

2010 Pathways to Employment Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the 10 organisations whose projects have secured funding this year. A 40% jump in grant applications this year presented our Board with an interesting challenge to determine how to allocate the \$135,000 in grant funding we had available. It seems that no matter how fast our grant program grows, the range of project ideas emerging from the community always outstrips our funding pool.

Through these projects around 120 people across Darebin, Moreland and Yarra will be assisted to confront barriers getting in the way of their employment, which include mental illness, a criminal past, lack of confidence in English, disrupted schooling and growing up in families that have experienced sustained disadvantage and generational unemployment.

This grant round marks a significant milestone in our 2-year history as we have now disbursed **a total of \$250,000** to local employment projects, assisting more than 67 people to gain work thus far. Thank you to everyone whose donations have enabled projects to come to life across our community. [Click here to meet our newest grant recipients](#)

\$400,000 Boost to our Grant-Making Endowment

With the support of people right across our community we raised \$109,000 in the past year. This achievement has secured \$300,000 in State Government funding to boost our perpetual grant-making fund.

Thank you to the more than 160 people who attended our fundraising events, the 40 local musicians who busked for us in March, the Service Clubs who made donations (Preston, Moreland and Richmond Rotary & Coburg Lions Club) and the 30 local residents who donated between \$5 and \$30,000 to our cause. On top of all this we were fortunate to receive the proceeds from the Moreland Mayor's Charity Soccer Cup and we benefited from the generosity of volunteers who helped us at events.

A \$400,000 boost to our endowment will ensure that more projects can get funded locally each year. On behalf of the many organisations that will benefit from additional grant funding, thank you to everyone who dug deep for their community.

A Sell Out Community Breakfast with Renata Singer

The early morning mid-winter start didn't deter people from the opportunity to hear from Renata Singer at our community breakfast. Renata made sure we were all awake when she quoted research that shows that it takes **just 30 seconds** for an employer to decide whether they will hire a person.

This information together with her experience at the Bottomless Closet in New York, inspired Renata Singer and Marion Webster to establish Fitted for Work in Melbourne - an organisation that assists women who are re-entering the workforce, by providing them with clothing to wear to a job interview and training in how to present themselves in the interview room.

Renata emphasised the importance of working collaboratively with each person's employment agency to ensure that their interview-focused support comes at the right time and in the right way to build on each woman's individual progress.

In response to a question as to why such a service does not exist for men, Renata said that research shows that clothing and self-presentation did not play as significant a role in men's self-confidence, that men don't donate their clothes as readily as women and that the service would need to run by men for men.

Similar events to bring community workers together around employment and employability are planned. If you have ideas about interesting speakers and relevant topics, please [send us an email](#).



Join us at an Evening with Deputy Premier Rob Hulls Thurs 5 August @ Northcote Town Hall. Tickets are \$30.

Hosted by Darebin City Council for the Inner North Community Foundation. [Click here to book](#)



"Fitted for Work is an example of what you can do with a few energetic women, some funding and a lot of determination,"