



Hands  
Across  
Canberra  
Your Community Foundation



Snow  
Foundation



 John James Foundation

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Canberra Foundations Collaborative boosts social projects with \$1.94 million in new grants

*Monday 23 June 2025:* As more Canberrans turn to community services for support, a local philanthropic collective has joined forces for the fourth year to deliver a \$1.94 million boost to 71 vital community projects across the region.

The 2025 Canberra Foundations Collaborative grant round, led by Snow Foundation, Hands Across Canberra and John James Foundation will support 67 grassroots and systems-focused organisations working in areas such as community belonging, disability inclusion, healthcare, family and domestic violence prevention, and support for people experiencing disadvantage.

Since its launch in 2022, the Collaborative has committed \$6.8 million to more than 310 community projects demonstrating the power of collaborative philanthropy in strengthening Canberra's social fabric.

This round responds to a record 213 Expressions of Interest—highlighting the rising demand on local services. In response, the Collaborative increased its funding and sharpened its focus on long-term commitments, co-funding models, and building the capacity of Canberra's social support sector.

This year's funding is focused on supporting people with disabilities, young people facing complex challenges, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families experiencing hardship, and others at risk of exclusion.

"We're thrilled to support 26 diverse programs this round, some co-funded, some funded by Snow - but the Collaborative is more than just funding programs. It's about strengthening the people and organisations behind them. They work so damn hard, and our job is to work together as a collective and constantly learn how best to respond to our local community," **Georgina Byron AM, CEO Snow Foundation** said. "We've introduced a multi-year funding model for Canberra's community centres that serve a range of communities, providing greater certainty for long-term, locally led change and immediate crisis response. We're backing larger requests, like Right to Work – which empowers young people with disabilities to experience employment success and genuine inclusion.

"We've also deepened our engagement with First Nations organisations in the ACT, supporting four local partners, building on our national partnerships."

Seventeen of the 71 grants are multi-year commitments, giving organisations the stability and confidence to plan ahead and deepen their impact.

“We’re seeing growing demand across every part of the community sector, and this collaboration helps meet that need with practical, meaningful support,” **Genevieve Jacobs, CEO of Hands Across Canberra** said. “We’re so proud to be co-funding Canberra’s first Youth Parliament—a powerful civics and leadership program giving 25 young people the opportunity to be heard in the Legislative Assembly. These are voices that are too often missing from the conversation, and this initiative gives them a platform to lead.”

“We’re also deeply grateful for the additional support from Davencare and Aspen Foundations this year—thank you for your shared commitment to strengthening our community.”

Among the projects funded this year include:

- **Sisters in Spirit:** An Aboriginal-led organisation creating culturally safe healing and legal support spaces for Aboriginal women and girls (joint funding from Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra)
- **The Y Canberra Youth Assembly:** A civics and leadership program giving 25 young people the opportunity to participate in Canberra’s first Youth Parliament (joint funding from Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra)
- **Sanctuary Aus:** A partnership with ACT DVCS to deliver specialist domestic violence training for families living with disability (funding from John James Foundation and Aspen)
- **ACT Regional Community Service Alliance:** A collaboration between five ACT community organisations (Woden Community Service, Communities@Work, Capital Region Community Services, Northside Community Service, and Community Services #1,) to explore shared services, advocacy and data, to improve sector coordination and strengthen long-term impact (joint funding from Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra)

**Kirsty Dixon, CEO of YMCA ACT** said “We’re excited to have Canberra’s first youth Chief Territory Member, and 25 youth Legislative Assembly MLA’s gather on the floor of the ACT Assembly to discuss bills and motions that matter to young people.

“This has only been made possible through the vision of Snow Foundation, Hands Across Canberra and the Office of the Legislative Assembly, who truly care about the youth voice.

“This will be a life changing program for the 25 young people in this diverse Youth Parliament, to express their passion and opinions about civics and the future of our region.”

**Simon Bennett, Chair of the ACT Regional Community Service Alliance** added. “Our thanks to Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra for their belief in us and our drive for true collaboration and cohesion,” he said.

“The grant will support the collaborative work of our five organisations and enable us to consolidate our data, highlighting key trends, needs, and service gaps across the region. By uniting our data and voices, we can amplify our impact, better represent the communities we serve and strengthen our ability to advocate effectively with both local and Federal Government.”

The top six key areas of funding this year are:

Focus Area	Project Count	Total	%
Strengthening Engagement & Belonging	15	\$389,466	20%
Disability	12	\$195,043	10%
Mental Health	9	\$237,861	12%
Healthcare	9	\$433,041	22%
Disadvantage	8	\$240,000	12%
Family and Domestic Violence and Abuse	5	\$134,500	7%

“These investments are enabling organisations to do more of what works—and to do it together. Collaboration is the engine of a stronger, more resilient Canberra. Through strategic funding and targeted capacity-building, we’re strengthening connections, fostering peer learning, and amplifying collective impact for those who need it most.” **Joe Roff, CEO of John James Foundation** said.

“This funding is our way of saying thank you to the frontline workers, leaders and changemakers across the ACT.”

The full list of recipients is below.

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**About the Canberra Foundations Collaborative**

*Hands Across Canberra* is an independent philanthropic community foundation, working with more than 300 local community organisations. Funds for this grant round are being provided by *the Chief Minister’s Charitable Fund* which is delivered in partnership with Hands Across Canberra. For more information about Hands Across Canberra visit [www.handsacrosscanberra.org.au](http://www.handsacrosscanberra.org.au)

*Snow Foundation*, established by Terry Snow AM in Canberra in 1991 and led by his daughter Georgina Byron AM as CEO since 2006, is focused on fostering positive social change. It supports a range of causes, from grassroots entrepreneurial projects to established organisations and exceptional leaders working for social change. The Foundation is committed to catalysing community infrastructure and have a deep focus on youth at-risk, domestic and family violence, being a respectful and useful ally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and giving to women and girls through a gender lens – <http://www.snowfoundation.org.au>

*John James Foundation* is an independent broad-based healthcare charity providing a range of programs and assistance to the people of Canberra and beyond. Keep up to date on their activities on [www.jjf.org.au](http://www.jjf.org.au)

## Recipients

	Organisation Name
1	Advocacy For Inclusion Incorporated
2	Allara Creative
3	Australian Brain Cancer Foundation
4	Australian Childhood Foundation
5	Barnardos Australia *
6	Bosom Buddies ACT Inc
7	Brainwave Australia
8	Broulee Surfers Surf Life Saving Club Inc
9	Camp Quality Limited
10	Canberra Police Community Youth Club Ltd
11	Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
12	Canberra Refugee Support Inc
13	Cancer Patients Foundation
14	Capital Region Community Services *
15	Cerebral Palsy Alliance
16	Communities at Work Galilee School
17	Community Home Australia
18	Community Services #1
19	Delta Therapy Dogs
20	Directions Health Services Ltd
21	Diversity ACT
22	Dress for Success NSW & ACT
23	Eagles Sports Association
24	Evatt Primary School & Kingsford Smith School
25	Fearless Women
26	First Steps Pregnancy Support
27	Girls Rock! Canberra
28	Good Omen Goodeze Ltd
29	Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
30	Hartley Lifecare
31	HelpingACT
32	Hepatitis ACT Inc
33	Hindu Council of Australia Karma Kitchen
34	HOME in Queanbeyan
35	Homeable
36	I Got You Ltd

37	Justice Reform Initiative
38	Little Luxton
39	Marymead CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
40	Miracle Babies Foundation
41	Monaro Family Support Service
42	Music for Canberra Inc
43	My Coaching My Future
44	Ngarigo Waligada Aboriginal Corporation INC 10306
45	Perinatal Wellbeing Centre *
46	Radio 1RPH
47	Respite Care for Queanbeyan Incorporated
48	Right to Work
49	Sanctuary Aus Limited
50	School Volunteer Program ACT Inc
51	SEE Change
52	Sisters In Spirit Aboriginal Corporation
53	Starlight Children's Foundation Australia
54	Stepping Stone Social Enterprise
55	Street Side Medics
56	The Brite Notes
57	The Salvation Army (The Trustee for The Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust)
58	The Shepherd Centre - For Deaf Children
59	The Y Canberra Region
60	Variety The Children's Charity
61	WheelEasy
62	Woden Community Services*
63	Women's Health Matters
64	Worldview Foundation Ltd
65	Youth Coalition of the ACT
66	YWCA Canberra*
67	Zonta Club of Canberra Breakfast Incorporated
	<i>* Indicates multiple projects</i>

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