

Date Thursday 4 November, 2010
Subject nib foundation announces almost \$600,000 in community funding

nib foundation has today announced funding of almost \$600,000 to community groups from across country as part of its second annual Community Grants program.

Collectively, the 10 successful funding applicants received \$592,081 from nib foundation that will contribute to the roll-out and implementation of community-based programs aimed at making a direct and positive impact on the health and wellbeing of people in need.

Individual program funding ranged from between \$8,000 and \$100,000.

The beneficiaries of nib foundation's 2010 Community Grants program are:

- **Youth Off The Streets:** *Holborow House Clinical Program* (Hunter, NSW)
- **Newcastle and Hunter Community Access:** *Sport and More Competition* (Hunter, NSW)
- **OzHarvest:** *Newcastle Food Rescue Program* (Hunter, NSW)
- **The Alannah and Madeline Foundation:** *Buddy Bags Program* (Hunter, NSW)
- **Cystic Fibrosis New South Wales:** *Northern NSW Outreach Support Service* (Northern NSW)
- **Centacare:** *If Only Domestic Violence Perpetrators Program* (Mackay, QLD)
- **Evolve:** *Young Women's Program* (Victoria)
- **BrainLink:** *Carer Education and Support Program* (Regional VIC)
- **Kids are Kids! Therapy & Education Centre:** *Kids are Kids! Know How! Project* (Perth, WA)
- **St Patrick's Community Support Centre:** *Hands on Health* (Kwinana, WA)

According to nib foundation Chairman, Mr Terry Lawler, the Community Grant program has again attracted an overwhelming response from the not-for-profit and charity sectors.

"We received almost 100 applications from a wide range of community organisations located across the country, which demonstrated the ongoing need for funding support," Mr Lawler said.

"The selection of our 2010 Community Grants recipients was not an easy one. The quality of the programs among the applications continues to amaze us, with so many great initiatives providing practical and real assistance to those in need," he added.

"Four of this year's recipients are Hunter-based, which again highlights our commitment to make a significance difference to the health issues facing our local community.

"Community organisations based in the Hunter continue to develop unique programs that have the ability to truly impact the lives of their clients in the region.

“Newcastle and Hunter Community Access is a great example of how a simple program can make an enormous difference. Their sport and social program for Hunter residents with a disability that use a wheelchair will open up great new opportunities for these people to participate in physical activities as well as developing new friendships,” Mr Lawler added.

While nib foundation has chosen a diverse range of programs for this year’s Community Grants funding, each provide services that fall within the key focal areas of wellbeing, equity and access, as well as education and training.

“We believe these are key areas of need for local communities and we are proud to be able to assist these wonderful organisations in making their programs a reality and affecting positive change,” Mr Lawler said.

Since its establishment in October 2008, nib foundation has now allocated \$6 million in funding of health and wellbeing initiatives.

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

St Patrick's Community Support Centre

Hands On Health

The *Hands on Health* pilot program at Kwinana in Western Australia aims to provide a holistic range of medical and allied health services including chiropractic and podiatry, visiting services such as hearing checks and optometry, and health education including disease prevention.

It will make free health services more accessible to this disadvantage group of residents as well as providing opportunities for improved standards in health education, disease prevention, and monitoring of chronic disease.

BrainLink

Carer Education and Support Program

BrainLink will extend its Carer Education and Support Program for people with an acquired brain disorder to five regional Victorian locations including Barwon South West, Grampians, Loddon Mallee, Gippsland and Hume.

The one-day workshop and follow up session will provide specialised advice, support and education for the carer to ensure they maintain their health and wellbeing, as well as that of the person with the brain disorder. Local health professionals will also be trained to deliver the four-week program, which will help close the gap on the lack of understanding in this area.

Cystic Fibrosis New South Wales

Northern NSW Outreach Support Service

Cystic Fibrosis New South Wales plans to address isolation felt by families living in outlying areas of NSW by extending their Outreach Support service to the Northern NSW, helping to reach an additional 20 families living with CF.

The program involves visiting each area twice a year to provide support, education and information to individual families and to organise networking groups.

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation

Buddy Bags Program

The *Buddy Bags Program* provides basic and personal items to children who are placed in emergency foster care or domestic violence refuges, including toiletries, pyjamas, a book and teddy bear. They provide children with belongings of their own, and help to begin the process of restoring a sense of safety and security into their lives.

833 buddy bags will be provided to children who enter emergency care throughout the Hunter Valley region.

Ozharvest Newcastle

OzHarvest rescues good excess food that would otherwise be discarded to landfill from local restaurants, retailers, food outlets and corporate kitchens and delivers it to charities that feed the disadvantaged and homeless.

The food rescue program enables charities to reduce their food budget and redirect their funding to education and rehabilitation. In addition by ensuring that good food is being eaten rather than going to landfill OzHarvest is helping the environment by ensuring tons of carbon emissions do not pollute the atmosphere.

The nib foundation grant will mean 100,000 more meals can be delivered across the Hunter by OzHarvest.

Evolve*The Young Women's Program*

The Young Women's Program is Australia's first exclusively female early intervention program for at-risk and disadvantaged Victorian women aged between 14 and 17 years.

The program consists of a four-week residential and bush expedition at rural property, Typo Station, in the Alpine National Park followed by two years of individualised support. It features experiential learning, workshops, vocational development and training and ongoing support.

Kids Are Kids! Therapy and Education Centre*Kids Are Kids! Know How! Project*

The project aims to explore the value of technology-based tools in a therapeutic setting, appealing to the children's willingness to engage with technology.

The 10-week program will investigate how occupational, speech and physiotherapy provided through popular devices such as Nintendo Wii impact the rate of children's speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, coordination and balance development.

Youth Off The Streets*Holborow House Clinical Program*

A residential program designed for young males, aged 12 to 16 years, who have experienced low level substance use/ abuse or neglect; are at risk of homelessness and/or self harm because of family breakdown or other issues; or have been involved in minor criminal activities.

A clinician will be established who will address issues of mental health faced by the resident through psychological services including individual assessments, structured intervention processes and regular clinical meetings.

Centacare*If Only Domestic Violence Perpetrators Program*

A 12-week behaviour change program for men who have been perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

The program aims to assist participants to cease using violence and controlling behaviour in intimate relationships, by giving them the skills and knowledge to use non-violent strategies in their relationships.

Based on a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Motivational Interviewing framework, the program features individual and group therapeutic processes to support behavioural change in perpetrators.

Newcastle and Hunter Community Access*Sport and More: Hunter Wheelchair Rugby League and Sporting Competition*

A structured sporting and social program will be created for Hunter residents with significant and/or multiple disabilities that use a wheelchair.

The project aims to provide opportunities for these people to participate in new sporting and physical activity and also develop natural networks with peers through a program of supported social activities.

It will feature two 12-week wheelchair rugby competitions and additional sporting and supported social activities.