



Hands
Across
Canberra
Your Community Foundation



Snow
Foundation



John James Foundation

Collaborative invests \$1.6 million in 58 community projects

22 June 2026: The Canberra Foundations Collaborative (CFC) has announced \$1.6 million in funding for 58 community projects across the ACT, backing local initiatives that strengthen connection, support wellbeing and create more opportunity for people facing disadvantage.

The 2026 grant round brings together funding from CFC founders Snow Foundation, Hands Across Canberra, and the John James Foundation, with support from the Aspen Medical Foundation and the Davencare Foundation, making it easier for local organisations to access much-needed funding and support through a single application process.

Over 200 Expressions of Interest were received, highlighting both the growing need across our region and the depth of work being led by local organisations every day. The CFC has committed funding to 58 projects, including 24 multi-year grants and 9 co-funded initiatives designed to support longer-term impact.

Since the collaborative was formally established in 2022, \$8.5 million has been invested into more than 310 local community initiatives. More than grant making, wrap-around support, sector capacity building, shared learning opportunities and collaboration across organisations is provided.

The 2026 funding round supports projects focused on community connection, women and girls, First Nations communities, disability inclusion, as well as health and economic participation. The CFC partners are responding to emerging needs while backing practical solutions developed by local organisations. There are several projects that emerged from the Innovations Summit in December 2025, which highlighted the increasing loneliness experienced by members of the Canberra community.

The grant round shows what's possible when philanthropy works together — standing alongside local organisations, reducing duplication and helping build a stronger, more connected community across the region.

Some of the grantees include:

Third Spaces Network - a Canberra pilot - Supported by Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra, creating opportunities for community connection and belonging through shared social spaces.

First Steps Pregnancy Support - Supported by John James Foundation and Snow Foundation, helping women and families access practical support during pregnancy and early parenthood.

Jigsaw - Supported by Snow Foundation and Aspen Foundation, creating employment pathways and opportunities for people with disability.

Delivering Comfort through Delta Therapy Dogs in the Community - Supported by Davencare Foundation, expanding access to therapeutic support and community wellbeing through trained therapy dogs.

QUOTES:

Melanie Wilde, Founder, Third Spaces Network

"The opposite of loneliness isn't more services: it's more of each other. This funding helps us build the community infrastructure to make that real in Canberra.

"We're turning the pubs, clubs, cafés and libraries Canberrans already loved into a coordinated network of places where people feel they belong – and we're building relationships between those spaces and our community services, so that two-way referral can be enabled. No one has done this at scale in Australia.

"Prevention happens upstream, in the everyday places people already are. We're grateful to the Canberra Foundations Collaborative for backing that."

Dr Sarah Jensen, Medical Director, First Steps Pregnancy Support

"The funding received by First Steps Pregnancy Support through the 2026 Canberra Foundations Collaborative, supported by the John James Foundation and Snow Foundation, provides a strong foundation for the next three years, enabling us to sustain and strengthen the wraparound medical care, practical support, and community connection we offer to pregnant and newly parenting women who are disadvantaged.

"We are deeply grateful for their partnership and commitment to ensuring no woman faces pregnancy and early motherhood alone."

Scarlett Gaffey, Executive Director, Snow Foundation:

"Our family cares deeply about the places where we live and work, which is why place-based giving remains central to our approach. Through the Canberra Foundations Collaborative, we're responding to community-led initiatives across a range of causes that strengthen dignity, stability and wellbeing in Canberra.

The applications to this year's grant round highlight the scale of need and the strength of the organisations. Women's safety remains a significant priority for us locally and nationally, as family violence continues to affect women and children at alarming rates and the need for support has never been greater.

Genevieve Jacobs, CEO, Hands Across Canberra

"The Canberra Foundations Collaborative has grown from a COVID response into one of the region's most significant philanthropic partnerships, helping local organisations access funding, build capacity and strengthen community connections.

"At the Canberra Foundations Collaborative, we are all delighted to continue working together, alongside organisations like Aspen Foundation and Davencare Foundation, whose contributions help us support more projects and deliver greater impact across Canberra and the surrounding region."

Joe Roff, CEO, John James Foundation

“Every grant round helps us better understand where need is growing and where collaborative investment can make the greatest difference. By learning together and co-funding together, we can support larger and more ambitious community initiatives.

“We see strong opportunities ahead to bring philanthropy, community organisations, business and government together around complex challenges that require long-term, coordinated solutions.”

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About the Canberra Foundations Collaborative

Hands Across Canberra is Canberra’s community foundation, working with over 350 local organisations to grow giving and ensure support reaches those who need it most. Hands Across Canberra supports a broad range of local charities and community organisations addressing disadvantage across the ACT. Its focus is on connection, inclusion and strengthening the community sector through grants, capacity-building programs and partnerships.

Snow Foundation is a family philanthropic foundation committed to place, country and community. Their purpose is to create lasting social change by building strong communities and forging fair systems. The Foundation’s focus spans five interconnected themes — Gender, First Nations, Youth, LGBTIQ+, Community, underpinned by Ecosystem — investing in and working alongside initiatives and leaders that advance equity and strong leadership across Australia.

The **John James Foundation** is Canberra’s largest medical philanthropic charity, with a mission to strengthen health outcomes and support the local community. It supports healthcare access, medical services, and community programs that strengthen wellbeing and contribute to the broader community good.

2026 Grantee List

	Organisation Name	Project Name
1	Accessilife	Connected Care: Strengthening partnerships for people with disability and their carers
2	Allara Creative	Allara Drives: Driving lessons and mentorship for refugees
3	Allara Creative	Social Capital’s For Purpose Markets
4	Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT	ACT Community Sector NAIDOC Week Event
5	Assisting Drug Dependents Incorporated t/as Directions Health Services	LGBTQIA+ SMART Group
6	ASTHMA AUSTRALIA LTD	Linking Pharmacies with Refugee and Migrant Communities to Improve Asthma Care in the ACT
7	Australian Brain Cancer Foundation	ABCF Canberra Brain Cancer Monthly Family Support Group

8	Australian Brain Cancer Foundation	ABCF Canberra Brain Cancer Support Team - Founding Partner
9	Quest For Life FOUNDATION	Connected Practice: Strengthening ACT Services Supporting Victims of Violence
10	Canberra Pasifika Youth Mentoring	Canberra Pasifika Youth Mentoring
11	Cancer Patients Foundation	Cancer Patients Foundation- Look Good Feel Better
12	Communities at Work	Community Extreme Weather Hubs – Safe Local Spaces
13	Council on the Ageing ACT	Putting older women at the centre: beyond the waitlist
14	Cranleigh School Parents & Citizens Association	Mal's Library Upgrade
15	Cystic Fibrosis ACT	Cystic Fibrosis Strong
16	Brad Hardy Foundation	AFP Wellness Room
17	DV Safe Phone	DV Safe Phone – ACT Safety & Connectivity Initiative
18	Eagles Sports Association	CANBERRA EAGLES BASKETBALL - Integration Pathways & Sustainability Project
19	Brainwave Australia	Therapy, equipment and emergency accommodation for ACT children with brain illnesses and injuries
20	First Steps Pregnancy Support	Embedding Medical and Social Wraparound Care in a Sustainable Community Model
21	Foundation for Social Health	Third Spaces Network - a Canberra Pilot
22	Friends of Really Excellent Dentistry (FRED)	Prevention in Practice - ACT Oral Health Pilot
23	Good Omen Goodeze	Good Omen Goodeze Pivot
24	HelpingACT	Mobile food pantry
25	Hepatitis ACT	Peer-Led Hepatitis C Treatment & Re-Engagement Initiative
26	Himayat	Pathways & Connections: Building Community Trust Through Digital Inclusion and Employment
27	Inherited Cancers Australia	Peer support mentor training program for Canberra cancer support charities
28	Jigsaw Group (Aus) Limited	Building capacity amongst young Canberrans with disability for an inclusive future in employment
29	Delta Therapy Dogs	Delivering Comfort through Delta Therapy Dogs in the Community
30	Fair Fight Foundation Pty Ltd (trading as Supertee)	Supertee Project
31	Mental Illness Education Act Incorporated - Mieact	DoNOHarm Youth: Empowering Peer Support, Creating Safe Spaces
32	Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS)	MARSS Volunteer Program Upgrade
33	Miracle Babies Foundation	Supporting Families of Premature and Sick Babies in Canberra
34	Northside Community Service	Neighbourhood Connections Kickstart Fund
35	Prisoners Aid (ACT)	PREACT (Post Release Employment Program)
36	Kidsafe ACT	Keeping At-Risk Little Canberrans Safe at Home
37	Queer Food	Queer Food - ACT Impact Fund Pilot
38	Menslink	Menslink Toolbox Talks
39	Radio 1RPH	Strengthening inclusion of people with disability in community broadcasting
40	Right to Work	Picture This: Skills on Show
41	Spinal Cord Injuries Australia	Expand the ACT Advocacy Community Network for people with neurological disabilities

42	Stepping Stone Social Enterprise	WISE Urban Farm Training Program
43	Stepping Stone Social Enterprise	Yarn and Re-Thread - Start-Up phase
44	The Men's Table	Sustain and deepen our MT community
45	Quantum Leap Australia	Dance Break with Quantum Leap Australia
46	The One Box Group Limited	School Food Support Program – Building Healthy, Connected ACT Communities
47	The Shepherd Centre - For Deaf Children	First Sounds Cochlear Implant Program
48	The Stellar Company	BOLD Moves
49	University of Canberra	The WEST Project
50	Win the Day Charity	Canberra Oncology Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC)
51	With You We Can	With You We Can
52	Woden Community Service	Ohana (no one gets left behind)
53	Women's Shed Canberra Inc.	Career Pathways in Upholstery for Refugee Women
54	Yedding Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation	Soft Landing Expansion: Employment & Skills for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People in ACT
55	Youth Coalition of the ACT	Gambling Messaging Guide: Cognitive Framing Research
56	Zonta Club of Canberra Breakfast Incorporated	Home Starter Packs for women and children leaving domestic and family Violence
57	Fearless Women	Let's Talk About Empowerment program for ATSI young women in ACT
58	EdUnlocked	Supporting Inclusion Where Children Learn: Building Educator Capacity in Community Childcare