



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Significant opportunity for social entrepreneurs to bring about change**

04/04/2023: The Snow Foundation is calling for expressions of interest from innovative leaders to participate in the Snow Entrepreneurs Fellowship.

The multi-million-dollar program aims to fast-track early-stage social change initiatives into sustainable organisations by providing them with funding and wrap-around capacity-building and mentoring.

The *Snow Entrepreneurs – fellowships for social change* were launched in 2022, to honour the entrepreneurial beginnings of the Foundation and its founder, Canberra businessman Terry Snow AM.

The new cohort will join the eight inaugural Snow Entrepreneurs, who have gone from strength to strength since joining the program. Three of them have already successfully raised impact investments for their initiatives in less than 12 months.

“We are so impressed by the quality of our 2022 Snow Entrepreneurs. They are all exceptional, passionate individuals who are making a difference in innovative and effective ways to Australians experiencing disadvantage,” Snow Foundation CEO Georgina Byron AM said.

“Building on the success and learnings of the first year, the Fellowship this year will offer increased and enhanced support to the Snow Entrepreneurs – more funding, more advisory days and more peer learning opportunities including an annual face-to-face leadership retreat.”

The *Snow Entrepreneurs – fellowships for social change* program identifies up-and-coming social change leaders that are making a meaningful difference to at-risk populations in key areas of focus for the Foundation: homelessness, housing affordability, domestic and family violence, education, life skills, employment pathways, addiction, disability, mental health and for-purpose capacity building.

The program looks for leaders and teams that have created and are delivering early-stage initiatives aimed at addressing disadvantages, that:

- Are addressing a gap
- Are innovative
- Are led by inspiring people
- Have a realistic vision for growth and sustainability

Relevant sector experts will be asked to provide input into the assessment and selection process.

Up to eight successful Snow Entrepreneurs will receive funding of \$100,000 to \$250,000, as well as significant, tailored support to meet their needs, including one-on-one mentoring, a diagnostic assessment and business advisory services delivered by the Social Impact Hub, and a 12-week interactive educational program run by Antler venture capital fund. The Snow Foundation also dedicates significant resources to support the Snow Entrepreneurs, fostering peer learning and connection to relevant networks, resources and advice.

Snow Entrepreneur Loki Ball of Performl, one of the first Snow Entrepreneurs, is on a mission to empower everyone with the data they need to end disadvantage and improve people's lives. “Building a business is often lonely and always hard,” Mr Ball said. “The Snow Entrepreneur program has taught me to embrace the struggle and find joy in the process. The support from the Snow Foundation has caused a chain reaction of extraordinary results. We feel better prepared than ever to give the impossible a go.”

Snow Entrepreneur Skye Riggs from Ripple, a social enterprise helping ‘the next generation impact the future’, agreed: “Alongside the funding and accelerator support, having someone believe in you

and back you is so powerful. Knowing we can move forward to build towards our vision with these resources and support is like having a cheer squad to help you!”

Pia Clinton-Tarestad, Co-Founder and CEO of Clean Slate Clinic, a telehealth alcohol detox and rehabilitation program, says about the program: "It's been an absolutely amazing experience - just the right balance of hands-on support and recognising the time constraints of the cohort, and a truly wonderful cohort to have been a part of."

Potential future Snow Entrepreneurs are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest by midnight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2023 via [www.snowfoundation.org.au](http://www.snowfoundation.org.au).

“If you are doing something new, something cutting edge, and something that addresses disadvantage, then we want to hear from you. We are looking for early-stage programs that are, or have the potential, to go national and have a big impact,” Ms Byron added.

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