inclusive, it would also consider transformative projects in the environment and public health realms as prospective major grants.

In the environment area, the Foundation will particularly focus on support for environmental programs with a strong evidence base, seeking to better manage Australia’s fresh water resources in urban and regional areas.

In the public health area, the Board will consider programs that focus on the prevention and treatment of mental health conditions; and the identification of policy and/or project opportunities to improve health services delivery.

## REVIEW

In December 2018, the board considered seven applications from sector-leading organisations embarking on transformational projects. After detailed consideration, four major grants were awarded.

Major grants were awarded to Karrkad Kanjdji Trust and World Vision Australia in support of large-scale projects designed to benefit and strengthen Indigenous Australian communities.

A major grant was also awarded to Wintringham Housing Ltd to help fund a multi-million dollar capital project to provide additional and much needed social housing units for older homeless people in and around Shepparton.

The fourth major grant of \$2.5 million was awarded to The Nature Conservancy, to be paid over five years to assist in the purchase of land in the Great Cumbung Swamp in the Riverina in NSW, as part of the Nimmie-Caira Project which aims to balance environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage protection with sustainable use to create an asset that benefits the local Indigenous community whilst also benefiting an important wetland of the Murray–Darling Basin.



## Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

Program Manager: Louise Arkles

\$1,770,000 over five years

### Warddeken Indigenous Rangers: protecting country and cultural heritage

The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, in partnership with Warddeken Land Management Ltd, will employ Indigenous Rangers to systematically record and conserve cultural heritage, particularly rock art, in West Arnhem Land – recording and protecting what is arguably the largest collection of undocumented, and threatened, rock art galleries in the world. This project will be entirely Indigenous owned and led, with a strong emphasis on conserving the cultural heritage of the rock art.

Building on two years of community consultation, this project is designed to assist Indigenous land owners to position themselves at the forefront of cultural heritage management. After the completion of a successful pilot, the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust is scaling up this project that will see the entire area systematically surveyed, near lost traditional knowledge recorded, and actions taken to protect art from being destroyed.

This project directly impacts the livelihoods and wellbeing of 125 Indigenous Rangers and families who live and work on country. This meaningful employment has proven flow on benefits in enhanced self-esteem, empowerment, pride and improved health outcomes.

## Wintringham Housing Ltd

Program Manager: Dr Alberto Furlan

\$2,500,000 over five years

### Shepparton housing for the elderly homeless

The grant will enable Wintringham to realise a \$10 million capital project to provide additional and much needed social housing units in Shepparton, a site that is co-located with an existing Wintringham housing development and support service office. The 32 new units will provide permanent housing that will be exclusively available to members of the local community (Goulburn Valley region) who are over 50, homeless or at risk of homelessness and assessed as needing priority housing. Each unit will incorporate universal design principles and meet the 7-star energy rating.

The project highlights what can be achieved through partnership and common goals between philanthropics, Victorian government, other concerned organisations (e.g. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation; Victorian branch) and specialist service providers such as Wintringham.



## World Vision Australia

Program Manager: Nicole Bortone

\$2,237,500 over five years

### Derby Region Aboriginal Early Childhood Care and Development Program

This grant supports World Vision Australia (WVA) in scaling up a regional network of community-based Aboriginal Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in the Derby region of the Kimberleys in Western Australia.

This next phase is an expansion of the successful ECCD program. With six centres already in place, this expansion will bring early childhood services to all major communities in the Derby region, supporting over 500 children aged 0–4 years and their parents.

There is a clear need for early childhood services for these communities as Indigenous children living in remote areas are some of the most educationally disadvantaged children in Australia.

The WVA program integrates learnings from over 60 countries, as well as those from the first program iteration and evaluation in Central Australia. In the Pilbara region, the program has contributed to a significant increase in the number of children developmentally on-track over a three-year period.

This grant will assist WVA to employ local Aboriginal early childhood community development facilitators, establish early childhood reference groups which will be responsible for championing and driving the early childhood agendas in their communities, and establish supported playgroups for parents and caregivers and their young children.

## The Nature Conservancy Trust

Grant Manager: Craig Connelly

\$2,500,000 over three and a half years

### The Juanbung and Boyong land purchase (The Cumbung) to extend the Nimmie-Caira aggregation and protect these nationally significant wetlands

This grant is towards the purchase of 34 hectares of land in the Great Cumbung Swamp in the Riverina in NSW, to ensure its conservation and to mitigate future unsustainable development. The purchase complements an adjacent land purchase and is part of the Nimmie-Caira Project. It is an investment to conserve these significant wetlands and help to mitigate future unsustainable development of this environmentally sensitive and culturally significant tract of land.

The Nimmie-Caira Project aims to balance environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage protection with commercial use to create an asset for the long term economic, environmental and cultural benefit of the local community and the Murray–Darling Basin.



# FINANCE & INVESTMENT

During the financial year the Finance Committee met on four occasions and the Audit Committee met on two occasions.

## MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN 2018–2019:

Mr Anthony Burgess (Chairman)  
 Mr Charles Goode AC  
 Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, CB, QC  
 Mr Allan Myers AC, QC  
 The Hon Alex Chernov AC, QC  
 Mr Craig Drummond (by invitation)

## MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE IN 2018–2019:

The Hon Alex Chernov AC, QC (Chairman)  
 Mr Anthony Burgess  
 Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, CB, QC  
 Mr Charles Goode AC (by invitation)

The Board extend their appreciation to Pitcher Partners who provide audit services to the Foundation and administered entities.

Directors have set a preliminary distribution target of \$30.3m for IPF in the 2019–2020 financial year. The corpus of The Ian Potter Foundation is invested in a diversified portfolio including listed investment companies, managed funds and ETFs. The corpus is managed by members of the Finance Committee.

	2018–2019	2017–2018
	\$	\$
Portfolio market value	712,768,199	665,276,571
Distributions	28,430,151	25,845,117
Cumulative distributions	325M	299M
Distributable income 2017–2018	37,261,158	37,490,366
Future commitments	74,498,464	57,869,073

COMBINED OPERATING EXPENSES	2019	2018
Operating expenses	\$2,454,730	\$2,071,538
Operating expenses as a % of distributions made	8.60%	8.02%
Operating expenses as a % of net assets	0.36%	0.32%

1. Note – the distributable income is the total of the investment income and donations

2. Note – future commitments includes current and non-current combined

3. Note – operating expenses includes loss on sale of investments

4. Note – operating expenses as a % of net assets – net assets include grant commitments





The Ian Potter  
Foundation

THE IAN POTTER  
FOUNDATION

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