



The Following Community Connections grants were awarded in November 2020



#### **Back to Back Theatre, \$10,000**

Back to Back Theatre received a grant of \$10,000 to enhance social engagement for people with disabilities across the wider Geelong region through the delivery of an arts program. This grant will support new creative and social collaborations through the exploration of theatre, writing, music workshops and performances that enhance our community perceptions about disability

#### **Barwon Disability Resource Council, \$10,000**

Barwon Disability Resource Council received a \$10,000 grant to provide individual advocacy while working directly with people with disabilities, families and carers, including crisis situations. The program is supporting each individual to fully participate in our community, enable their human rights and gain resilience through the Council's advocacy support.

#### **Bellarine Community Health, \$9,920**

Bellarine Community Health received a grant of \$9,920 to address the issue of social isolation for older, vulnerable community members living on the Bellarine. This grant will help provide opportunities for Social Support clients to gain skills and knowledge to enable them to stay connected to their family, friends, and community using digital platforms and technologies.



#### **Bluebird Foundation, \$10,000**

Bluebird Foundation received a grant of \$10,000 to increase social participation of disadvantaged young people, by providing supported pathways into creative arts workshops that align with their personal artistic interests and passions. A robust network of partnerships among social welfare agencies, schools, and other community organisations ensures appropriate identification, recruitment and support of participants. *This grant was generously co-funded by the Australian Community Foundation.*



#### **Cherished Pets Foundation, \$7,145**

Cherished Pets Foundation received a grant of \$10,000 to reduce social isolation of elderly and vulnerable people which has intensified by Covid-19 through a novel community-based game that draws on the power of our pets to connect communities.

#### **Drummond Street Services, \$10,000**

Drummond Street Services received a grant of \$10,000 to produce a co-designed video with young people and families talking about isolation, mental health and wellbeing, resilience, and connection. The formation of a peer young person's group and a parent group to do this will build connections and skills whilst creating a powerful video for public discussion. *This grant was generously co-funded by the Australian Community Foundation.*

### **Encompass Community Services, \$10,000**

Encompass Community Services received a grant of \$10,000 to social connection during the Covid-19 crisis. The funded Wynners program aims to build community connections for women from disadvantaged backgrounds. Social contact, increased self-esteem and formalised aspiration and life goals are identified outputs. As a result of Covid-19, many of the women identified that they are feeling particularly lonely and can feel their mental health 'slipping' and that they require assistance to engage with others and develop new relationships to provide that need that we all have- to connect with others.

### **Geelong Arts Centre, \$10,000**

Geelong Arts Centre received a grant of \$10,000 to increase social inclusion, connection and overall wellbeing for children living with a disability, through a shared bespoke immersive theatre experience with peers, family members, educators and carers. This program is aimed to spark creativity, foster a high level of engagement and learning and promote a love of the arts.



### **Lazarus Community Centre, \$5,000**

Lazarus Community Centre received a grant of \$5,000 to provide a safe and welcoming place, including food, activities, and cleaning facilities for those that are experiencing homelessness, or isolation within the greater Geelong community.

### **Lifeboat Geelong, \$10,000**

Lifeboat Geelong received a grant of \$10,000 to assist in the alleviation of social isolation through technology with the Tech Connect program. Tech Connect will enable survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to communicate with others, leading to higher levels of social connectedness and decreased feelings of isolation, loneliness, and depression. This in turn will lead to improved health outcomes, both mentally and physically.



### **OneCare Geelong, \$10,000**

OneCare Geelong received a grant of \$10,000 to empower vulnerable community members who are experiencing disadvantage and social isolation to build social participation and resilience through the support of a Community Connections Worker, within the context of the OneCare Community Meal Programs. *This grant was generously co-funded by the Australian Community Foundation.*

### **Peace of Mind Foundation, \$8,710**

Peace of Mind Foundation received a grant of \$8,710 to help improve the social participation, mental well-being and isolation of the greater Geelong brain cancer community, through the use of an iPad. This program will regularly connect socially and financially disadvantaged patients and families into their online nationwide support groups, information forums, individual counselling sessions, and supportive care co-ordination meetings.



### **Riding for the Disabled (Barwon), \$2,000**

Riding for the Disabled Barwon Centre received a grant of \$2,000 to help reduce the social isolation of young, disabled people and to promote resilience and connectedness through their riding program.

### **Sanctuary Counselling Centre, \$10,000**

Sanctuary Counselling Centre received a grant of \$10,000 to build resilience and support social participation for people living with a life-challenging illness. This grant will enable the provision of financially accessible social inclusion and engagement opportunities in order to reduce the impact of the crisis and the Covid-19 crisis and prevent secondary issues such as depression, anxiety and poor mental and social well-being.



### **Solve Disability Solutions, \$10,000**

Solve Disability Solutions received a grant of \$10,000 to help reduce social isolation of vulnerable community members and promote resilience of people with disabilities across the greater Geelong region by enabling them to participate more fully at home, school, work and in their community through provision of highly customised equipment that meets their individual needs.

### **Stroke Association of Victoria, \$5,750**

The Stroke Association of Victoria received a grant of \$5,750 to help reduce social isolation of vulnerable community members to promote resilience. Supporting the diverse needs of stroke survivors across the greater Geelong region by extending operating hours to cater for after-hours support groups, with the aim of reducing isolation and improving emotional and physical wellbeing.

### **Wellways Australia, \$10,000**

Wellways Australia received a grant of \$10,000 to support social connection during the COVID-19 crisis through the Virtual Pride Shed. The Virtual Pride Shed offers the LGBTIQ+ community of greater Geelong a range of exciting ways to connect and learn together in safe and inclusive online forums. Facilitated by LGBTIQ+ community members, this initiative addresses social isolation for the community as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. *This grant was generously co-funded by the Australian Community Foundation.*