

COVID-19 Community Boost - \$2 million in grants

Congratulations to the 23 charities that received an AMP Foundation grant to support their work during these challenging times. Below is a summary by state, outlining the recipients' work and how they will use their funds.

Organisation	Grant	Purpose
NSW		
Cana Communities	\$20,000	This volunteer-run charity supports marginalised people through programs such as a social enterprise farm that engages newly released prisoners in vocational training and workplace-readiness and education programs. The grant will fund external workplace training courses, including horticulture, forklift driving, traffic control, website training and food safety supervision.
Lifeline Macarthur	\$90,000	The pandemic has led to more demand for Lifeline Macarthur's crisis support services, including financial counselling. The grant will be used to extend its financial counselling service to provide information, support and advocacy to more people in Western Sydney. It will also help it to provide video-conferencing meetings and telephone support to clients after hours.
Open Support	\$80,000	Open Support provides accommodation and integrated wrap-around support for women seeking short-term crisis accommodation and transitional accommodation. This grant will help Open Support cope with the increase in demand for its services, by funding a social worker to increase its wrap-around support and case management.
Asylum Seekers Centre	\$115,500	The Centre supports people seeking asylum with food, rental relief, health support and employment pathways. This grant will fund a coordinator to provide employment support to an additional 200 asylum seekers, and contribute to mandatory training, tools, equipment and travel card top-ups to help people attend interviews.
Good360 Australia	\$100,000	Good360 Australia helps repurpose brand new non-food goods by directing them to Australians who need them most. From its Sydney warehouse it delivers to more than 2,000 non-profits Australia-wide, which in turn pass them on to people in need. The funds will boost the warehousing team's hours and enable Good360 to keep shipping and handling at no cost to charities.
Women's Community Shelters (WCS)	\$200,000	WCS operates crisis accommodation shelters for women and children experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. It also helps women access financial support, employment, education, legal advice and permanent homes. It is using the grant funds to extend the hours of its case workers in five of its shelters to full-time to help meet the increased demand.
The Social Outfit	\$24,500	This social enterprise supports young people from refugee or migrant backgrounds experiencing barriers to education and employment. It uses fashion as a vehicle for support through a clothing label, shop, clothing manufacturing and digital printing studio - providing TAFE-level training, work experience and employment. This grant will help them offer online learning components of its retail program.
ReachOut	\$100,000	This national digital mental health service provides information, support and resources about mental health to enable young people to develop resilience, increase coping skills and facilitate help-seeking behaviours. It is using the funds to produce digital content and self-management resources, run a moderated peer support forum and create resources to help parents manage the impacts of COVID.

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Victoria		
Mental Health Legal Centre (MHLC)	\$130,000	MHLC supports some of the most vulnerable members of the community, many of whom are experiencing homelessness and physical and mental health challenges. The grant will fund a part-time financial counsellor, a financial counsellor intern and a part-time social worker who will help clients with their financial situation as well as provide them access to tele-health and other community services.
Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia	\$60,000	Big Brothers Big Sisters provides long-term, one-to-one mentoring to vulnerable young people aged seven to 17 to help them build resilience and reach their full potential. The mentors are positive role models for children experiencing isolation, family violence, depression and poverty. The funds will help revitalise its online mentoring platform, making it more stable and reliable.
WIRE Women's Information	\$132,800	WIRE is a free information, support and referral service that helps women, non-binary and gender diverse people, deal with many issues. The funding will help backfill volunteer roles to staff a helpline that supports women experiencing issues such as financial abuse and family violence, and also support volunteer induction and training at a time of great need in the community.
Self Help Addiction Resource Centre	\$38,250	The Centre works with more than 9,000 people annually, helping individuals and families affected by alcohol, drug and gambling addictions through residential recovery programs, a 24/7 helpline, education programs and peer support groups. The grant will fund IT expertise to expand its video-telephony and online chat services, as well as increase its online support functionality.
FareShare	\$150,000	FareShare improves the diets and health of the most vulnerable Australians, by cooking donated surplus food into thousands of meals every day. Its kitchens are ordinarily powered by volunteers under the guidance of experienced chefs. This grant will support two chefs to backfill volunteer roles and help meet increased need for meals.
Mirabel	\$80,000	Mirabel is the only Australian charity specifically addressing the needs of children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental drug use and are now in the care of extended family. Funding will increase the provision of crisis support with additional family support hours, and training for staff and volunteers to provide support and tutoring online.
The Big Issue	\$90,000	The Big Issue is a social enterprise that creates employment opportunities for those experiencing homelessness, marginalisation and disadvantage. The grant will support a development manager who will work to find alternative employment options for its women's program and new funding sources for its impacted social enterprise businesses.
Ganbina	\$150,000	Ganbina supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged six to 25, to gain the skills, education and life experience needed to unlock their full potential. It provides learning support, life skills training and career guidance with the aim of achieving true economic and social equality for Indigenous communities. The grant will support the education of students set back by COVID disruption.

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ACT		
Community First Development	\$66,600	Community First Development works with First Nations people to develop their personal and community capacity in order to improve their quality of life, health, social and economic wellbeing and participation in Australian society. This grant will help to improve the organisation's technology hardware and software to continue building Aboriginal people's personal and community capacity.
South Australia		
Youth Opportunities	\$45,300	Each year, Youth Opportunities equips more than 2,000 young people with the skills to overcome adversity, build resilience and plan for their future. It delivers evidence-based wellbeing and leadership programs, as well as educational scholarships. The grant will go towards updating software and hardware to better engage clients and stakeholders via video conferencing.
Queensland		
Logan Together	\$137,500	Logan Together is a long term, whole of community campaign to create the best life opportunities for every child in Logan – where there are pockets of deep and persistent disadvantage. It uses a collective impact model to make long-term changes in children's lives. This grant will support a tutoring program to help Aboriginal students to catch up on their schooling after the lockdown disruption.
Friends with Dignity	\$35,250	Friends with Dignity is a volunteer-based charity that works with crisis centres to provide practical assistance to survivors of domestic violence. In 2020, the charity experienced a significant drop in income due to the cancellation of fundraising events, which coincided with increased demand for its services. The grant will fund a part-time finance manager to help it secure further funding.
The Pyjama Foundation	\$63,300	This charity provides more than 1,400 children in foster care with learning opportunities, life skills and confidence. Each week, through its Love of Learning program, it connects volunteers with children in care for an hour of learning-based activities. The funds will enable this face-to-face mentoring program to be run virtually, including provision for volunteer training.
Western Australia		
Autism West Support Services	\$20,000	Autism West provides opportunities for young people on the autism spectrum to gain skills and experience, enabling them to connect with others and the world around them. It runs a variety of social groups for children and young adults, as well as special-interest programs that focus on coding, music and art. This grant will help it update its technology to transition this support online.
Northern Territory		
Ikuntji Artists Aboriginal Corporation	\$70,000	This Aboriginal-owned art and community hub in Haasts Bluff has a member base of 89 artists and is a key local source of wellbeing and income. It lost considerable income and volunteers due to COVID. The funding will enable Ikuntji to employ a full-time staff member to facilitate art production, assist with sales, administration and marketing in the gallery and grow and maintain online sales platforms.