

EVOLVING



The Ian Potter
Foundation

Annual Grants Report 2019–20

ianpotter.org.au

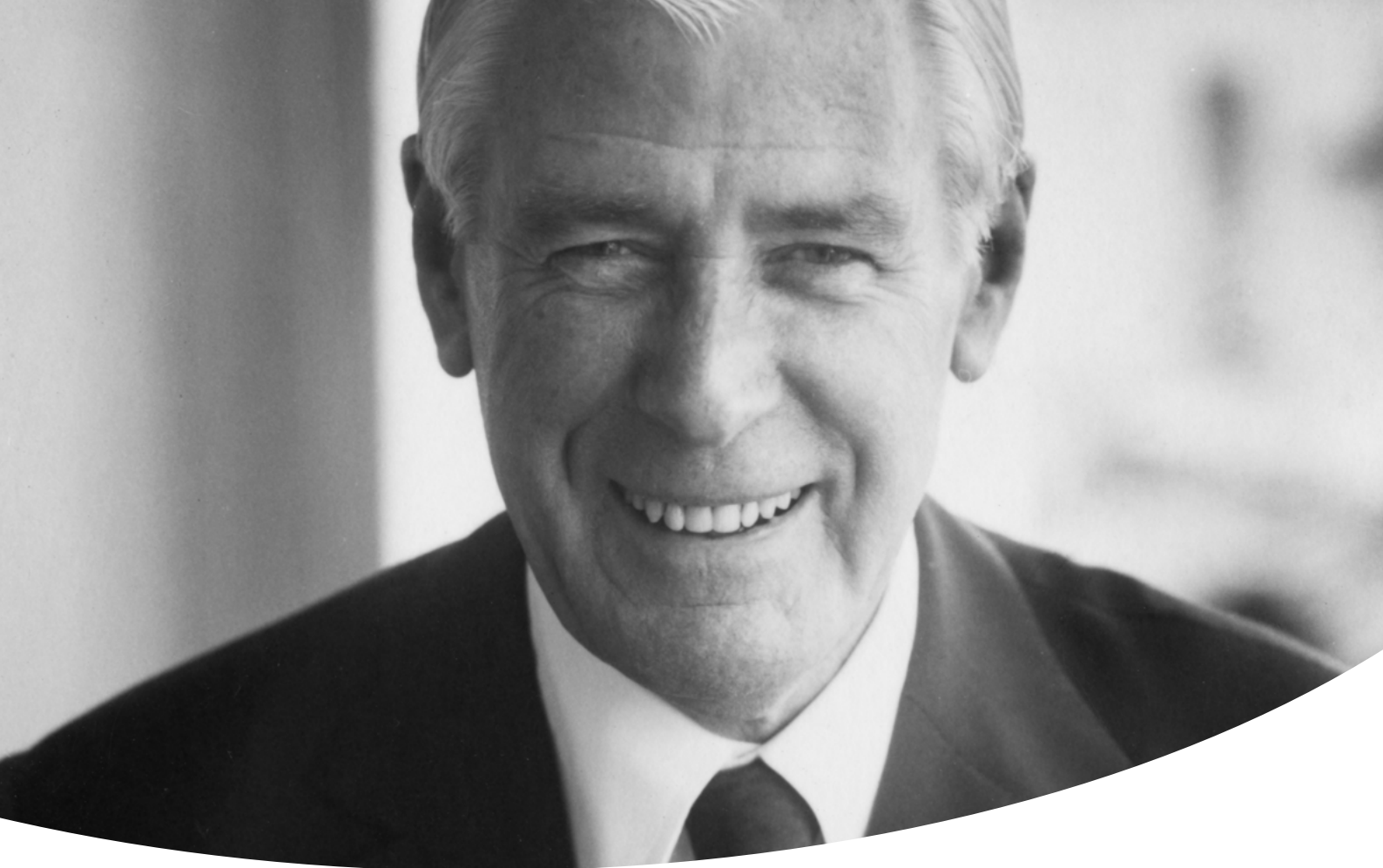
The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors and endeavours.

Welcome	1
Board & Staff	2
About the Foundation	3
Chairman's Report	4
Chief Executive Officer's Report	6
Evolving & Learning	8
Grants awarded 2019–20	20
Facts & Figures 2019–20	22
Feature Grants	23
Major Grants	30
Grants List	33
Finance & Investment	36

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Cover Image: Soil Carbon Co's Tegan Nock and Abed Chaudhury with ANU's Ming Dao Chia and Wolfram Buss at the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility in Canberra. See further information on p. 29.

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



Welcome

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

\$355m+

Board & Staff

CHAIRMAN



Mr Charles B Goode AC

STAFF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Craig Connelly

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGERS

Alberto Furlan

Louise Arkles

Nicole Bortone

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Lauren Monaghan

Subhadra Mistry

Mairead Phillips

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OFFICER

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 McCullum

FINANCE OFFICER

Viktoria Kritharelis

GOVERNORS



Lady Potter AC, CMRI
(Life Governor)



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
(resigned from Board November 2019)



Professor Thomas Healy AO
(resigned from Board November 2019)



Professor Richard Larkins AC



Mr Allan Myers AC, QC



Professor Brian Schmidt AC



Professor Fiona Stanley AC

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.

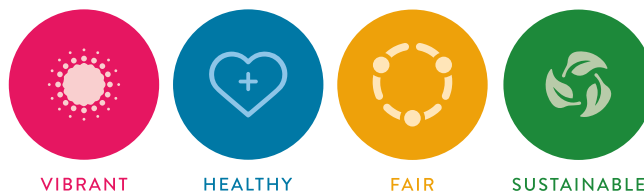
Grants are made through program areas which reflect Sir Ian's interest in the arts, and his visionary approach to issues concerning the environment, science, medical research, education and community wellbeing.

In 2015-16 the Foundation's Board decided to separate Major Grants within its grantmaking program. Through the Major Grants stream, the Foundation seeks to fund iconic or significant projects in nominated areas. These projects are by invitation only, with select applications considered once a year by the Foundation's Board of Governors.

Since 1964, The Ian Potter Foundation has contributed over \$355 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.

FUNDING PILLARS

In 2019–20, The Ian Potter Foundation introduced four new funding pillars that align with the four elements of its vision: Vibrant, Healthy, Fair and Sustainable. Each pillar supports program areas, with specific funding guidelines for each program area.



VIBRANT	ARTS
HEALTHY	MEDICAL RESEARCH
	PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH
FAIR	COMMUNITY WELLBEING
	EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABLE	ENVIRONMENT

Details on these specific program areas and their funding guidelines are set out on p.20.

The Foundation also manages the Alec Prentice Sewell Gift which continues to award grants supporting disadvantaged children through the Early Childhood Development, Community Wellbeing and Arts program areas.

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

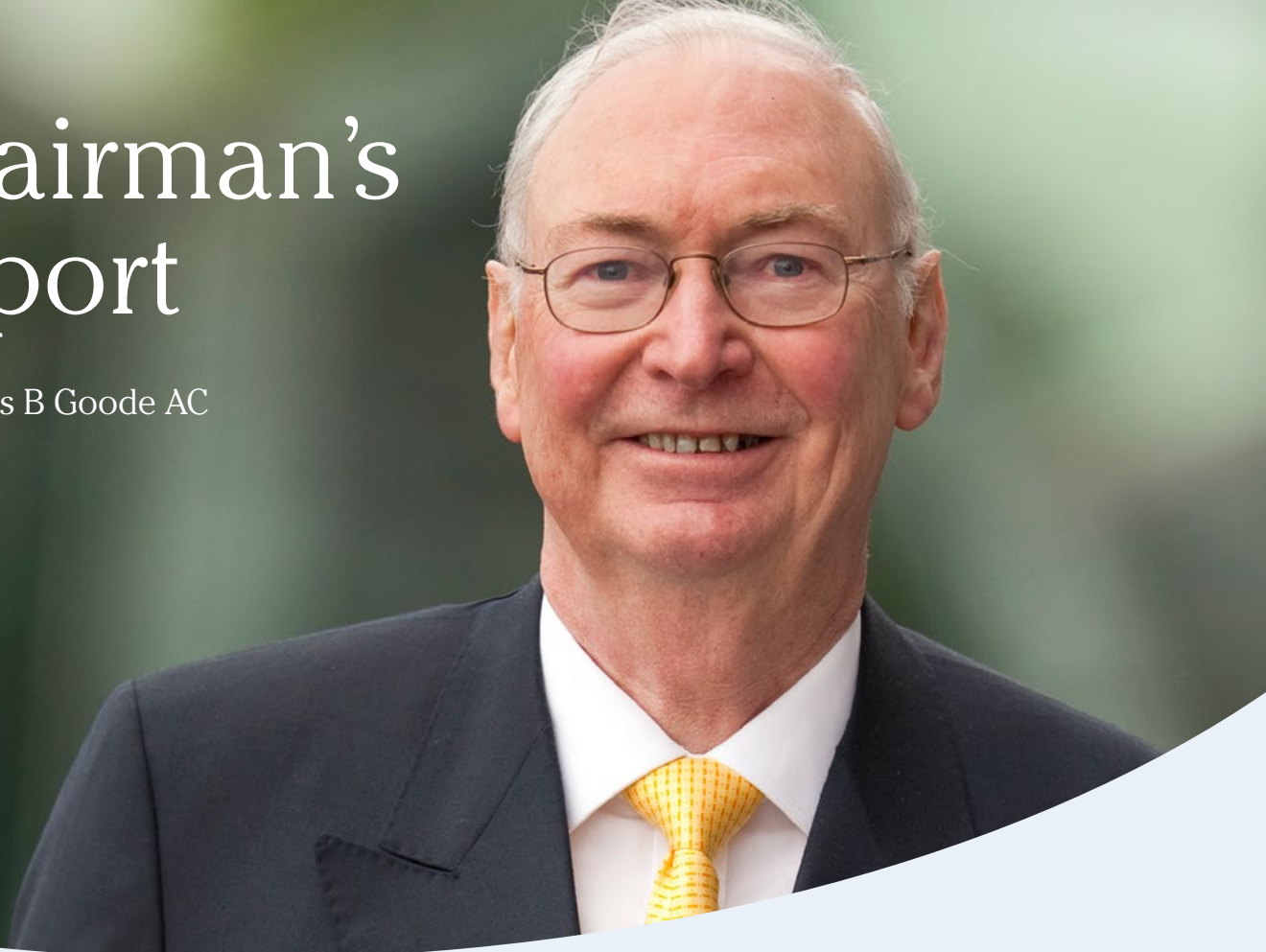
We try to fund projects that will continue to have an impact well beyond the period of our grant. The long-term sustainability of the project is an important consideration.

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.

Chairman's Report

Mr Charles B Goode AC



The 2019–20 period was certainly one of extremes. Over the summer months, many parts of Australia suffered from devastating bushfires which are still impacting many communities. Then, as Australians worked to recover and regroup from these local disasters, the world was hit by the coronavirus pandemic which is likely to affect all sectors and communities for the foreseeable future.

The pressures on the economy and our community have been considerable and the philanthropic sector has done its part in assisting the not-for-profit sector by providing additional support to those organisations experiencing greater need.

In 2019–20, the Foundation awarded 94 grants totalling \$29.0 million of which \$17.5m was awarded to 85 grantees across its four funding pillars, \$10.5 million supports four major grants and \$1.0 million was awarded to Sector Support and Alec Prentice Sewell Gift grants.

In the Sustainable Pillar, \$6.6 million was awarded via 17 grants supporting applied environmental scientific research projects and on-ground natural environment conservation projects.

In the Healthy Pillar, 30 grants totalling \$5.6 million were awarded for the provision of equipment and infrastructure for

outstanding medical research groups and translational public health research conducted by tertiary institutions, medical research institutes or public health organisations.

Under the Fair Pillar, \$2.7 million was awarded to 23 Community Wellbeing grants and \$2.1 million was awarded to 13 Early Childhood Development grants. Two grants totalling \$0.5 million were awarded under the Vibrant pillar.

Back in December 2019, when speaking at the opening of The Ian Potter Queen's Hall at the State Library of Victoria, I reflected on the importance of long-standing institutions and the significant part that philanthropy plays in supporting great public institutions so they may endure and continue to meet the needs of the wider community. At that time, little did any of us know what lay in store for the year ahead. I trust the loss of face-to-face social connection many of us endured during 2020 ultimately evolves into an enhanced appreciation of these public institutions in the years ahead.

At the Foundation, we seek to learn from all that we do, adjusting our processes as our grant making evolves. One example of this evolution is the Foundation's partnership with The Myer Foundation to create a national, independent centre focused on improving decision-making around the management of Australia's fresh water and catchments.

The Foundation's decision in September 2019 to award a major grant of \$5 million over ten years, matched by The Myer Foundation, to the Australian Academy of Science, represented a \$10 million aggregate funding commitment towards a larger funding goal of at least \$35 million to ensure the successful establishment of the Australian Water and Catchment Centre.



Gala opening of The Ian Potter Queen's Hall, a central part of the State Library of Victoria's Vision 2020 project to renovate and re-invigorate this 160-year-old public institution.

Since that time, more than a dozen Australian philanthropic foundations have joined us, committing an additional \$21.5 million over ten years that will support the establishment of the Centre. The success of this fundraising effort encourages us to continue pursuing further collaborative philanthropic investment in other large-scale catalytic initiatives important to Australia's future prosperity.

In late 2019, two long-serving Governors Professor Thomas Healy AO and The Honourable Sir James Gobbo AC CVO QC, retired from our Board.

We thank both our retiring Governors for their dedicated, knowledgeable and insightful contribution to our discussions and decisions on grants. We wish them both well in their retirement.

Lastly, we recognise the exceptional contribution of Craig Connelly and his staff during the difficult conditions caused by COVID-19 and congratulate the entire team on maintaining our operations during these challenging times.



Professor Thomas Healy served on the Board for 28 years, including the Education, Science and Environment & Conservation Committees. As Chair of the Environment & Conservation Committee, Professor Healy engaged with many large conservation projects and key environmental research organisations. Professor Healy was instrumental in the Foundation supporting significant science-based environmental initiatives such as ClimateWorks Australia and the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. Professor Healy was admired by his fellow Board members for his curiosity, passion and energy.



Sir James Gobbo served as a Board member for 18 years and chaired the Community Wellbeing (formerly Social Welfare) Committee. Sir James' primary interest lay in addressing our community's social needs. Sir James particularly championed the 50th Anniversary Commemorative grant (\$500,000) awarded to STREAT to assist them to establish their Collingwood premises and to continue their work to support youth at risk of homelessness. Another project Sir James advocated strongly was Victoria University's Sunshine Skills Hub which was the recipient of a \$5 million major grant in 2016. Sir James was admired by his fellow Board members for his integrity, empathy and personal involvement in assisting the disadvantaged in our community, whether young or old, and encouraging education, whether at the University level or in the development of important trades.



In December 2019, Charles Goode AC; Governors of The Ian Potter Foundation; the Hon. Daniel Andrews, Premier of Victoria; Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC and other dignitaries attended the gala opening of The Ian Potter Queen's Hall.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr Craig Connelly



The past year has brought great challenges environmentally, economically and socially. Over five months Australia experienced its worst bushfire season in living memory. Then, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we have experienced an economic crisis and social restrictions of a scale not experienced for almost 100 years.

This year has required us all to adapt and change, to support those around us who may have lost work, suffered in terms of mental or physical health, or even through the loss of someone close to them. I wish to thank all the staff of The Ian Potter Foundation for their resilience and professionalism to continue to fulfil the vision and mission of the Foundation in the face of such significant personal and professional challenges.

The Foundation Board and management continue to focus on supporting outstanding charitable organisations, investing in Australia's innovative and creative people seeking to protect our environment, alleviating disadvantage, developing Australia's artistic and cultural fabric, and providing developmental opportunities to our children and promoting good health for all.

During this time of enormous disruption and challenge, our grant making focussed on supporting:

- outstanding organisations with untied operational funding
- innovative and collaborative translational research projects, and
- leveraging our funding with like-minded funders wherever possible to support vulnerable sectors of our community to the greatest extent possible.

As an immediate response to the impact of COVID-19, the Foundation advised grantees they could reallocate existing project funding into operational funding on an 'as required' basis and extend any progress reporting requirements by at least six months.

Our program management team also proactively engaged with existing partner organisations to determine in which way we could assist them to adapt their services to meet public health requirements or develop new methods of operation to ensure ongoing viability.

In April 2020, the Foundation awarded approximately \$1.1 million in COVID-19 focused grants, including seven Community Support grants totalling \$535,000, co-funding (\$500,000) with the Victorian and Australian governments and other philanthropic funders the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce, and co-funding with the Minderoo Foundation a COVID-19 e-Learning platform for indigenous Australians.



Like many workplaces in 2020, the staff of the Foundation worked from home becoming very familiar with video telecommunications.

In addition to programmatic grants in 2019–20, the Foundation awarded two sector support grants to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Philanthropy Australia. FRRR received a grant for \$200,000 to help build Australia's Community Foundations network as developing community foundations' capabilities in the coming years will provide a bedrock of local support for many vulnerable Australians. Philanthropy Australia received \$150,000 to support its continued leadership and advocacy work as the philanthropy sector's peak body.

While the social and economic cost of the unfolding public health and economic crisis has been devastating for many people and their communities, it is important to remember that sustaining a healthy environment underpins our ability to maintain a cohesive, functioning and sustainable society.

Over 2019–20, The Ian Potter Foundation maintained its environmental funding focus with over \$11m in grants made to strategic and impactful environmental initiatives that aim to restore, protect and advocate for vital natural resources. This year, the Foundation awarded 17 program area grants in the Sustainable pillar and one significant \$5 million major grant.

In late 2019, in partnership with The Myer Foundation (which also committed \$5 million to this project), both Foundations launched an initiative to establish an independent water policy centre. The aim of the centre will be to assist Australia to sustainably manage its fresh water resources, specifically by working with local communities and all relevant stakeholders to develop enduring water and catchment policy reforms.

This undertaking is the result of more than two years of detailed research and analysis, assisted by specialist firms

consulting with a national and international group of experts. Since September 2019, both foundations have been joined by 14 other Australian foundations, securing an additional \$21.5 million in funding commitments that have allowed us to announce the establishment of the Australian Water and Catchment Centre.

I commend the boards of every partner foundation for agreeing to apply their risk capital and gravitas to such an important national issue. The establishment of a national, independent organisation focused solely on improving Australia's sustainable management of such a precious resource is an exciting initiative of which The Ian Potter Foundation is very proud.

In 2019–20, we witnessed the destruction of large parts of our country by ferocious bushfires making Australia the proverbial "canary in the climate change coal mine". We experienced a global health pandemic that upended fundamental aspects of our lives and further hit hard many regional bushfire-ravaged communities which barely had time to survey the destruction unleashed during our summer months, let alone begin economic recovery. We also saw strong leadership from Indigenous Australians, who very quickly informed and guided entire communities on how to protect themselves from the ravages of COVID-19. This reaffirms that a community empowered is an engaged and effective community.

There are lessons to be learnt, for all of us. I pledge to continue to reflect on these lessons, as the Board, my team and I continue to seek to improve our efforts to develop a fair, healthy, sustainable and vibrant Australia.

Evolving & Learning

A review of past grants:
what was achieved, what was learnt,
what's the impact and what's next.

GRANT AMOUNT \$118,000	GRANT AMOUNT \$240,000
YEAR 2016	YEAR 2017

ORGANISATION

Social Ventures Australia Limited
(SVA)

PROJECT

The Bright Spots Schools
Connection (The Connection)

GRANT PURPOSE

The Bright Spot Schools Connection (The Connection) is a program designed to capture the work, insights and knowledge of schools located in communities that are experiencing disadvantage yet are providing exceptional education opportunities for their students. The program's aim is to grow and replicate these 'bright spots' by helping these schools document and refine their practices and then collaboratively share their learnings with others.

BACKGROUND

The Connection recognises that supporting exceptional education practice in communities experiencing disadvantage is a powerful driver for the reduction of disadvantage in Australia. By partnering with school leaders across Australia and connecting them, The Connection accelerates and spreads evidence-based, transformative and collaborative practice across its network of schools located in low socio-economic areas.

The Connection also identifies and invests in Bright Spot schools that have demonstrated both excellent and developing outcomes despite challenging circumstances. However, those schools often remain isolated and struggle to share successful approaches. Spreading the capabilities and approaches of these schools is crucial to enabling system transformation that can impact equity in Australian education practice.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The goals of The Connection are to:

- Build sustainable learning networks to share effective practice and drive improvements in education outcomes across the Australian system.
- Support Bright Spot schools to build evidence of their change initiatives.
- Support adaptation and evolution of successful strategies in other schools through sharing, mentoring, and modelling.
- Increase school leader capability to impact student learning.
- Research and evaluate the ingredients for success to accelerate change in education systems across Australia.

APPROACH

SVA identifies Bright Spot schools in communities experiencing disadvantage and then supports these schools to grow their success across the long term. SVA does this by helping them to further build upon their approach and share their results with others via The Connection program and across state-based boundaries.

The Connection commenced in 2014 with eight exemplar schools (five in Victoria, three in NSW).

SVA established a five-year partnership with each of these 'Powerhouse' schools to create an evidence base about why their models have been successful, to build the leadership of these schools and to support these schools to become beacons for other schools/communities and sustain their success.

In 2015, the program was expanded to incorporate 18 apprentice schools (Star Hub schools), facilitating the dissemination of best practice to these schools by arranging site visits, mentoring and providing professional learning for practitioners. Another 10 Star Hub schools were added in 2016 and with the aid of the Foundation's grants the program expanded to 54 schools by 2018.

OUTCOMES

The latest and most comprehensive evaluation of The Connection by RMIT's Policy, Strategy and Impact team, *Unleashing the Power of the Collective in Education* (published September 2020), grouped improvements in teaching and learning within three key Insights (see below).

One of the challenges has been about how the initiative can more efficiently expand the work to reach schools located in communities experiencing disadvantage in rural and regional communities.

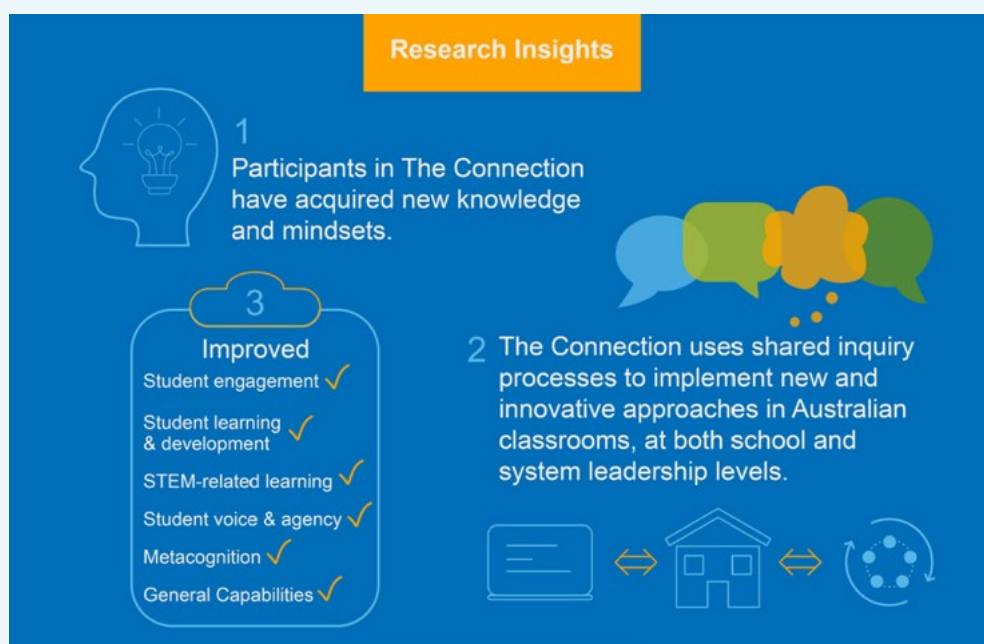
Travelling beyond urban centres is often cost prohibitive and resource intensive. This restricts the ability to engage some schools that could make both invaluable and important contributions to the network design and increase the diversity of education perspectives and experience within the group.

WHAT'S NEXT?

SVA now has a vision to reach over 1,000 schools and to support better learning and education outcomes for up to 500,000 students in disadvantaged communities by 2024. A key enabler to reach this scale will be government application, promotion, and finally, adoption of the network model.

SVA is developing virtual and online capability to complement the design by co-creating an innovative collaboration platform. The goal will be to provide more efficient access, and build inclusion of schools across different regions while enabling them to connect, share and collaborate across greater distances.

Further to this capability focus, SVA's intention is to incorporate a target group of early education educators to expand the diversity of the group and test the design across a broader spectrum of education practice.



“You can’t build high expectations unless you know what you can achieve, and you can’t know that until you see it in action at other schools. Being in The Connection has doubled our expectations of ourselves.”

— SA STAR HUB PRINCIPAL



GRANT AMOUNT

\$70,000

GRANT AMOUNT

\$100,000

YEAR

2016

YEAR

2018

ORGANISATION

Purpose Enterprises Limited (QLD)

PROJECT

Vanguard Laundry Career Development Centre

GRANT DESCRIPTION

To employ a career development manager overseeing the successful employment of individuals who are long-term unemployed and have a lived experience of mental health issues and to assist with the development of a new work placement program with partner employers.

BACKGROUND

Based in Toowoomba QLD, Vanguard Laundry Services (Vanguard) began in December 2016 as a social enterprise to provide supported employment for people who have a lived experience of mental health issues.

Individuals with mental health challenges are the most underemployed cohort amongst people with disabilities. Currently only about 20% are employed compared with 40% of people with physical disabilities and 45% of people with intellectual disabilities.

Established with substantial funding from philanthropy, government and impact investors, Vanguard has achieved exceptional outcomes. The business has grown quite rapidly from 2016, washing up to 40 tons of laundry per week (in 2019) for customers including hospitals, motels and mining camps.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Vanguard has a short to medium term goal of being a completely self-sustaining and a competitive social enterprise business, demonstrating both long-term thinking and sustainability.

Initially, the goal was to transition 12 individuals per year into open employment. In the long term Vanguard aims to transition at least 50% of people it supports into other mainstream workplaces.

APPROACH

Vanguard works with individuals on employment and other soft skills, while liaising with the mental health (and other) providers who also support the employees; known as the Individual Placement and Support model (IPS).

The Foundation has funded several projects that use the IPS methodology and all have proved to have far better results than the government standard disability employment support.

Vanguard also trialed a work experience transition program, paying Vanguard employees while they work for two weeks in one of the partnering corporates with the view of securing permanent positions. This provided flexibility to both employees and employers and facilitated a soft entry to open employment.

Vanguard also partnered with Swinburne University's Centre for Social Impact (CSI) to evaluate all the aspects of its operations, including the career pathways program. The research on the outcomes of the enterprise is the first longitudinal study of a social enterprise in Australia.

OUTCOMES

As of February 2019, 97% of evaluated individuals had gone on to reach their 26-week employment milestone, with only one member of the cohort of 33 leaving prior to this milestone, while 28 of those individuals had reached 52 weeks of employment.

Vanguard increased its staff size from 32 to 53 and now services more than 110 customers as far away as the NSW border and Brisbane. Vanguard has also created 50 work experience pathways for vulnerable people from the Toowoomba community, more than a quarter of which have resulted in direct employment, either at Vanguard or an external employer.

As well as sourcing willing work experience providers, Vanguard have found a significant number of local businesses willing to offer ongoing paid employment. To date they have facilitated 47 transitions from Vanguard Laundry into open employment.

There have also been other important individual benefits for the participants including increased social networks, reduced reliance on medication, increased physical health benefits and newly defined career goals for many of the Vanguard employees. Significantly, Vanguard also reported that, as a group, employees had reduced their days of hospitalisation in the mental health ward.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Needed more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic, Vanguard continues to support its staff and deliver social impact to its target cohort. The business looks to the future and is currently assessing future growth options including expansion of its initial site in Toowoomba, and further expansion to a second site.



Vanguard Laundry Services' mission is to build a sustainable social enterprise business with a positive open employment environment.

By offering supported pathways from unemployment to sustained and successful employment, employees improve their livelihoods and their overall economic inclusion creating a positive attitudinal shift in the broader community towards people living with mental health issues.



GRANT AMOUNT

\$250,000

YEARS

2017-2019

ORGANISATION

Hello Sunday Morning

PROJECT

Assistance with alcohol behaviour change through Digital Health Coaching

GRANT DESCRIPTION

To enhance the Daybreak program, a digital alcohol change program, through the development and implementation of a professional health coaching feature.

BACKGROUND

Only 30% of Australians who need support to reduce their drinking are able to access it. As a result, many people don't get support and end up developing chronic alcohol use issues throughout their lives. Through innovative, digital health

coaching this project aimed to provide alcohol support to 100,000 Australians regardless of their circumstances, assisting the prevention of chronic disease on a national scale.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The project had four main goals:

1. Create a health coaching service for Daybreak members by January 2018.
2. Reduce harmful alcohol consumption by 35–50% among program participants, and create a 25% improvement in symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress.
3. Disseminate the project learnings and outcomes through the community and health sector.
4. Secure an ongoing funding commitment from the Federal Government, with a goal of securing \$800,000 annually.

APPROACH

To achieve the goals of the project and to successfully integrate Daybreak into the Australian health system, Hello Sunday Morning (HSM) developed and implemented a new health coaching feature into Daybreak, which represented the clinical backbone of the program, providing members with 1:1 support with a qualified professional.

Extensive promotion and marketing was undertaken to ensure that those who needed access to Daybreak knew how to access it; the aim being for 100,000 Australians to access the program over the project timeline.



Left: The Hello Sunday Morning Coaching Team.

Above: In August 2019, Hello Sunday Morning launched the results of the evaluation to an audience of its partners at Google and received extensive promotion of its work across mainstream media as a result.

“Over 50,000 people have benefitted in recent years from this immensely important program.” “[Daybreak has] helped people to a pathway that can give them a genuine daybreak – a sense of a sunrise, rather than a sunset.”

– THE HON GREG HUNT, FORMER FEDERAL MINISTER FOR HEALTH, NOVEMBER 2019

The team also did extensive market research to gauge general practitioners’ reactions to Daybreak and their willingness to engage with the program, before rolling out training across GPs to better integrate Daybreak within this network.

In partnership with the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, HSM undertook a Randomised Control Trial to compare the impact of receiving online health coaching within the Daybreak program with no coaching within Daybreak.

OUTCOMES

HSM faced a number of challenges delivering this project, requiring adjustment of the project scope. The main three changes made were:

1. Reducing Daybreak acquisition target from 100,000 to 70,000
The number of people in the community who need the more intensive intervention focused support of Daybreak was lower than the number of people wanting the more general support that was provided by the previous HSM program.
2. Reduced Health Coaching availability from 24/7 to Monday – Friday
Members weren’t expecting it to be a 24/7 service, which is typically provided in a crisis setting.
3. Randomised Control Trial
A key learning from the trial was that Daybreak needed to be rebuilt to support high-quality data collection in order to undertake further high-quality research and evaluation.

Despite these challenges, the project had a tremendous impact and delivered some great results. Some of these included:

- Daybreak supported over 55,000 Australians
- Over 5,370 Daybreak members accessed the Health Coaching service, receiving support for their increased needs.
- An evaluation found that those who use Daybreak for 3 months reduced their alcohol consumption by half (from 37 drinks per week to 17) and reduced their alcohol affected days from 3.5 to 0.5 days per week.
- GP webinars and training sessions were held with 10 Primary Health Networks and GPs were highly receptive and found Daybreak to be relevant to their patients’ needs.
- The Federal Government contracted HSM for three years (\$3 million) to provide 8,000 Australians a year with free access to Daybreak.
- Further investment of \$2.8 million was obtained from philanthropy to develop Daybreak.

IMPACT

In response to COVID-19, the Federal Government provided Hello Sunday Morning with a 12-month \$1.5 million boost to support a projected 25% increase in people expected to access Daybreak.

In June 2020, measures were implemented in Daybreak to enable tracking of alcohol consumption and psychological distress across members over time on an individual level. Over a 12-week period, these measures quantified a 73% reduction in the number of Daybreak members who are consuming 6+ drinks multiple times per week, along with 80% of the membership reducing their psychological distress.



GRANT AMOUNT

\$100,000

YEAR

2019

ORGANISATION

The University of Newcastle –
Faculty of Health and Medicine

PROJECT

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

GRANT DESCRIPTION

To purchase the 10xGenomics Chromium System, to enable high throughput, high resolution sequencing of large numbers of single cells from patient samples.

BACKGROUND

The University of Newcastle, in partnership with the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), is a national leader in several fields of medical research being ranked in the top eight in Australia for all Biomedicine (Leiden Rankings). The University and HMRI have the largest respiratory research centre in Australia (including the Centre of Excellence in Severe Asthma), provide leadership in cancer genomics research, and host a major centre for brain and stroke research.

This revolutionary technology allows never before seen resolution of genetic networks at the single cell level, which provides tremendous potential for new insights into human disease pathogenesis. Many researchers at the University of Newcastle and HMRI are now able to identify new diagnostics and new targets for therapy in a range of human diseases by using this transformative single cell platform.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The equipment enables medical researchers to investigate patient biopsies at the single cell level to define disease-specific gene expression changes in tens of thousands of individual cells. This data can identify new molecules and cell types that could be targeted for therapy and new biomarkers to be used as advanced diagnostics in precision medicine.

APPROACH

Researchers across the University and HMRI have been encouraged to use single cell sequencing technology as a methodology to improve discovery of new treatments and diagnostics for a range of chronic diseases.



Left: Dr Kaiko and research group member Dr Ayesha Ali displaying the new 10X single cell platform at UON/HMRI capable of examining tens of thousands of individual cells from patient samples.

Above: Dr Gerard Kaiko, a researcher of personalised medicines for lung and intestinal diseases at the University of Newcastle and Hunter Medical Research Institute, is one of many researchers whose work benefits from the purchase of the 10x Genomics Chromium platform.

The major disease research areas at the University and HMRI utilising this equipment include respiratory diseases, with a focus on severe asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), cancer research on both solid tumours and leukaemia, chronic inflammatory bowel disease, and neurological disorders and stroke. All of these diseases have an urgent need for new therapies as they are either life threatening conditions without treatment or current therapies need to be significantly enhanced to provide improved patient outcomes.

All researchers trained in using this equipment benefit from attainment of a new skillset in an area of cutting edge medical research. These new skills and access to the equipment will lead to a significantly increased ability to propose novel medical research projects previously not feasible, and lead to the identification of new drug targets and disease diagnostics over time.

OUTCOMES

The first project to use the equipment involved sequencing and comparing the transcriptome of 10,000 individual airway cells from patients with and without asthma, aiming to identify the key genes that cause asthma and discover new types of cells that could be targeted to effectively treat asthma.

This project was completed in mid-2019 with molecular targets identified undergoing further investigation as potential drug targets. This subsequent research forms part of a 2020 NHMRC Ideas Grant.

In addition, a further eight researchers used this equipment in its first year. Research undertaken using the equipment has been very diverse including studies on the following diseases for both discovery and translational research:

- Leukaemia
- Asthma
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Endometriosis
- Male infertility
- Stroke

A further six research projects (subject to funding) were also identified as requiring use of this equipment within 12 months of installation.

IMPACT

Researchers will be using this technology for investigations to identify a predictive biomarker of patient response to monoclonal antibody therapy. This work with the 10X equipment has recently attracted a \$430,000 commercial contract from a multinational pharmaceutical company to conduct this biomarker study in a large clinical trial cohort.

Use of this equipment was an integral part of two successful NHMRC grants in 2019.

GRANT AMOUNT

\$140,000

YEARS

2016–2019

ORGANISATION

The University of New England,
School of Environmental and
Rural Science

PROJECT

Quantifying the role of wild
insect pollinator biodiversity
in the provision of pollination
ecosystem services

GRANT DESCRIPTION

This project investigated the diversity of wild insect pollinators and compared their pollinator efficiency for various fruit crops. The outcomes of the research were shared with the wider community, industry and school groups helping to improve pollinator biodiversity management in Australia.

BACKGROUND

Over 50 different agricultural commodities benefit from insect pollination in Australia, yet we have little knowledge of the identity of the wild insect pollinators that provide these services. Wild pollinators include a diverse range of insects, mammals, birds and reptiles that visit both wild flowers and cultivated crops and transfer pollen in the process. This study focused on investigating the wild insects that visit crop flowers, including native bees, flies, moths, butterflies and beetles among others. While it is well established that crop pollination services are often provided by wild and managed bees, the contributions by pollinators other than bees have been little explored, despite their potential to contribute to the pollination of global crops of economic importance.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

This project aimed to identify the wild insects visiting crop flowers and evaluate their efficiency relative to the managed honeybee.

The research was designed to acquire greater understanding of the conservation value of wild pollinators to support alternative management options for landholders requiring pollination services for their livelihoods. In collaboration with horticultural industries, researchers determined which insects were the most effective pollinators of horticultural crops and how to best support their habitat needs on farms to ensure their conservation.

In order to educate the wider community, the researchers worked closely with primary and secondary schools in NSW in collaboration with the UNE Discovery mobile bus, a project that aims to attract, engage and inspire children to deliver pollinator outreach programs to rural and regional areas of New South Wales.

APPROACH

Researchers used field surveys, field trials and laboratory work to investigate the following key questions in three crops (mango, blueberry and watermelon) across Australia:

- What are the habitat requirements of common wild pollinators?
- What do they need to complete their life cycle?
- What alternative flowering plants do they use in between crop flowering?

Understanding the answers to these types of questions helps develop strategies to support these important crop pollinators.

Crop findings were shared via a range of channels including the distribution of fact sheets, conference presentations and grower-focused magazine articles.

Technical knowledge was translated and disseminated to non-scientific and scientific audiences via workshops and factsheets to help identify common crop pollinators.

Another focus of the project was building capacity in the identification of wild pollinators by up-skilling PhD students, industry stakeholders and interested community members.

Facilitating the identification of wild insect pollinators is intended to promote sustainable biodiversity management among farmers and the wider community.

OUTCOMES

Growers are now moving toward new management methods for improved bee health, reduction or improved use of harmful chemicals, increased diversity of on-farm plantings based on the research findings of practices that would benefit wild pollinator communities. Identifying wild pollinators present on farms and orchards has increased grower knowledge about pollinator requirements in terms of alternative vegetation (semi-natural and native vegetation). Growers are now considering planting on-farm floral resources to benefit wild and managed pollinators year-round.

However, researchers found it difficult to gather data on crop management practices, especially regarding chemical management. Some growers were willing to provide information and others were not. In future projects, researchers plan to work more closely with peak industry bodies to better liaise with growers to gather this information.

IMPACT

As result of this project, the research team have secured several more grants funded by the Federal government (R&D for profit) that have allowed expansion of this work to other crops and the collection of more detailed research data.



Left: A native stingless bee (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) on blueberry flower. Image by Jeremy Jones.

Above: A native Scoliidæ wasp on pink apple flower. Image by Jeremy Jones.

“One of the most successful aspects of this work was the interest in pollination work shown by growers and the communication we had with them regarding this work. It was not uncommon for growers to take time out from their busy days to help gather the data needed to run our project well. There was a strong interest in flies and their ability to pollinate crops and now we are working on a new project to potentially mass-rear these species.”

— UNE LEAD RESEARCHER



YEARS

2016–2018

GRANT AMOUNT

\$368,188

ORGANISATION

The Conservation Ecology Centre

PROJECT

Otways Threatened Species Research Network – Solving the most urgent wildlife conservation issues in the Otways

GRANT DESCRIPTION

This project aims to reverse the decline in native wildlife in the Otways region of Western Victoria, and prevent a cascade of extinctions, initially through mapping the distribution of three threatened species: Tiger Quolls, Long-nosed Potoroos, and Long-nosed Bandicoots.

BACKGROUND

One of the greatest risks to wildlife populations is a severe lack of information, and these knowledge gaps currently stall conservation efforts. We don't know the size of threatened species populations, their distributions, or the effects of various threats. Consequently, it is impossible for land managers to optimise conservation outcomes for threatened species.

The Otways still supports populations of a number of threatened species including Tiger Quolls, Long-nosed Potoroos, and Long-nosed Bandicoots; however, a national pattern of species decline suggests a cascade of extinctions is likely without decisive action.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Through this project, the Conservation Ecology Centre (CEC) aimed to build a strong framework for conservation action, jointly developed and owned by a range of Otways Threatened Species Research Network (OTSRN) partners, and stimulate engagement and investment by land managers (public and private) in strategic long-term conservation. Specific goals were:

- To map the known spatial distribution of threatened species including the Tiger Quoll, Long-nosed Bandicoot, and Long-nosed Potoroo across the Otways; identify knowledge gaps and establish a monitoring protocol which standardises current survey efforts.
- To explore emergent spatial and temporal threatened species population trends in the Otways and evaluate the viability of these critical species by describing population demographics and interactions with threatening processes.

- To increase community awareness and interest in wildlife conservation, supporting CEC's conservation efforts in the region.

APPROACH

This capacity building project aimed to deliver on these goals through:

- Establishing and supporting the Otways Threatened Species Research Network
- Developing a threatened species database for the Otways
- Assisting private and public landowners to establish consistent monitoring programs, with standardised protocols
- Conducting research to model species viability based on various management practices
- Facilitating community awareness and interest in wildlife conservation, and opportunities for volunteering and engagement.

OUTCOMES

Membership of the Otways Threatened Species Research Network (OTSRN) has grown since 2016 to a membership of 234 including representatives from seven universities, four government agencies and ten NGOs.

The CEC gathered 11 databases from members of the network to create the most comprehensive spatial database possible for Otways threatened species practitioners to work with. CEC now have approximately 11,000 records of threatened species which includes mammals, birds, plants and fish. Through this data gathering process CEC has advanced its knowledge of many species.

This threatened species database for all mammal records is now online and hosted on the Visualising Victoria's Biodiversity

(VVB) portal (www.vvb.org.au) created by The Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation at Federation University.

In collaboration with researchers from some of the OTSRN, CEC obtained measurable results that fill critical knowledge gaps on feral animals, and threatened flora and fauna species distribution and population dynamics. These results have been achieved through innovative research techniques including conservation genetics and the use of Conservation Detection Dogs.

The OTSRN is an important platform that allows researchers the opportunity to present their findings and it also gives land managers an opportunity to collaborate with applied ecological researchers to design research programs that address key knowledge gaps.

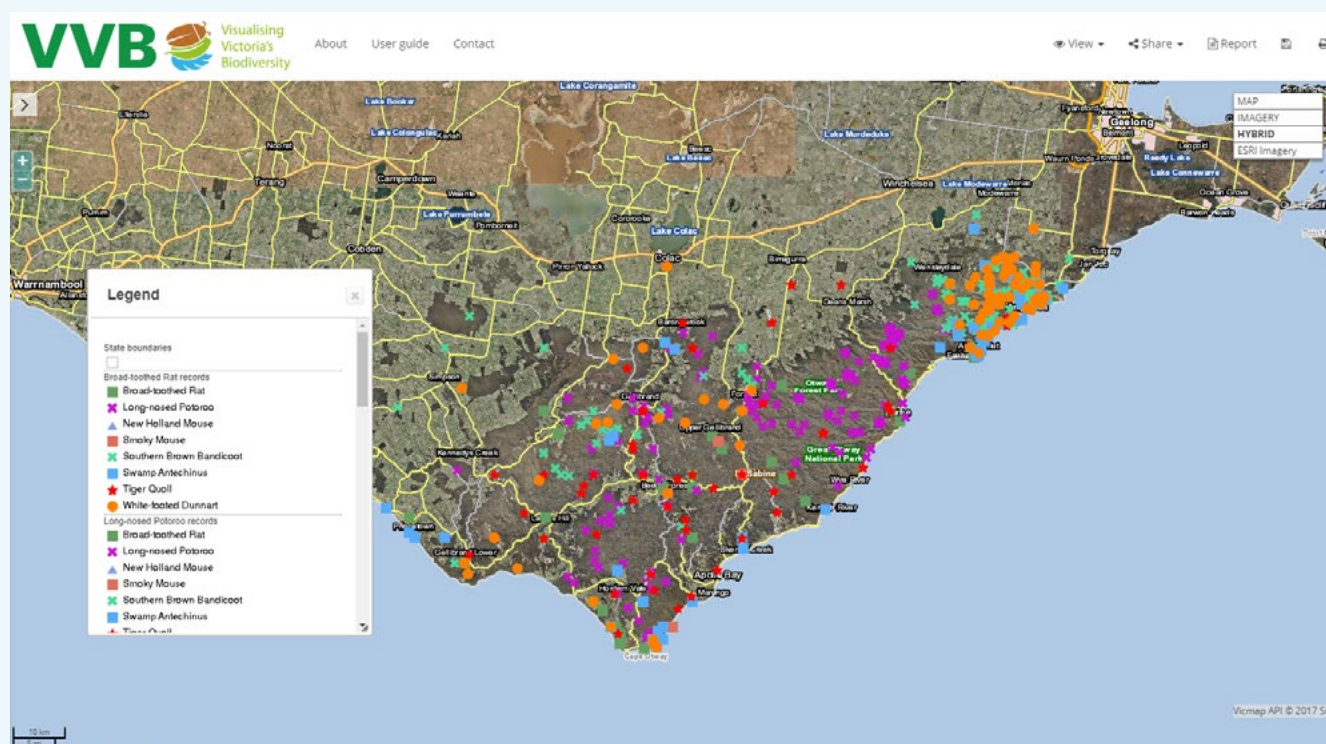
A key component of this communication is the Otways Threatened Species Research Forum, a growing annual event attended by researchers, public land managers and private landowners and managers (e.g. Landcare).

CEC staff continue to regularly engage with the community directly through presentations at a range of events throughout the Otways.

IMPACT

The OTSRN continues to grow in membership and there are several research programs that are all collaborating to produce excellent applied ecological research. The Network's researchers have been awarded research grants from numerous bodies including the Victorian State Government and the Australian Research Council.

Ongoing research on threatened species populations, invasive predator ecology and how land management practices (e.g. burning or baiting) interact with these themes is ongoing and constantly providing important results with implications for land managers.



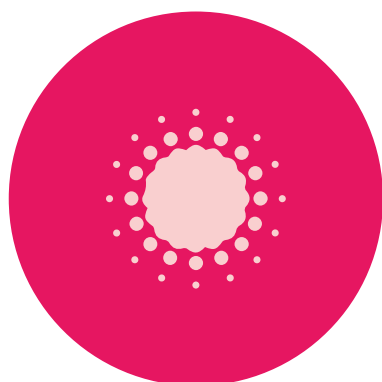
Left: Tiger Quoll. Image by Lucia Griggi.

Above: The VVB platform brings together existing environmental datasets and information managed or hosted by a range of organisations and groups and provides a portal for this information to be displayed.

Funding pillars

Grants awarded 2019–20

VIBRANT



MAJOR GRANTS

Areas of interest at
Board's discretion

GRANTS

No major grants awarded
in this period

PROGRAM 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.

GRANTS

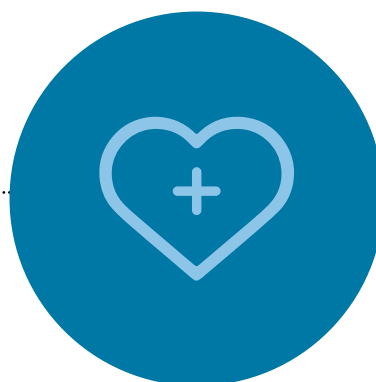
2

AMOUNT

\$500k

Includes grant to
The Ian Potter Cultural Trust

HEALTHY



MAJOR GRANTS

Health Service Delivery
Mental Health
Indigenous Health

GRANTS

2

AMOUNT

\$3m

PROGRAM AREAS

Medical Research

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

GRANTS

23

AMOUNT

\$2.7m

PROGRAM AREAS

Public Health Research

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

GRANTS

7

AMOUNT

\$2.9m

FAIR



MAJOR GRANTS

Homelessness
Indigenous Community

GRANTS

1

AMOUNT

\$2.5m

PROGRAM AREAS

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.

GRANTS

13

AMOUNT

\$2.1m

PROGRAM AREAS

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.

GRANTS

23

AMOUNT

\$2.7m

SUSTAINABLE



MAJOR GRANTS

Freshwater
Indigenous Land and
Sea Management

GRANTS

1

AMOUNT

\$5m

PROGRAM AREAS

Environment

- To support ambitious and transformative environmental initiatives including:
- Strengthening the environment sector.
 - Applied environmental science research.
 - On ground conservation of natural resources and preservation of threatened biodiversity and ecosystems.

GRANTS

17

AMOUNT

\$6.6m

Facts & Figures 2019–20

Grants Overview

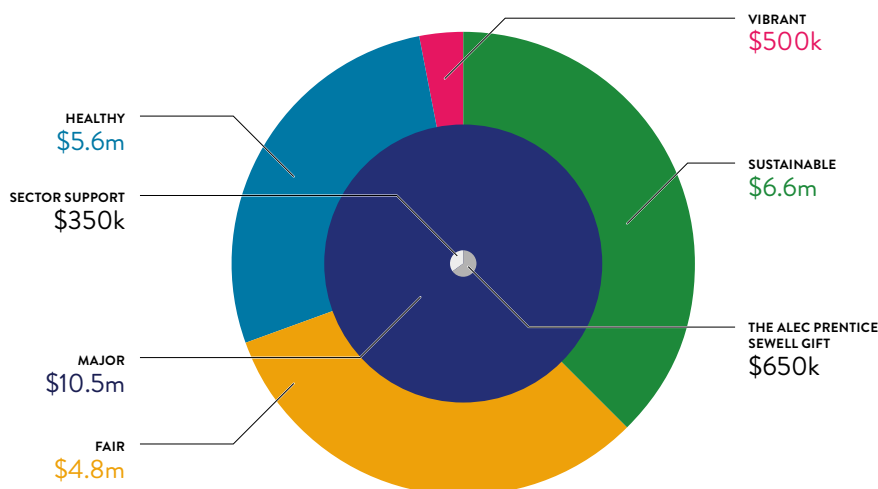
GRANTS APPROVED

94*

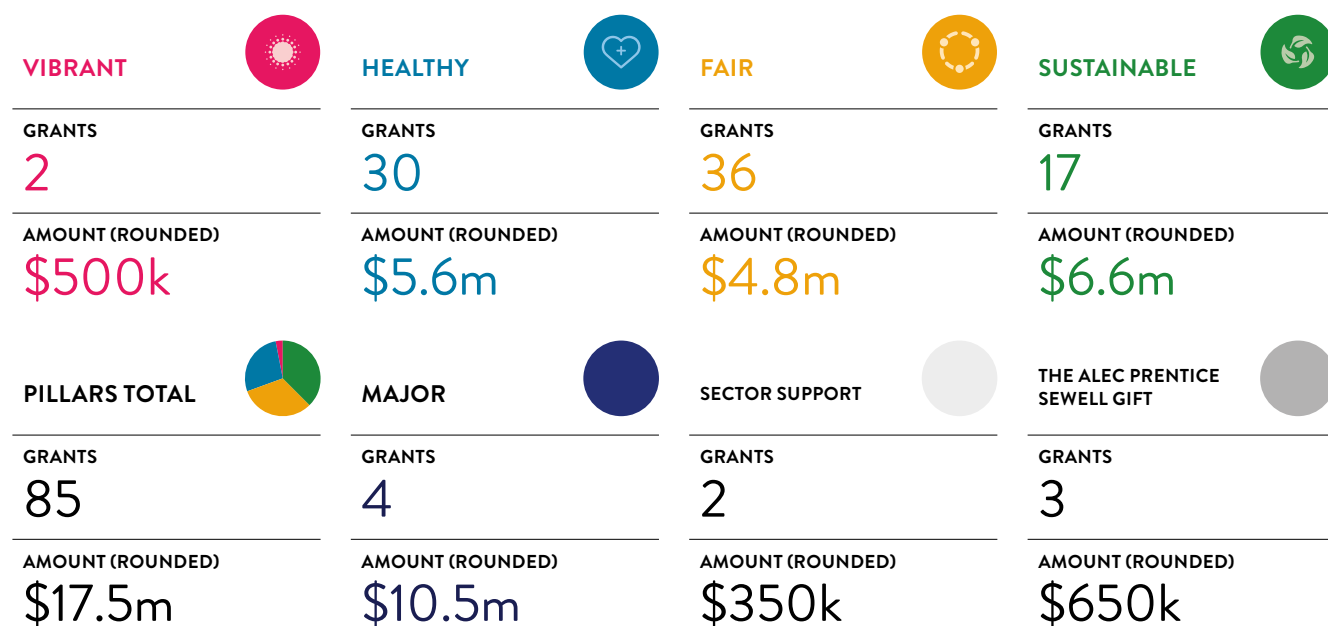
TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS APPROVED

\$29,020,443*

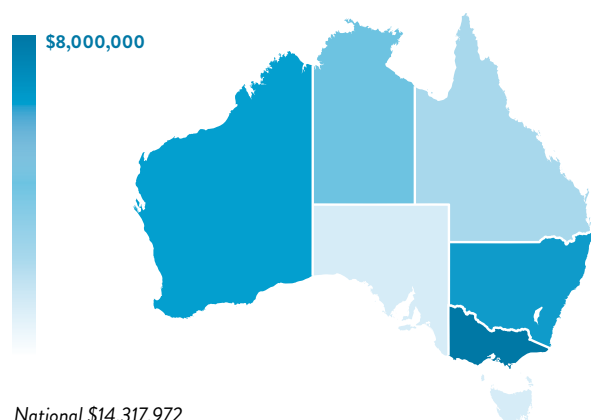
*Includes grant to The Ian Potter Cultural Trust
\$488,772



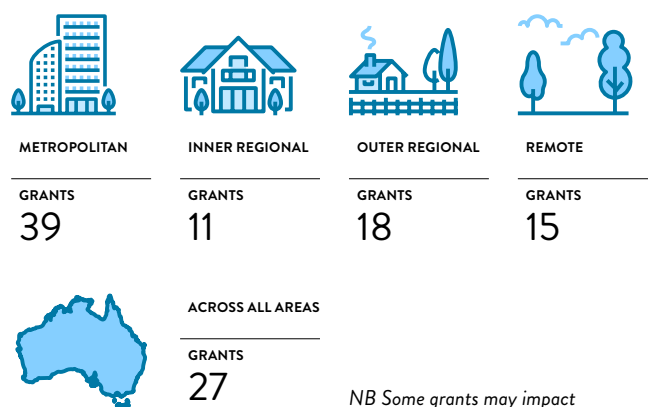
Grants approved by funding area



Geographic Distribution



Grants By Location Type



NB Some grants may impact more than one location type.

Feature Grants

GRANT AMOUNT

\$400,000

GRANT DURATION

TWO YEARS

Elder Gladys Bidu tells the story of the two snakes to Martu children while Families Program employee Sarah Jones records. Image courtesy of Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa.

ORGANISATION

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ)

PROJECT

Martu Women and Families Program

GRANT PURPOSE

The program aims to address the social, structural and economic factors that influence Martu children's development and wellbeing by taking a holistic approach to early childhood care and development across three remote Western Desert communities in the eastern Pilbara, WA.

BACKGROUND

Martu want their children to grow up strong and healthy, and for their children to acquire and maintain knowledge in both mainstream and Martu worlds.

This program is part of a suite of programs run by Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ), an Aboriginal-run organisation established in 2005 to work with Martu to build strong, sustainable communities. KJ is focused on supporting Martu to look after culture and country, building a viable economy in Martu communities; and building pathways for young Martu to a healthy future.

The Martu Women and Families Program supports Martu families across five domains: culture, early years education, employment, leadership and health.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Martu Women and Families Program currently delivers an early childhood program in Jigalong, Punmu and Parnngurr in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The program has been delivered since 2009 by World Vision Australia (WVA) and has now been handed over to KJ to consolidate and manage with support from the Federal Government and the Foundation. The handing over of such responsibility to a local Aboriginal led organisation is a key part of WVA's program design and management.

KJ are now expanding this program to another community, Kunawarrtji some 11 hours from Newman, so Martu children can access the program regardless of where they are as the population is seasonally mobile.

This is a place-based early childhood program utilising the Abecedarian Approach, an evidence-based teaching and learning strategy, coupled with culturally relevant activities, which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Martu families and communities. The program also provides employment opportunities for community members which further supports children and their families, creates pathways for mothers and caregivers to contribute to and shape their community, and fosters leadership.

This program comprises the three critical characteristics identified in the research to improve access and engagement to early education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children – local ownership of programs; employment of local people and incorporation of culture.

SUMMARY

By awarding this grant to KJ to take on ongoing management of these remote Aboriginal led early years services, the Foundation believes that these services will be strengthened further and become embedded within these communities indefinitely, improving ongoing education pathways for Martu children.



GRANT AMOUNT

\$450,000

GRANT DURATION

THREE YEARS

Hotel Housekeeping, launched in July 2019, is the first social enterprise in the White Box family and receives funding, space and business support from White Box Enterprises.

ORGANISATION

White Box Enterprises Ltd

PROJECT

Project 5,000: Creating 5,000 jobs for Australia's young and disadvantaged jobseekers

GRANT PURPOSE

To support the core operations of White Box Enterprises, a social enterprise that aims to build and replicate employment-based social enterprises with the aim of creating 5,000 jobs for vulnerable Australians by 2030.

BACKGROUND

In October 2019, the youth unemployment rate in Australia was three times the rate for those aged over 25 years. The current system has been widely calling for new innovations around return-to-work pathways. If young Australians are unable to find stable employment in these early years, they are at a significantly higher chance of a lifetime of unemployment. Refugees, First Nations people, ex-offenders and those with disability or mental illness are also disproportionately affected.

Well-run social enterprises have been shown to produce higher and better employment outcomes than mainstream employment services for people experiencing significant disadvantage. They increase economic productivity, inclusion, capital and wellbeing for both individuals and communities.

White Box Enterprises was created on the back of successful projects such as Vanguard Laundry (150+ jobs) and Ability Enterprises (200+ jobs). The experiences of these social enterprises demonstrated that employment has the potential to alter the trajectory of an individual's life and impact the wider community.

Collaboration is central to the White Box business model. They work alongside government, philanthropy, the private sector and community in building and scaling sustainable social enterprises.

KEY OBJECTIVES

There are currently only 20 jobs-focused social enterprises in Australia that employ more than 50 people and pay full award wages. White Box has been established to use proven social enterprise models to kickstart a portfolio of social enterprises with self-sustainability a key aim.

White Box Enterprises has engaged the Faculty of Health at Queensland University of Technology to undertake a 12-month evaluation of its pilot phase to understand whether it is achieving the appropriate outcomes. White Box Enterprises will share this study publicly, in the hope that other social enterprises, government and philanthropic/impact investors will learn from their journey and see the importance of continuing to build the sector across Australia to transform youth unemployment.

SUMMARY

This grant provides a contribution to core funding to enable White Box Enterprises to extend their pilot operations for another three years. During this time, White Box Enterprises will continue working on several projects with the goal of creating 450 jobs by the end of 2022 and 5,000 jobs by 2030.

GRANT AMOUNT

\$200,000

GRANT DURATION

TWO YEARS

Image by Andrea Piacquadio.

ORGANISATION

Task Force Community Agency Inc

PROJECT

The Living Free Project

GRANT PURPOSE

The Living Free project offers a sustained intensive outreach case management program that works with women at risk of being or in contact with the justice system to help prevent them from entering the cycle of homelessness. Strong partnerships with local health and justice community organisations and established connections with Court Support Service and relevant government services and departments underpin the effectiveness of the project.

BACKGROUND

The national rate of imprisonment for women has increased by 154.5% over the past decade. Women in the justice system present with multiple and complex needs related to mental health, family violence, alcohol and other drug use, insecure housing and a lack of familial and social supports.

The Living Free project started as a pilot in 2018 funded for two years by the Victoria Legal Services Board. The project has achieved good outcomes to date, achieving a 10% recidivism rate compared to the standard rate of 50%.

The Ian Potter Foundation and other philanthropic organisations were approached for funding to help build the project's capacity to respond and to embed the learnings from the initial pilot.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Living Free project was developed based on a comprehensive literature review of what works with women offenders – it is gender-specific, strengths-based, and addresses multiple contributing factors leading to offending.

The holistic approach provides a wrap-around service based on the need of the person, matching those needs with the appropriate service provider, for instance, housing, rehab or legal support. Importantly, the project continues to coordinate the approach and has ongoing contact with the individuals for 12 months even when other services are delivering the main support.

The women's outreach worker directs clients to the service which best meets the individual's needs and physically takes them to the relevant provider, assisting individuals to navigate a complex system. This approach provides a much-needed link between services through case coordination.

By doing so, the Living Free project prevents the types of challenging situations that have the potential to escalate to the point when the individual becomes involved with or re-enters the justice system. The program has been proved quite successful in filling the needs of women who are often falling through gaps in a complex system.

SUMMARY

The Living Free Project is a program focused on demonstrating to government the value of justice reinvestment and a coordinated approach to case management for women who come into contact with the justice system. It is highly preventative and will generate substantial cost-savings for government. The long-term aim of the program is to shift government funding from costly custodial programs toward early intervention strategies that will support women to manage their lives in a sustained way and keep them out of the justice system.



GRANT AMOUNT

\$150,000

GRANT DURATION

18 MONTHS

Compounds Australia operations staff loading AcoustiX microtubes and microplates into a new Brooks SampleStore; a fully automated and integrated storage platform essential for delivering new capabilities within the Australian national compound management facility. Image courtesy of Compounds Australia.

ORGANISATION

Griffith University

PROJECT

Transforming Australian drug discovery with innovative acoustic compound storage and dispensing technologies

GRANT PURPOSE

To purchase devices necessary for handling acoustic tubes, which is central to realising faster, smarter, more efficient compound management.

BACKGROUND

Compounds Australia, located within the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), is Australia's only dedicated compound management and logistics facility. Compounds Australia provides researchers with high-quality compounds in assay-ready microplates. These compounds are an essential input to the biological assays used to identify compounds that are active at biological disease targets and can lead to new drug candidates.

Compounds Australia is a valuable resource for researchers across the country providing access to thousands of drug candidates for screening in high throughput assays. GRIDD is one of Griffith's world-class research facilities. Innovating at the cutting-edge of chemistry and biology, GRIDD collaborates with governments, academia, communities and the health industry to create new knowledge that transforms lives for the better.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Compounds Australia is implementing an acoustic compound management system that will transform Australian compound management.

This grant contributed to the cost of the devices necessary for handling acoustic tubes – a system using sound waves to allow sampling of nanolitre amounts of substance – which is central to realising faster, smarter, more efficient compound management. The project will benefit more than 275 active researchers in 74 research groups across 33 member organisations.

This approach accelerates validation of new molecular targets and positions researchers to identify active compounds that lead to novel therapeutic candidates.

SUMMARY

Compounds Australia is clearly a valuable resource for researchers across the country providing access to thousands of drug candidates for screening in high throughput assays. The funding from the Foundation, together with large grants from Australian Cancer Research Foundation and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy, as well as a large commitment from Griffith University, will support the next generation of drug discovery scientists.

**ORGANISATION**

University of Sydney: Faculty of Medicine and Health

PROJECT

Improving the lives of adolescents in a remote Indigenous community: The Bigiswun Kid Project

GRANT PURPOSE

The Bigiswun Kid Project will follow up participants from the Lililwan cohort to determine their health, mental health and wellbeing in adolescence. The findings will improve understanding of the impacts of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and early life trauma on adolescent outcomes in remote Aboriginal communities and inform the co-design (with Aboriginal organisations and health services) of a sustainable youth mental health service.

BACKGROUND

In 2009 Aboriginal community leaders in the Fitzroy Valley in northern WA initiated the Lililwan Project to examine the impact of alcohol use during pregnancy. The internationally recognised study found almost all children aged 7–8 had early life trauma (ELT), 55% had prenatal alcohol exposure and 19% had Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – the highest rate in the world.

The Lililwan Cohort are now aged 16 to 18 years and community leaders are concerned that some are struggling in adolescence

The Bigiswun Kid Project research team held a 'nurture night' (nail polish, face masks, etc) to introduce themselves to the adolescent girls in the local community. This event was a great success and will be held fortnightly in future.

with poor health and educational attainment, and high rates of self-harm, suicide and contact with the justice system.

At the request of Aboriginal community leaders in the Fitzroy Valley, the University of Sydney is partnering with Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and other key local Aboriginal organisations to determine the mental health, health, educational and other outcomes of these adolescents.

KEY OBJECTIVES

This study aims to:

- Assess the health and wellbeing of the Lililwan cohort, understand what is needed to promote adolescent health and wellbeing in the community and to identify gaps in and barriers to accessing services.
- Use prenatal (e.g. alcohol exposure) and early life (e.g. trauma, FASD) data collected in the Lililwan Project to predict positive and adverse outcomes in adolescence. This information will identify opportunities for intervention in pregnancy and childhood that promote a trajectory to happy, healthy adolescence.
- Evaluate the trajectory of adaptive and executive functioning in FASD by comparing assessments in childhood and adolescence in participants with and without FASD.
- Increase community capacity to support remote-dwelling Aboriginal adolescents by training young Aboriginal people as Youth Support Officers (YSO) to advocate, engage and connect youth to services.

SUMMARY

Through this project the University of Sydney and partners will develop an evidence-based and sustainable youth mental health service that is driven by the research findings. The service will be part of a wrap-around model of care that brings families, Aboriginal organisations and other health services together to provide coordinated community support for Indigenous adolescents. Research findings will also identify new opportunities to improve future health outcomes for young children and adolescents.



GRANT AMOUNT

\$1,000,000

GRANT DURATION

THREE YEARS

Great Eastern Ranges. Image courtesy of Gondwana Link.

ORGANISATION

Gondwana Link Ltd

PROJECT

Connectivity Conservation: connecting communities and habitats at scale in Australia

GRANT PURPOSE

Gondwana Link (GL) in partnership with Great Eastern Ranges (GER) will revitalise the national conservation effort by expanding and strengthening Connectivity Conservation on a national scale. This will be achieved by consolidating the core capacity of these two large-landscape initiatives which aim to protect, restore and expand sections of important land to create large functional and sustainable ecosystems.

BACKGROUND

GL, based in south Western Australia and GER, which works across the Eastern states from Southern Queensland to Northern Victoria, are both landscape-scale Connectivity Conservation initiatives that act as facilitators and brokers. They connect groups and individuals to others who can add value; provide targeted support and advice on best practice land restoration and protection; and provide leadership and connection to the big picture landscape-scale conservation movement. They work with a myriad of partnering organisations: government agencies and local Councils, Natural Resource Management groups, Landcare groups and private landowners, large environmental NGOs such as Bush Heritage

or Greening Australia, businesses and industry groups, and research partners such as universities and CSIRO.

Connectivity Conservation is acknowledged by the International Union for Conservation of Nature to be a critical priority for addressing both climate change and the biodiversity crisis. It is a nature-based, highly sustainable approach which relies on natural regenerative systems, including concepts such as regenerative agriculture and rewilding to address both carbon sequestration and biodiversity loss.

KEY OBJECTIVES

This capacity building project will consolidate and expand the core capacity of both organisations and thereby increase the facilitation and support they offer to the hundreds of on-ground groups they jointly assist.

In partnership, GL and GER aim to:

- Build their teams, adding strategic staff roles and reducing reliance on their outstanding but severely overstretched volunteers
- Promote key science tools, in collaboration with researchers, to expand the shared understanding of how to implement large scale conservation efforts
- Develop communications capacity to increase wider public appreciation of the critical role of individual and grassroots efforts in maintaining natural processes (such as water flows, wildlife migration, and carbon storage)
- Strengthen their leadership role through strategic planning, facilitation, education and face-to-face gatherings taking a grassroots up approach.

SUMMARY

This project represents a vital step in the conservation movement in Australia moving nature-based solutions from the 'mainstreaming and consolidation' phase of the past decade, to scale up solutions and harness the increasing national and international responses to the urgent climate and biodiversity crises.

**ORGANISATION****Soil C Quest 2031 Limited****PROJECT****Climate Resilient Soils Network****GRANT PURPOSE**

This project will enable research organisation Soil C Quest, in collaboration with researchers at the Australian National University (ANU), to utilise soil microbiology to protect and improve agricultural soils and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. The technology being developed represents a practical and scalable method of carbon sequestration that has the potential to enable crop farmers to improve their soil carbon levels, no matter what they grow, how they grow it, or where they grow their food crops.

BACKGROUND

Excess carbon in the atmosphere is one of the main causes of climate change. Agricultural soils have lost 60% of their organic carbon over the past century, causing degradation of soil health. Soil C Quest's research shows that soil microbiology can be used to protect and improve agricultural soils globally and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. They will develop technologies to utilise a specialised 'melanised endophytic fungus' (MEF) to produce microbes that have the capacity for long-term, stable carbon sequestration. This beneficial fungus is inoculated into the roots of crops via a seed dressing and in turn the fungus facilitates rapid sequestration of significant quantities of

GRANT AMOUNT**\$125,000****GRANT DURATION****18 MONTHS**

Soil C Quest microbiology officer Grace Scott examining beneficial fungi in a bio safety cabinet.

recalcitrant organic carbon into the root zone of the soil. The technology represents a practical and scalable method that has the potential to enable crop farmers – nationally and globally – to improve their soil carbon levels.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Soil C Quest is a young, innovative research organisation established to provide dual benefits for agriculture and the environment. Their overarching mission is to double soil carbon, with the goal of empowering land managers to mitigate climate change. It represents a genuine partnership between farmers and scientists, both at the frontline of environmental changes in the face of a changing climate, water shortages, and increased food production requirements.

Over 18 months Soil C Quest, in collaboration with researchers at ANU's Research School of Biology, will produce an inoculum package that is ready for use in trials, prior to commercialisation and distribution. Soil C Quest, with support from KPMG, are developing a social enterprise arm to market and sell the product, with profits to go back into the charitable research body.

The project aims to:

- Work towards the development of optimised soil carbon inoculum packages that have the capacity for long-term, stable carbon sequestration.
- Increase land managers' understanding of the use of existing microbial tools for carbon sequestration, nitrogen-fixing, water use efficiency, and enhanced plant growth.
- Survey landholders to measure the change in depth of knowledge of drought resilience tools, microbial inoculum use and sustainable practices.

SUMMARY

While COVID-19 restrictions have impacted the timing of their research trials, Soil C Quest's social enterprise, Soil Carbon Co, has been established and has secured \$10 million from an impact investor to forge ahead with commercialising the microbial package.

Major Grants

The establishment of the Major Grants stream continues the Foundation's tradition of large and catalytic grants to assist the delivery of significant projects in the community.

From 2019 to 2021, The Ian Potter Foundation Board is focussed on awarding major grants supporting Australian Indigenous communities, homeless accommodation demonstration projects, environmental and public health projects.

During 2019–20, four major grants were awarded supporting initiatives addressing homelessness, the prevention and treatment of mental health conditions, improved management of Australia's freshwater resources, and development of a “living evidence” system that delivers improved health services for all Australians.



Artist's impression of the proposed external communal courtyard of Launch Housing's Families Supportive Housing Project. Image credit: ARM Architecture.

ORGANISATION

Launch Housing Limited

PROJECT

Families Supportive Housing Project

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500,000 over five years

Launch Housing was awarded a \$2.5m major grant towards its Families Supportive Housing project, an 8-storey permanent supportive housing complex with support services for women and their children escaping domestic violence.

The building will be located in Dandenong and include 60 apartments, communal spaces, play areas, 24-hour security as well as an entire floor dedicated to support services, such as family counselling. The trauma-informed supported accommodation will include communal spaces, play areas and sensory gardens.

By offering permanent housing, this project will support women and children in dire circumstances to stabilise their lives, allow children to maintain or re-engage with schooling and address their mental health concerns.

This will be the first project of its kind in Australia, in a single location, of this scale. While the need is much greater than can be addressed by this project, it is hoped it will be a successful 'demonstration project' allowing government to assess the social and economic value of permanent housing versus crisis accommodation which does not solve the issue of homelessness.

ORGANISATION

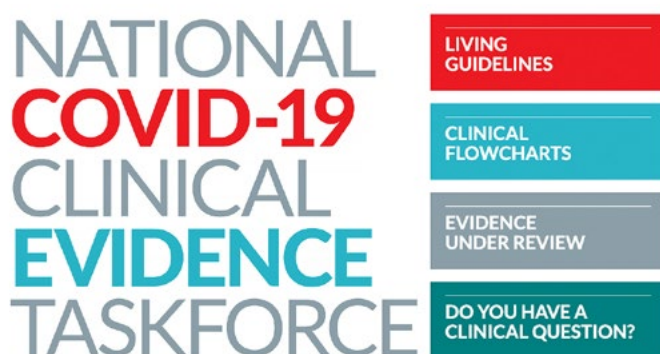
Monash University: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

PROJECT

Living Evidence: Phase Two

GRANT AMOUNT

\$2,500,000 over five years



Australian Living Evidence Consortium (ALEC) is a collaboration of chronic and non-communicable disease groups currently leading a 'living evidence' approach to public health guideline development in Australia. By bringing together leading experts in evidence synthesis, guideline development and digital technologies this consortium will build a next-generation system for delivering reliable, accessible, up-to-date evidence in health services delivery.

Due to the rapidly unfolding COVID-19 crisis in Australia, in March 2020 the Australian Living Evidence Consortium pivoted to focus wholly on COVID-19 to support clinical groups struggling to best manage patients with the disease in the face of rapidly evolving research and data.

The result was the creation of the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce comprising teams of researchers, experts and clinicians who are working around the clock to deliver national guidelines for the clinical care of people with COVID-19 across primary, acute and critical care settings.

The Taskforce, which includes key Australian medical peak bodies such as the Australian Society of Infectious Diseases and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, provides 'living' guidelines, updated with new research in near real-time in order to give reliable, up-to-the-minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented health crisis.

In March 2020, the Foundation's Board approved re-directing its first \$500,000 commitment in support of ALEC to fund the Taskforce to undertake this vital work.

In April 2020, the Australian Government announced funding to support the Taskforce, together with contributions from the Victorian Government, The Ian Potter Foundation and the Walter Cottoman Endowment Fund managed by Equity Trustees.

Living Evidence: Phase Two will then seek a further \$22.5 million in funding over four years to develop the Australian Living Evidence Consortium.

The Ian Potter Foundation's remaining \$2 million commitment is subject to this additional funding being raised through the Commonwealth and state governments, and philanthropy.

ORGANISATION

Murdoch Children's Research Institute

PROJECT

Building capacity of primary schools to address children's mental health issues

GRANT AMOUNT

\$500,000 (12-month pilot)



Image courtesy of MCRI.

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) was awarded \$500,000 to support a pilot project to build the capacity of primary schools to address children's mental health needs.

The Foundation's grant matched funding from the Victorian State Government to trial a tailored mental health program in up to 10 Victorian primary schools.

MCRI will work in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) and with other academic and institutional partners to conceptualise, design, develop, implement and evaluate a primary school step-tiered, system-level approach to child mental health.

This project will develop evidence-based training and resources to support dedicated school staff to enable them to better identify and respond to mental health issues of pupils. The project will also help schools build strong connections with community-based health and other services so that students and families can be linked to these services as appropriate.

ORGANISATION

Australian Academy of Science

PROJECT

Australian Water and Catchment Centre

GRANT AMOUNT

\$5,000,000 over ten years



Australia is the driest inhabited continent and has some of the most highly variable rainfall and run-off on Earth. Long-term, sustainable management of our waters and catchments is of critical importance.

Fresh water is often a scarce and always a precious resource. Yet at a time when climate change, population growth and the ongoing degradation of our nation's natural capital assets require long-term policy reform, conflicts over the use and management of Australia's waters and catchments have become increasingly partisan.

In 2019, after extensive research and analysis assisted by specialist firms consulting with an international and national group of experts, The Ian Potter Foundation and The Myer Foundation agreed to jointly fund a new organisation that aims to be an independent source of water and catchment policy advice, focused on helping improve the way decisions are made about water and catchments across Australia.

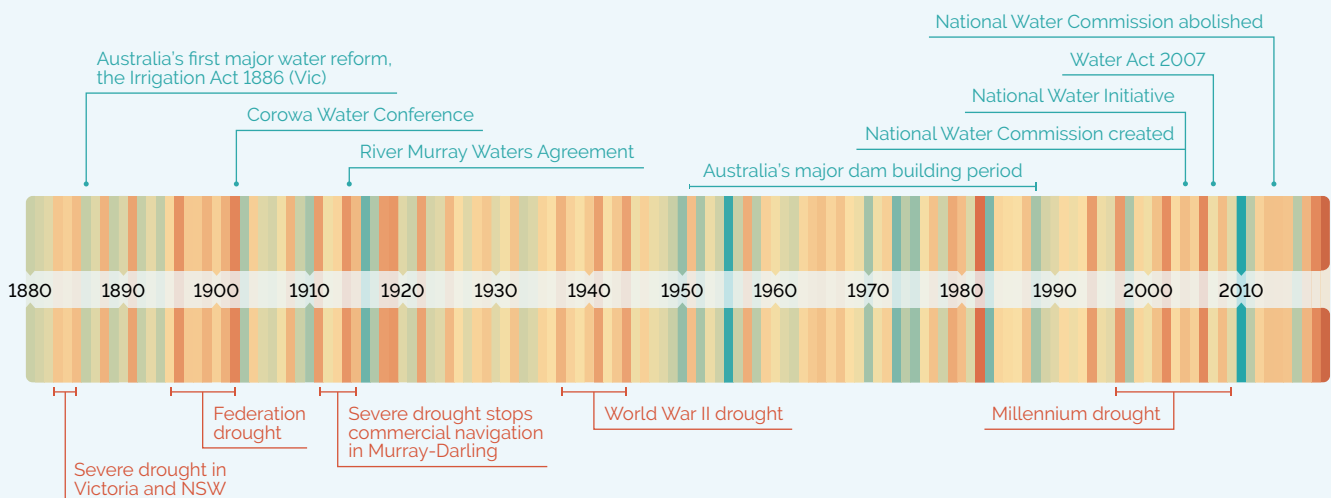
This organisation will be a trusted, independent, community-led and evidence-based organisation whose role is to catalyse change and help frame future water and catchment policy to serve the interests of all Australians for generations to come.

Philanthropic funding uniquely positions this new centre to provide the independence needed to:

- approach current and future water and catchment policy conflicts as an 'honest broker'
- explore innovations in participatory and deliberative approaches to policy co-design that use the collective intelligence of all stakeholders to develop innovative policy proposals
- work across Australia on a wide range of water and catchment policy issues engaging with linked policy areas (e.g. regional development, agricultural transitions or urban planning)
- focus on the long-term water and catchment policy reform required to safeguard Australia's water security and ensure sustainable management of these crucial resources.

To date this philanthropic collaboration has garnered funding commitments from 16 philanthropic funders wishing to invest in Australia's future by establishing a national and fully independent policy centre. As a result, the centre's establishment is now proceeding and further announcements can be expected in 2021.

Snapshot of 140 years of rainfall anomaly in Australia



Source: The Ian Potter Foundation and The Myer Foundation, rainfall anomaly developed using data from Freund et al. 2017 (<https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-13-1751-2017>) and AWAP, Jones, et al. 2009 (<http://www.bom.gov.au/meta-data/catalogue/19115/ANZCW0503900567>).

Grants List

The following grants were also awarded in 2019-20.

RECIPIENT	TITLE	GRANT VALUE	LOCATION	LOCATION TYPE
ARTS				
Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd	Collingwood Arts Precinct	\$50,000	VIC	Metropolitan
COMMUNITY WELLBEING				
ABC Foundation Ltd	Aboriginal Women's Research Assistant and Evaluation (AWRAE) Training Project	\$20,000	WA	Remote
CareerSeekers New Australian Internship Program Limited	Lived Experience Evaluators Project (LEEP) Intern	\$12,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Children's Ground Limited	Central Australia Indigenous Food Security	\$50,000	NT	Remote
Christie Centre Inc	GrowAbility Native Nursery	\$90,000	VIC	Outer regional
Clontarf Foundation	Impact Enhancement grant	\$15,000	National	Across all areas
Community Resources Limited	Creating jobs in environmental education, eco-tourism and sustainable farming	\$364,000	NSW	Metropolitan
Doncaster Community Care & Counselling Centre	DAWN Mentoring Program - Pilot Expansion	\$150,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Good360 Australia Ltd	Funding freight charges for charitable goods	\$150,000	NSW	Across all areas
Indigenous Employment Partners Ltd	Power to Work	\$290,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Karinya Young Women's Service Inc	Collaboration for Young Mums' n' Bubs program	\$5,000	TAS	Inner regional
Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Incorporated	The Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes Kilpatrick & Gyngeil Houses Laundry and Kitchen Safety and Accessibility Upgrade	\$30,000	VIC	Inner regional
Souths Cares PBI Ltd	Deadly Youth Mentoring Program	\$230,400	NSW	Metropolitan
St Kilda Mums	St Kilda Mums Dream Home Project	\$100,000	VIC	Across all areas
Telethon Kids Institute	Development of a COVID-19 E-learning tool for Aboriginal Australians	\$30,000	National	Remote
The Social Studio	The Social Studio COVID-19 Medical Supplies Initiative	\$50,000	VIC	Metropolitan
White Lion Inc	Business Support funding - Fruit2Work	\$75,000	VIC	Across all areas
Women Up North Housing Incorporated	Collaboration for Young Mums' n' Bubs program	\$5,000	NSW	Inner regional
International Specialised Skills Institute	Business Support Funding	\$60,000	VIC	Across all areas
Youth Development Australia Limited	Youthworx Growth Strategy	\$25,000	VIC	Metropolitan
YWCA Australia	Women of Worth – Training and education for women involved in the justice system	\$150,000	NT	Outer regional
Zoe Support Australia	Little Sprouts Op Shop	\$100,000	VIC	Outer regional
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT				
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Limited	Indigenous scholarships for National Early Years Summit 2020	\$20,000	National	Across all areas
Australian Schools Plus Ltd	Fair Education Program -Victoria	\$200,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Deakin University: Faculty of Health	Implementation of an evidence-based family program to improve child education outcomes in disadvantaged school communities	\$150,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Edith Cowan University: Faculty of Education and Arts	Improving parental engagement in children's learning and school readiness through a literacy-based text messaging program	\$150,000	WA	Across all areas

RECIPIENT	TITLE	GRANT VALUE	LOCATION	LOCATION TYPE
Monash University: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences	Developing a digital training program to support cognitive development and enhance learning in early childhood	\$200,000	VIC	Across all areas
Murdoch University: School of Education	Writing for all: Studying the development of handwriting and keyboarding skills in the Early Years	\$197,000	WA	Metropolitan
Noah's Ark inc.	Let's Chat: Emergent oral literacy program	\$120,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Smiling Mind	Emergency Care package development re COVID-19	\$100,000	National	Across all areas
The Australian Council for Educational Research Limited	Little J & Big Cuz: Bi-lingual Readers	\$100,000	National	Remote
The Smith Family	Let's Count - Program Design Review	\$200,000	National	Across all areas
The University of New England: School of Education	Program development to support young children from ADF families, their parents and educators	\$100,000	NSW	Outer regional
Western Sydney University: Research Institutes and Centres	Knowledge translation to support early learning of refugee children and families	\$140,000	NSW	Metropolitan

ENVIRONMENT

Australian Academy of Science	Deliberative Decision-Making Trial, Demonstration Project in the Goulburn Rver	\$15,000	NSW	Outer regional
Australian Academy of Science	Preparing for launch: A mission to discover all Australian species in a generation	\$70,000	National	Across all areas
Australian National University: College of Science	Impact Enhancement	\$4,121	NSW	Inner regional
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	Conserving our national plant treasures: guidelines for collecting, storing and growing Australian plants for restoration	\$200,000	National	Across all areas
Bush Heritage Australia	Impact Enhancement: Ecosystem condition assessment using Accounting for Nature at Eurardy Reserve, WA and Yourka Reserve, QLD	\$20,000	QLD	Remote
Charles Darwin University	Towards Integrated Reporting for Darwin Harbour	\$125,000	NT	Remote
East Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.	Lungs of the Lakes	\$840,000	VIC	Outer regional
Environmental Defenders Office Ltd	Environmental Defenders Office of Australia – Merger Project	\$500,000	National	Across all areas
Monash University: Monash Sustainability Institute/Climateworks	Australian Transport Sector Road Map to Net Zero Emissions	\$20,000	National	Across all areas
Monash University: Monash Sustainability Institute/Climateworks	Facilitating Australia's transition to Net Zero emissions by 2050.	\$2,500,000	National	Across all areas
Museums Board of Victoria T/A Museum Victoria	Impacts of fire on reptiles and invertebrates in the Little Desert: developing evidence-based management strategies.	\$300,000	VIC	Outer regional
Queensland University of Technology: Faculty of Science and Engineering	Assessing the role of Halimeda algal habitat in tropical marine carbon and nitrogen biogeochemical cycling	\$150,000	National	Remote
Reef Life Survey Foundation Incorporated	Mapping change in inshore ecosystems around Australia	\$434,150	National	Across all areas
The Trustee for Karrkad Kandji Trust	Adjumarllar Rangers' Carbon Abatement project	\$25,000	NT	Remote
University of Technology Sydney: Faculty of Science	Risks from blue-green algal blooms; monitoring emerging neurotoxins	\$283,000	NSW	Across all areas

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Alfred Health	Aurora Spectral Analyser – the application of next generation cytometry to the basic/clinical research interface	\$100,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Childrens Hospital Foundation Queensland	Establish the first Queensland Micro-Irradiation Facility at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane to test new therapies in research models	\$100,000	QLD	Across all areas
Eastern Health	Using blood biomarkers to predict dementia risk and aid dementia diagnosis	\$150,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Griffith University: Research Centres & Institutes	Pioneering Tissue Microdissection Glycomics for Better Patient Outcomes	\$100,000	QLD	Metropolitan
Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research Inc	An automated digital pathology scanner to accelerate drug target discovery	\$100,000	WA	Metropolitan
Hudson Institute of Medical Research	NextSeq sequencing technology: Rapid targeting of the genome to combat major diseases	\$100,000	VIC	Metropolitan

RECIPIENT	TITLE	GRANT VALUE	LOCATION	LOCATION TYPE
La Trobe University: Research Institutes and Centres	Understanding cellular metabolism to identify mechanisms underlying human disease	\$100,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Menzies School of Health Research	Acquisition of instrumentation for MALDI-TOF MS based microbial identification.	\$100,000	NT	Outer regional
Queensland University of Technology: Institute of Health & Biomedical Innovation	A GPS for Studying Disease Biology: The Nanostring GeoMx Digital Spatial Profiler	\$200,000	QLD	Metropolitan
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited	Discover treatments for cancer and neurological diseases without side-effects on human brain and heart cells	\$100,000	SA	Across all areas
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Ltd	High-speed 2D/3D microscope imaging platform with image-enhancing capability for disease modelling and testing novel therapies	\$100,000	NSW	Metropolitan
St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Purchase of a BD FACSaria Fusion Cell Sorter to facilitate research with human samples	\$100,000	VIC	Across all areas
The Australian National University	ANU High-Throughput 3D Cell and Organism Screening Facility for Cancer Drug Discovery	\$150,000	ACT	Across all areas
The Bionics Institute of Australia	Building bionic medical devices for human clinical trials	\$100,000	VIC	Across all areas
The Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research	Using Machine Learning to look for patterns in Cancer Genomics	\$100,000	QLD	Metropolitan
The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	A Facility to Study How Brain Circuits Regulate Physiology & Behaviour	\$100,000	VIC	Metropolitan
The Trustee for Lifecare Australia Trust	Customised bone prostheses for people with cancer through desktop scanning electron microscopy	\$100,000	NSW	Across all areas
The University of Newcastle: Faculty of Health and Medicine	An automated high-content screening platform to open the door for quantitative microscopy in the Hunter	\$100,000	NSW	Metropolitan
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	Identification of new disease roles for ubiquitin-related enzymes.	\$100,000	VIC	Metropolitan
University of South Australia: Information Technology, Engineering & the Environment	Developing a safe and scalable non-viral genetic transfection technology with immediate application in cancer immunotherapy	\$100,000	SA	Metropolitan
University of Sydney: Institutes and Centres	Automated liquid-handling platform for precision proteomics to identify optimum health trajectories for diverse patient groups	\$200,000	NSW	Metropolitan
University of Western Australia: Faculty of Science	Research Imaging Centre Western Australia	\$200,000	WA	Metropolitan

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS

La Trobe University: Research Institutes and Centres	Upgrade of the Integrated System-omics Platform Technologies in the La Trobe Comprehensive Proteomics Platform (CPP)	\$800,000	VIC	Metropolitan
Menzies School of Health Research	Evaluation of an innovative clinical decision support tool for economic impact, transferability and scalability	\$540,000	NT	Outer regional
SANE Australia	Melbourne Connect	\$50,000	VIC	Metropolitan
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Limited	Ngalaiya Boorai Gabara Budbut – Supporting the heads and hearts of Aboriginal children and adolescents.	\$300,000	NSW	Across all areas
Telethon Kids Institute	Healthy skin, healthy lives: building evidence for and with Aboriginal communities in the SToP trial	\$252,000	WA	Remote
The Australian National University: College of Health & Medicine	The Mayi Kuwayu Study – community outreach researcher	\$590,000	National	Across all areas

SECTOR SUPPORT

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	Building Australia's Community Foundations (CF) network, and capacity to support CF growth	\$200,000	National	Across all areas
Philanthropy Australia Ltd	Philanthropy Champions	\$150,000	National	Across all areas

THE ALEC PRENTICE SEWELL GIFT

Australian Youth Climate Coalition Limited	AYCC and Seed Regional Trainings and Climate Leaders	\$50,000	National	Remote
Beyond the Bell Great South Coast Ltd	Beyond the Bell – Positive Transitions to School Project	\$450,000	VIC	Outer regional
The School Volunteer Program Ltd	"Mentoring Matters" Vocational Exchange	\$150,000	VIC	Metropolitan

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 2019–2020 WERE:

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 2019–2020 WERE:

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 \$28,450,000 for IPF in the 2020–2021 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.

	2019–2020	2018–2019
	\$	\$
Portfolio market value	655,413,427	712,768,199
Distributions	30,326,306	28,430,151
Cumulative distributions	355m	325m
Distributable income 2019–2020	37,047,937	37,261,158
Future Commitments	86,162,320	74,498,464
COMBINED OPERATING EXPENSES	2020	2019
Operating expenses	\$2,450,637	\$2,454,730
Operating expenses as a % of distributions made	8.08%	8.65%
Operating expenses as a % of net assets	0.37%	0.34%

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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