



SNOW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANTS 2008

Young mothers, the homeless and the mentally ill receive special attention in this year's Snow Foundation community grants.

According to Chief Executive Officer, Ms Georgina Byron, the Foundation has approved grants totalling \$400,000 to 27 local organisations and individuals.

“Society's disadvantaged remain our key focus in 2008,” she said. “Around 66 per cent of our 2008 grants program will go to the most marginalised people, many of whom are homeless or facing homelessness. Sadly, homelessness and mental illness go hand-in-hand, which is why the Foundation is making a concerted effort to help these areas this year. Of the remainder, we continue to support people with disabilities and provide funding for educational and recreational programs for at risk youth”.

In this regard, two early intervention programs for at risk youth – the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Messenger program (\$20,000) and Cooma YMCA's Boys to Men program (\$17,000) captured the Foundation's attention. With a retention rate of 85 per cent, the Messenger mental health program enjoys strong success. It builds resilience through an arts program of drama, visual arts and dance. The YMCA's new and much needed Boys to Men program is for local boys aged between 13 and 17, offering life skills mentoring and gender, drug and alcohol education.

The Foundation has also identified new and expectant mothers as another area of special need.

“In its 2008 ACT Annual Report, Open Family reported a lack of support and crisis accommodation for young expectant mothers.” As a result, the Foundation will fund a case worker at Karinya House (\$26,000) for the next two years. Located at Evatt, Karinya House provides an outreach program and support accommodation for mothers and babies.

In recognition of the everyday difficulties facing the disadvantaged, the Foundation will provide financial support for four food programs this year – Oz Harvest (\$10,000), which gathers food from cafes and restaurants for distribution to local charities, Stasia Dabrowski's Food for the Disadvantaged (\$17,380), Anglicare's Fresh Foods for Families (\$12,000) and Ainslie Primary School Breakfast Club (\$3,300).

The Foundation has also foreshadowed a significant change in approach this year.

“We want to be more hands-on, more involved with the people and the programs,” Ms Byron said. “We want to do more than just sign the cheques. The Foundation wants to have a better understanding of the social issues that confront the community. “We want to be assured that the programs we are supporting are delivering meaningful benefits to those in need.”

In the 18 years since it was established by brothers Terry and George Snow, the Foundation has contributed \$2.3 million to 125 local organisations and individuals. In June this year, Terry doubled the corpus from \$5m to \$10m.

(A full list of successful grant applicants is attached)



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