

Media release

Tuesday, May 9 2023

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS BY GIVING ALMOST \$650,000 IN GRANTS

Seven regional community groups and charities have today been announced as the recipients of almost \$650,000 in funding from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

The funds will be used to support the delivery of projects and initiatives aimed at improving the health and social wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in regional New South Wales.

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation Chair, Jennifer Leslie, said each of the seven projects would make an important difference in the communities they serve, including the Hunter, Central Coast, Central West and New England.

“We have a wonderful array of projects in this funding round, showing both the broad need in our regional communities, and the impressive drive, talent and determination our charity partners and colleagues show every day,” said Ms Leslie.

“This round includes programs that aim to reunite families, empower Indigenous women and give children with a disability the chance to experience the fun and freedom of cycling.

“It shows just how much need exists in our communities and how far the need reaches.”

The projects which will benefit from this funding round are:

- [Family Inclusion Strategies Hunter](#) – Strengthening Family Inclusion – \$94,831
- [Boys to the Bush](#) – Schools Programs Initiative – \$108,800
- [Foodbank](#) – Central West Community Food Relief Program – \$137,000
- [University of New South Wales](#) – Wurringaa-baa: Women’s Empowerment and Cultural Resilience Project – \$146,961
- [RizeUp](#) – Driving to Safety; Supporting Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence – \$55,000
- [Solve-TAD](#) – Cycling to Freedom for Children with Disabilities – \$55,000
- [SMART Recovery](#) – SMART Central Coast and Hunter – \$50,000

Ms Leslie said that as the Charitable Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary, it was a time to reflect on past success, present work, and future endeavours.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to pause and appreciate two decades of hard work, during which time our Foundation has distributed more than \$25 million, been part of over 550 projects, built hundreds of exceptional relationships with invaluable partners, and changed countless lives.

“Staying in the present, these seven projects remind us of the value and importance our partners have in their communities, and the ways in which their hard work makes a tangible difference every day.

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“When looking ahead, we dream big – and at 20 years young, we’re just getting started!”

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation holds two grant giving ceremonies each year, with the second for 2023 set to be held in December.

Many of today’s grant recipients have already commenced their projects, with all expected to be completed by 2025.

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Region	Organisation	Project name	Project brief	Amount
Hunter	Family Inclusion Strategies Hunter (FISH)	<i>Strengthening Family Inclusion initiative</i>	Aiming to improve outcomes for children in out-of-home care, FISH will provide the parents of these children with support, knowledge and skills, contributing to higher rates of family preservation and restoration/reunification.	\$94,831
Central West	Boys to the Bush	<i>Schools Programs initiative</i>	This program will assist 160 at-risk Forbes and Bathurst based boys, who might otherwise fall through the cracks, to connect to their community and realise their potential.	\$108,800
Central West	Foodbank Limited	<i>Central West Community Food Relief Program</i>	This one-year pilot project will hire, train and provide a vehicle for a Community Food Relief Coordinator to support sustainable food accessibility for those in the community who do not have food security.	\$137,000
New England	University of New South Wales	<i>Wurringaa-baa: Women’s empowerment and cultural resilience project</i>	This project aims to prevent and reduce Aboriginal family violence, and enhance social and emotional wellbeing. Through education and training, Aboriginal women will be empowered, have improved independence, and be enabled to further upskill the broader community.	\$146,961

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Hunter	RizeUp	<i>Driving to safety – supporting survivors of domestic and family violence</i>	By providing a vehicle, this initiative will enable RizeUp to collect donations that will furnish homes for survivors of domestic and family violence.	\$55,000
Central Coast	Solve-TAD	<i>Cycling to freedom for children with disabilities</i>	This program will gift a custom-built Freedom Wheels bike to 25 children with physical and cognitive disabilities who are unable to personally afford or access NDIS funding to purchase such a bike, introducing them to the social benefits of cycling.	\$55,000
Central Coast	SMART Recovery	<i>SMART Central Coast and Hunter</i>	This program will train 20 Lifeline Counsellors across two hubs to deliver SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) Recovery meetings, which provide clients with evidence-based addiction and mental health support.	\$50,000
TOTAL				\$647,592

About Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides more than \$1 million in grants each year to charitable projects aimed at improving the health and social wellbeing of vulnerable people in regional New South Wales. Since its establishment in 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$25 million to some 550 community initiatives.