

Date Friday 6 November, 2009
Subject **nib foundation announces over \$500,000 in community funding**

nib foundation has donated more than half a million dollars to community groups from across the Hunter and beyond as part of its inaugural Community Grants program.

Announced during a function held at nib's national headquarters in Newcastle today, the nine chosen organisations will collectively receive \$574,480 in grants that will contribute to community-based programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of people in NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

The beneficiaries of nib foundation's Community Grants program are:

- **Beresfield & District Community Care Inc:** *Cooking for You and Me Project* (Hunter, NSW)
- **Epilepsy Action Australia:** *Epilepsy Service Program* (Hunter, NSW)
- **Cystic Fibrosis Queensland:** *Cystic Fibrosis Community-Based Treatment Program* (QLD, NSW & NT)
- **Catholic Health Care Limited:** *Living Conditions Program* (Hunter, NSW)
- **Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association (DebRA):** *National EB Nurse* (National)
- **The Nicholas Butters Trust:** *Paediatric Palliative Care* (Northern NSW)
- **Deaf Children Australia:** *Deaf Girls Circle* (VIC Metro)
- **Hunter Region SLSA Helicopter Rescue Service:** *Satellite Tracking System* (Northern NSW)
- **Whitelion Incorporated:** *Young Women's Hepatitis C Awareness Program* (VIC Metro)

Launched earlier this year, the response to the funding application round was overwhelming according to nib foundation Chairman, Mr Terry Lawler.

"We received 240 applications from a diverse range of community organisations from around Australia, which highlighted the growing demand for community services funding and the overall impact the global financial crisis is having on this sector," Mr Lawler explained.

"With so many wonderful organisations and important programs seeking funding, the task of selecting the recipients was not easy. However, the fundamental principle that guided our decision-making was to select those programs that make the greatest impact on as many lives as possible."

The program funding for the nine recipients ranged from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

While the successful recipients offer a diverse range of program services, each fall within nib foundation's community grant focal areas of support including wellbeing, equity and access, as well as education and training.

Mr Lawler said the foundation was also impressed with the creativity and unique approach that many of the programs were taking to deliver important outcomes for community groups.

"For instance, Beresfield & District Community Care's *Cooking for You and Me Project*, provides aged and disabled people with skills and information to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for themselves. It is such a simple concept but it addresses very real health and welfare issues in our society."

Speaking at the announcement, Director of Social Enterprise at the Centre for Social Impact and former federal parliamentarian, Cheryl Kernot, reinforced the importance of corporate philanthropy to the social sector and highlighted the opportunities available for organisations such as nib foundation to make a significant contribution to Australia's social landscape.

"Corporate foundations have a very important role to play as social investors, helping to create not only financial, but also social value in our community," said Ms Kernot.

"We are witnessing a time of profound change in the social landscape with the emergence of social businesses. There are many new opportunities for Foundations and socially responsible businesses to make longer term embedded investments through collaborations and positive procurement policies to make a lasting social impact in the local communities they serve."

Since its establishment in October 2008, nib foundation has now allocated \$1.8 million in funding of health and wellbeing initiatives – more than three-quarters of which has been for Hunter-based programs.

nib foundation's National Grants program is currently open to invited applicants and will provide funding of up to \$500,000 per year for a maximum of 3 years for programs that address significant health issues facing Carers and Young People. Expressions of Interests can be submitted before 25 November with the successful recipients to be announced in the first half of 2010.

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About nib foundation

In 2008, nib health funds established nib foundation – a not-for-profit charitable organisation that will support programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

The foundation is funded by a \$25 million donation from nib, which was raised through the issue of new shares at the time of listing nib on the Australian Securities Exchange in November 2007.

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About nib foundation's Community Grants Program Beneficiaries

Beresfield & District Community Care Inc.

Cooking for You and Me Project (Hunter, NSW)

- A 10-week program that provides aged and disabled people appropriate skills and information to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for themselves. The program focuses on food preparation, shopping for appropriate products and identifying dietary requirements for healthy living.

Epilepsy Action Australia (EAA)

Epilepsy Service Program – A focus on the Hunter

- *Epilepsy Service Program* will involve community-based education, training and support for those living with epilepsy and their carers. Specific programs include Memory workshops, the employment of an 'Epilepsy Nurse Educator' to support neurologists and clinical staff at John Hunter Hospital, emergency first aid training for families and carers of those with epilepsy and residential camps for teenagers living with epilepsy.

Cystic Fibrosis Queensland (CFQ)

Cystic Fibrosis Community-Based Treatment Program

- The *Cystic Fibrosis Community-Based Treatment Program* will provide education programs for community-based allied health providers, continued collaboration with Queensland's major hospitals, development of cystic fibrosis education packs for schools, and also the employment of Cystic Fibrosis Support Officers who meet with cystic fibrosis sufferers in their home or community to educate on the benefits of living a 'healthy cystic fibrosis lifestyle'.

Catholic Health Care Limited

The Living Conditions Project

- *The Living Conditions Project* will work in collaboration with other providers in the homelessness and housing support sector in Newcastle. The fundamental aims will be to reduce the number of people living in squalor, educate the sector on how best to assist people living in domestic squalor, forge links between program participants and relevant health and support services, and as a preventative measure, reduce the instance of tenancy breakdown.

Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association (DebRA)

National EB Nurse

- The nib foundation funding will employ two part-time specialist EB nurses and a part-time project coordinator who will facilitate a rapid response program and face-to-face care and support to improve patient wellbeing and insure equality of care for all sufferers of the condition. The program will also facilitate the development of best practice guidelines for patient care.

The Nicholas Butters Trust

Paediatric Palliative Care for Northern NSW

- The funding will enable the refurbishment of existing paediatric facilities to include appropriate accommodation for patients and their families. It will also be used to purchase and lease equipment for the palliative care facilities, including portable ramps, folding wheel chairs, lifters, mattresses, hospital beds and diversional therapy aids.

**Deaf Children Australia
Deaf Girls Circle**

- The *Deaf Girls Circle* project will help deaf Victorian girls aged 14-18 build resilience and improve the long-term physical, social and mental wellbeing. The project involves a series of 22 workshops to be held over 12 months that will provide a social network and forum for the deaf girls to acquire life skills, expand their social knowledge, explore current issues and topics, and share their experiences with others.

**Hunter Region SLSA Helicopter Rescue Service
'Sky Connect' Tracking Devices**

- The funding will allow the service to purchase and install three 'Sky Connect' tracking devices in each of its helicopters that will allow the Ambulance Medical Response Unit to track the precise location and flight status of each aircraft without any action by the pilot or crew. This ensures a more effective deployment of rescue aircraft to the scene of a medical emergency and results in reduced response times and improved patient outcomes.

**Whitelion Incorporated
Young Women's Hepatitis C Awareness Program**

- The *Young Women's Hepatitis C Awareness Program* works with young women who have been or are at risk of being in contact with the youth justice system. Young women targeted by Whitelion service have high prevalence rates for health conditions such as STIs, psychological disorders, substance misuse, self-harm and various health risk behaviours. Using an individual outreach model, the Hepatitis C Awareness Program will focus on self-care and health promotion, and will be tailored to suit each individual young woman's specific needs.