

Media release

Thursday, 14 December 2023

MORE THAN \$685,000 IN GRANTS TO HELP REWRITE THE FUTURE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Ten projects receive support from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation

Ten projects set to deliver meaningful change in the community have today received much-needed funding from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation Executive Officer, Carly Bush, said the successful projects were selected for the quality outcomes they will deliver to the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised people in NSW regional communities.

“These new projects will deliver much-needed support and potentially life-changing opportunities to young people, victims of domestic violence, people living with disabilities and First Nations communities,” Ms Bush said.

“We are excited to support our new partners to deliver real and lasting positive impact where it’s needed most.

“We support organisations of all shapes and sizes, and feel privileged to be working with both local grassroots organisations, as well as national and international charities, all of which work tirelessly to improve the lives of those they serve.

Projects funded include:

- [Habitat for Humanity Australia](#) – Brush with Kindness - \$120,000
- [PROJECT ROCKIT](#) - PROJECT ROCKIT Rising Stars: Supporting the Potential of Young People in Regional Australia - \$120,000
- [Key Employment](#) – Basketball Courts: Connecting to Young People - \$91,531
- [SharingStories Foundation](#) - Dunghutti Young People – Strong in Self, Strong in Culture - \$86,000
- [Brave Foundation](#) - Supporting Expecting and Parenting Teen Dads (SEPT) - \$75,000
- [Coolamon Community](#) - Coolamon Community Northern Rivers Southern Expansion Project - \$50,000
- [Fighting Chance](#) - Avenue Newcastle - expanding Avenue’s microbusinesses and supporting entrepreneurs with disability - \$49,500
- [Vivability](#) - Café VIVA Project Upgrade - \$40,000
- [Lung Foundation Australia](#) - Lungs in Action Community Exercise Project - \$33,839
- [Southern Cross University](#) - Challenges and opportunities for social inclusion among childbearing immigrant women of non-English CALD background in Northern NSW - \$20,000

(Further info on each project below.)

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Founded in 2003, to date, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has provided over \$26 million in grants to over 550 projects. The Foundation offers two rounds of funding each year for groups across regional NSW.

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Region	Organisation	Project name	Project brief	Amount
Hunter	Habitat for Humanity Australia	Brush With Kindness	Drawing on its global experience in affordable housing, Habitat will expand to the Hunter and Central Coast for the first time. Their project will engage 150 volunteers to repair and refurbish 20 social and transitional housing units to provide high-quality accommodation and a sense of dignity for people facing disadvantage, especially those escaping family and domestic violence.	\$120,000
Hunter, Mid North Coast	PROJECT ROCKIT	PROJECT ROCKIT Rising Stars: Supporting the Potential of Young People in Regional Australia	From humble origins, PROJECT ROCKIT is now a nationwide youth-led grassroots movement striving to reduce bullying. In 2024, the PROJECT ROCKIT Foundation will deliver student workshops addressing bullying, cybersafety and mental health in 15 regional NSW high schools.	\$120,000
Mid North Coast	Key Employment	Basketball Courts – Connecting to Young People	Two popular basketball courts at Key's Youth Hub in Coffs harbour will receive a much-needed upgrade. Used by at-risk youth and people with a disability, the upgraded facilities will provide a safe and inclusive space for them to enjoy and engage with Key Employment services.	\$91,531
Mid North Coast	SharingStories Foundation	Dunghutti Young People – Strong in Self, Strong in Culture	Thirty Year 10 students from Macleay Vocational College will learn a range of digital media skills, including film and audio fundamentals, video production, editing and post-production.	\$86,000

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			They will take their new skills and knowledge on Country to record knowledge chosen to be shared by Custodians.	
Hunter, Central Coast	Brave Foundation	Supporting Expecting and Parenting Teen Dads (SEPT)	Building on their extensive experience working with teen parents, this project will see Brave focus specifically on dads. Ten dads aged under 25 will be matched with a professional mentor for 12 months to support their parenting journey, helping these young men to fulfill their personal goals and participate in their community.	\$75,000
Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast	Coolamon Community	Coolamon Community Northern Rivers Southern Expansion Project	Beautifully curated and culturally appropriate cribs will be presented to 240 expecting First Nations mothers to celebrate the birth of their child. Recipients will also be connected to healthcare and other service providers to support the pregnancy, birth and infancy of their child.	\$50,000
Hunter	Fighting Chance	Avenue Newcastle - expanding Avenue's microbusinesses and supporting entrepreneurs with disability	People living with disabilities will be given opportunities to generate income through Avenue Newcastle's microbusiness program. The project will train, mentor and support 14 entrepreneurs to develop a business plan to kick-start or scale-up their business.	\$49,500
Central West	Vivability	Café VIVA Project Upgrade	Respected national charity the Lung Foundation will establish its Lungs in Action programs in the Hunter, Mid North and Central Coast. The project will train 10 local registered fitness professionals to support patients living with eligible chronic lung and/or heart conditions.	\$40,000

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Hunter, Mid North Coast, Central Coast	Lung Foundation Australia	Lungs in Action Community Exercise Project	The challenges and barriers faced by immigrant women of child-bearing age will be researched by an experienced group from Southern Cross University. Led by a team with lived experience, the project will inform future practices to reduce the disparities in healthcare and social services currently experienced by this cohort.	\$33,839
Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast	Southern Cross University	Challenges and opportunities for social inclusion among childbearing immigrant women of non-English CALD background in northern NSW	The challenges and barriers faced by immigrant women of child-bearing age will be researched by an experienced group from Southern Cross University. Led by a team with lived experience, the project will inform future practices to reduce the disparities in healthcare and social services currently experienced by this cohort.	\$20,000

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 \$26 million to some 550 community initiatives.