



INNER NORTH  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



# Inner North Covid-19 Disaster Relief Fund

Progress report to end September, 2020

*The Inner North Covid-19 Disaster Relief Fund proudly supported by:*



Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy  
Community Bank® Branch  Bendigo Bank



mpconsulting 



# Progress report, September 2020

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## Overview

As per the funding agreements with Moreland City Council, Darebin City Council, Yarra City Council and the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank this is the second Inner North Covid-19 Disaster Relief Fund progress report. It outlines the impact of the pandemic on local groups, and how small grants have supported a community response.

Stage 4 lockdown changed the dynamic of community activity and support. Across the Darebin, Moreland and Yarra municipal areas the non-government sector, community workers and volunteers have reported great fatigue as the continued to support vulnerable residents.

Increased need and demand have been matched with decreased funding for charities. Research from Our Community, a social enterprise, found that up to 17% of registered charities in Australia may close in the next 12 months. For Melbourne's inner north, this could result in around 300 charities and community groups ceasing to operate.

Despite the challenges, people and groups continue to work for the public good. From providing essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), to helping groups improve IT infrastructure and resources so people can stay connected as services and social lives move online, community groups in the region are creative and resilient in their response to the pandemic.

## Snapshot of activity

- In the last 6 months, **the Foundation has received \$470,850** to be granted to help respond to the pandemic.
  - \$180,000 received through Council partnerships (\$80,000 Moreland City Council, \$50,000 Darebin City Council, \$50,000 Yarra City Council)
  - \$158,850 from funds and donors at the Inner North Community Foundation (\$150,000 from IntoWork sub-fund to Pathways to Employment, \$8,850 from existing Inner North Community Foundation sub-funds)
  - \$75,000 from the Ecstra Foundation to expand the Young Changemakers program to five new schools, with a Covid-19 focus. (as well as \$25,000 to resource the Foundation)
  - \$60,000 from local business support and general fundraising
    - \$20,000 Clifton Hill North Fitzroy Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank
    - \$15,000 MP Consulting
    - \$10,000 Bennelong Foundation
    - \$7,000 Tempo Rubato
    - \$8,000 general fundraising
- To date, **the Foundation has provided \$378,250 to 142 charities** and community groups across Melbourne's inner north. Grants have included:
  - **Rapid Response:** \$151,500 in 102 grants of \$1,500 for groups to respond to Covid-19
  - **Emergency Relief Vouchers:** over \$60,000 has been reinvested in local business through provision of food and essential items, distributed through trusted local agencies
  - **Pathways to Employment.** \$150,000 has been given to 10 charities to support with removing the barriers local people face on their journey to work, a key focus of IntoWork Australia.
- The bulk of funds raised is now exhausted. The remaining money (approx.\$90,000) will be used by senior high school students to distribute to local charities as part of the Young Changemakers program over the next 6 months.
- The Foundation will continue to actively seek funds to support local activity.

# Emerging themes

## Rapid response grants

The Covid-19 Fund has supported local groups with Rapid Response Grants to assist with:

- **Building Community Resilience** (e.g.: projects that facilitate community connectedness, support and develop volunteer community groups, and community preparedness to respond to the impacts of Covid-19).
- **Developing Organisational Resilience and Capacity** (e.g.: projects that strengthen local not-for profit organisations' operational infrastructure, upgrading of equipment to improve service delivery,).
- **Fostering Cultural Vibrancy** (e.g.: projects that celebrate, preserve and promote local culture and identity, creative projects that foster the arts, and support for local artists and the arts community).

Emerging themes that are reflected in the funding needs prioritized by local groups include:

- **Food relief, food systems and direct relief:**
  - Organisations have worked dynamically as need and numbers have grown, and many have extended both their capacity, and service-type, in order to meet the needs of their community. Grants have enabled communities to be responsive to the massive increase in people presenting for food relief, including logistics, systems, storage solutions, and delivery methods.
  - In addition to direct relief, organisations have focused on a network approach to food security, community engagement and ownership, and skill-development. The engagement with several organisations that save food from waste, as well as the accumulative contribution of bulk food buying, has enhanced the availability of food for organisations to distribute with their locals.
  - Other grants supported essential household relief. Some organisations became aware of specific issues being faced in the community, and saw this as an opportunity to provide relief with more tailored outcomes; contributing to a more holistic or wrap-around support within the community. This included medical or personal care based, such as providing orthopedic foot care to vulnerable groups (such as diabetics). Other groups supported their community with resources to continue learning in home (from kindergartens to tertiary education, seniors' groups and neighbourhood houses).
- **Organisational capacity and sustainability:**
  - Many organisations have had to dramatically adjust and adapt their services, to meet health requirements (some having to temporarily close operations), and to meet shifting community needs (with a focus on prioritising basic needs).
  - Where some groups created food systems and food security, others created systems that enabled their communities to work together and become self-sustaining – such as ecommerce platforms to sell their wares and artworks: .
  - Health concerns and the impacts of lock-down measures saw increased need for deliveries, with some grants supporting fuel and transport costs. Funding for one community organisation purchased an electric bike, for the sustainable and efficient delivery of fresh food packages. Other funding included the granting for horse feed for the "Riding for the Disabled" organisation, whilst their services were closed to public.
- **Emotional welfare and service provision:** some funded programs aimed directly to keep individuals and communities connected as mental, psychological and emotional health can be difficult subjects to broach. Many organisations reported that as services shifted and physical distancing was enforced, many services experienced their clients really wanting to converse with employees and volunteers.
- **Technology:** Technologies, such as internet connection and devices (laptops and phones) have played a huge role in keeping people connected throughout Covid-19 restrictions. Services have used technology as tools to stay connected and promote connection with their clients, to promote wellbeing, and to administer services and conduct programs for participation. Some organisations gifted technology resources to vulnerable clients to keep them connected, and in many cases, to continue with education. Grants have funded:
  - **Hardware:** 13 laptops, 12 mobile phones, 3 printers, and home-broadcasting equipment for a local radio station.
  - **Software:** 5 Zoom subscriptions, one eCommerce platform subscription and domain registration

- **Connectivity:** one internet service provision, 54 Internet dongles, and 8 phone sims
- **Celebration:** grants also support projects that demonstrated capacity for connection and celebration, like:
  - The Jika Jika Chalk Drawing Festival, which was launched to engage the community with a fun and creative outlet during lockdown. The project offered free chalk deliveries to people around Victoria (primarily Darebin), and asked them to draw or write a message on their pavements or walls. Participants then sent their drawings back to us and we curated them into an online exhibition. The project brought a bit of joy and connectedness to all participants and partner organisations <https://jikajika.org.au/chalkfest>.
  - Postcards from the North was created to share place-based stories from the local community. These stories were then translated into hardcopy and virtual postcards by local artists, and culminating in an online exhibition and access to stories for all.

## Case studies of grants funding:

### First Australians Media – 3knd Radio (Darebin)

3knd purchased specialist recording equipment that has allowed staff to continue producing content for the radio station whilst working remotely. The equipment has enhanced the quality of audio produced, and enabled the station to maintain connectivity with listeners. As 3knd is an integral media, entertainment and community-link for Melbourne's First Australians, keeping the content and news services running has been extremely important, as is keeping the staff safe by working from home.

### Muslim Women's Council of Victoria (Moreland)

MWCV has been by serving free food to vulnerable people facing hardship while Melbourne remains under stage-3 and Stage-4 lock down. MWCV's volunteers cooked meals every Friday for those in need, including international students, impoverished families, refugees, homeless, elderly, and people with disabilities. For recipients who are unable to come for collection due to physical limitations, meals are individually packaged and delivered.

### St Mary's House of Welcome (Yarra)

Since March, St Mary's House of Welcome have packed and distributed approximately 650 meal packs a day to homeless people temporarily housed in motels, 50 to international students, and around 500 meal packs weekly to rough sleepers and other highly vulnerable and disadvantaged people who visit the Brunswick Street service, as well as showers, fresh underwear, hygiene packs, hampers and resources.

## Emergency Relief Vouchers

People with vulnerabilities were hit hardest by the lockdown measures and potential health impacts of Covid-19. Financial hardship and the capacity of households to adapt to Covid-19 isolation measures were major issues that services responded to, with the following having direct impact on local people:

- Loss of insecure jobs (casual) – largely from service industries such as hospitality, cleaning, retail, etc – many people would hold 2-4 casual jobs to get by
- Loss of permanent jobs due to industry shut-down (whilst ongoing financial outgoing such as mortgages or rent continue
- Ineligibility for Government payments (particularly asylum seekers, refugees and international students)
- Individuals and groups/families already on the brink of poverty (low income, tenuous survival)
- Any income/payments spent on rent, utilities and other costs to maintain shelter as people's food budget has been sacrificed
- Ongoing unemployment as market / industry does not bounce back
- Health concerns (immune-compromised, isolation from community and support network) – people cannot risk exposure to virus by going to shops
- 'Isolation' has disproportionately affected more vulnerable groups (CALD, Aboriginal community members, older people, people experiencing poverty and/or homelessness, people with disabilities, people experiencing mental health and other health challenges) due to limited access to appropriate support services and networks, and the reduction of such services (whilst need for these services has dramatically increased).
- The rise of family violence was also a known risk factor under the stresses of lockdown and financial strain. Emergency relief actions also aimed to reduce the psychological stress within households, with the secondary outcome to help mitigate domestic violence, as well as provide contact with services if support was needed.

Both by design, and by choice, the ER vouchers were predominantly arranged with independently owned supermarkets, local trader groups and retailers such as butchers and fresh produce outlets. This not only served to support local businesses (often family businesses) and keep money local, but also provided opportunity to connect residents to their local businesses. **Over \$60,000** has been spent at local businesses to provide food vouchers for local people.

A secondary outcome to this is an opportunity to shift the behavioral patterns and perception of consumers to appreciate locals supporting locals and actively make informed choices about the impacts of their spending.

## Pathways to Employment grants program

Detail about the funded projects under this grants stream will be provided once projects are underway. As government policy focuses strongly on employment, understanding emerging gaps to ensure vulnerable community members are engaged is important.

The Foundation has also helped convene a national **Jobs and Skills Funders network** to better collaborate with peer philanthropic funders, with a view that additional funding recommendations for local charities will be possible. There currently over 15 trusts involved, including the Sidney Myer Foundation, Paul Ramsay Foundation, Ian Potter Foundation, Westpac Foundation and others.

## Partnerships for the Foundation

The Inner North Covid-19 Disaster Relief fund has been possible due the base level of support and capacity made possible by the gift and ongoing operational support from IntoWork Australia. This is complemented by Council and other funds, granted to local groups to leverage, which brings all assets to bear.

In addition to direct funding, the Inner North Covid-19 Disaster Relief Fund has brokered and supported investment into the region, including:

- Other philanthropic trusts and foundations have given \$67,000 to local charities, recommended by the Foundation
- Traders and other groups have contributed in kind support of \$6,000 for vouchers and other support

## Next steps

Feedback from local community groups about the Covid-19 Fund has positive, both for the tangible resources quickly allocated, but also for the benefit of small grants in giving groups confidence and support to continue to respond. In particular, we acknowledge, and are immensely thankful for the volunteers, staff and directors who contribute to our community in practical ways.

Also, we'd like to highlight the work of Rob Appleton, on secondment from Darebin City Council, who has helped coordinate the acquittals and analysis contained in this report. We're also thankful to Lee Chia, Partnerships Manager at the Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank Branch who helped the grants assessment process; the knowledge and wisdom of Sylvia Admans as Chair of the Grants Committee, and to Bianca Maciel-Pizzorno at the Foundation for her tireless efforts making the grants process happen. Thank you all.

In the time ahead the Foundation will continue to support local groups respond to Covid-19, and other emerging issues. This work will include:

- **The Young Changemakers Program** will support 6 local schools to give \$15,000 per school to local charities, as determined by students. This partnership program started by the Foundation and Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank Branch will expand into new areas with support from the Ecstra Foundation.
- Supporting Darebin and Moreland Councils to increase **workplace giving**, with a particular focus on raising funds for local emergency relief. This is particularly active in Moreland, with a partnership of local community organisations, supported by Council, looking to raise \$10,000 by December 2020 through the Morefood for Moreland Campaign (donate [here](#) - \$2000 raised to date!)
- **The 2021 Pathways to Employment** will launch in April 2021, and will have focus on responding to Covid-19.

The third and final funding report is due to Council and other funding partners in March 2021. Thanks to contributions of Councils, Clifroy, MP Consulting, Tempo Rubato and other local donors, the Foundation has built on and supported a responsive and compassionate local civil society. We look forward to continuing to be a safe pair of hands for community funds, and a broker of local knowledge and relationships.

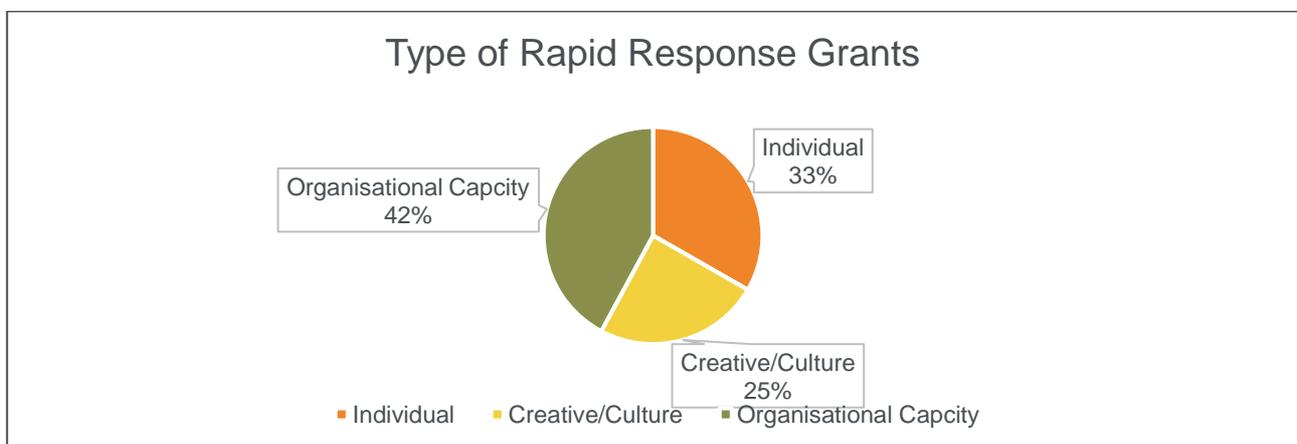
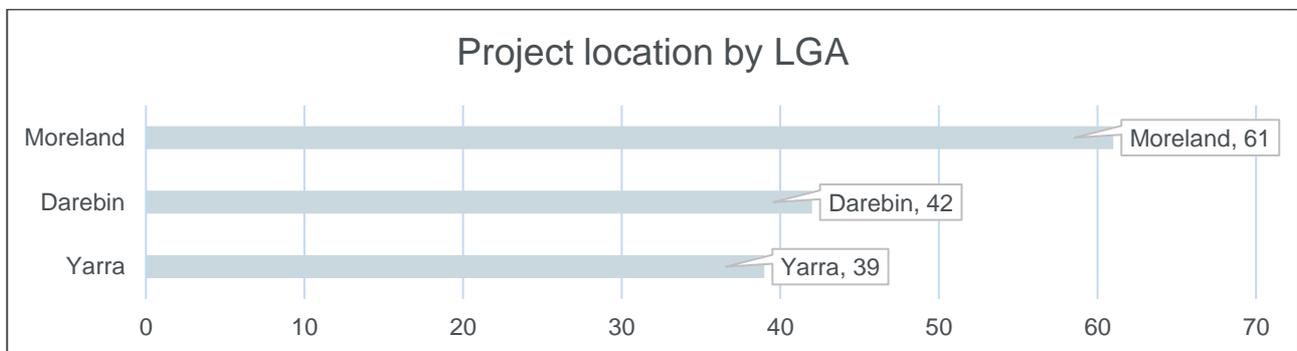
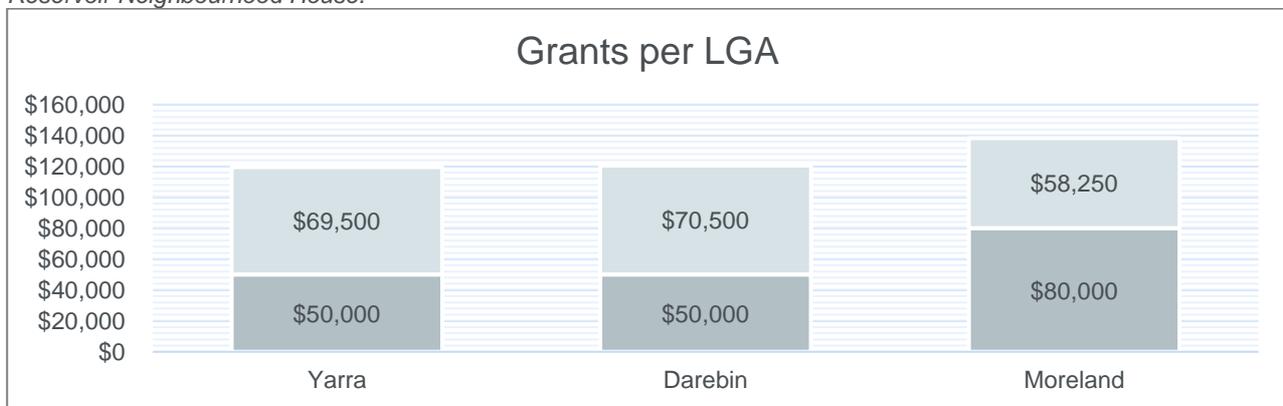
# Covid-19 Disaster Relief Fund

## Grants to date

### Grant allocation across local government areas

Stream	Yarra	Darebin	Moreland	Total across
Rapid Response	\$43,500	\$45,000	\$64,500	\$153,000
Emergency Relief	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$29,750	\$63,250
Pathways to Employment	\$60,000	\$45,000	\$44,000	\$149,000
Other*	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000
<b>Total granted</b>	<b>\$119,500</b>	<b>\$120,500</b>	<b>\$138,250</b>	<b>\$378,250</b>

\*This grant was a contribution by the Bennelong Foundation, and the Breen Family Fund, to the Bridge Darebin and Reservoir Neighbourhood House.





## Rapid Response

The Inner North Covid-19 Fund aims to support local community organisations and their work in the current pandemic period by responding flexibly and swiftly. The Rapid Response grant provides funding up to \$1,500 to community projects that:

- Deliver, practical, creative and innovative solutions to emerging challenges in the community
- Are charitable activities that provide whole-of-community benefit
- Are feasible and ready to begin quickly
- Strengthen the diverse communities of Melbourne's Inner North.

## Allocated grants

Organisation	Project	Description	Location of Funded Projects	Impact Population (LGA)
Abbotsford Convent Foundation	ICT Support for Abbotsford Convent's Venue Hire Team	Funding laptop to support Venue Hire Team at Abbotsford Convent Foundation and remote working to focus on repair and regeneration of the community.	Yarra	Yarra
Alphington Community Centre	Alphington Community Centre Online Social Club - Adapting to Covid-19	Purchase of laptop to support community meeting ups and loans to socially isolated members to use.	Darebin	Darebin & Yarra
Australian African Community Development Inc.	North Richmond Curriculum Support & Homework Program	Experienced tutors and volunteers will deliver this program to support school aged children from African backgrounds. The purpose is to strengthen learning foundations, build confidence and self-esteem post home-schooling.	Yarra	Yarra

Barking Spider Visual Theatre	Postcards from the North (PtfN)	Post cards sharing intimate stories of the community reflected during the pandemic to connect all. PftN is free-of-cost and wholly inclusive for the community: postcards communicate visually and through written-word.	Darebin	Darebin
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House Inc	Lifting Spirits - Keeping Connected phone film competition	Support for a Community-led short film competition. Engaging vulnerable youth in the project and teaching skills for same online.	Yarra	Yarra
Big Group Hug Ltd	Material aid bank for babies and toddlers	Big Group Hug (BGH) supplies donated material aid to babies and children in vulnerable families and support will address the increased need support required at this time.	Moreland	Moreland
Bridge Darebin	Strengthening our Community	Providing food relief and pantry items to members of our local community via purchase of dry food dispensers.	Darebin	Darebin
Brunswick Uniting Church Olive Way - 214 Sydney Road Brunswick	Olive Way Mobile Phone Project	Collecting unused mobiles and connecting them with sim cards to give to people experiencing homelessness.	Moreland	Moreland
Carringbush Adult Education	COVID-19 Parent Pack	Provide packs for families to support young children during isolation	Yarra	Yarra
Celebrating Abilities Inc	Online COVID-19 Zoom Mental Health Wellbeing	Health program for people living with disabilities to learn online, mental health wellbeing skills through exercise involvement and meditation.	Yarra	Yarra
Centre for Projection Art Inc	A Strange Space	This project involves large-scale works projected onto buildings in the Collingwood Yards precinct, while also being streamed online and via multiple platforms. Bringing the community together to collectively celebrate and experience art in a virtual space, creating a feeling of community connectedness during a time of social isolation and highlighting that we are still able to 'create' in these unusual times	Yarra	Yarra
CERES Joe's Market Garden	Deliveries from Joe's	Contributing to cargo electric bike to conduct community food deliveries.	Moreland	Moreland
Coburg Historical Society Inc.	Exhibition "Covid-19 Community Collecting in Coburg - 1918 vs 2020"	Coburg residents & volunteers help collect pandemic related material and curate an exhibition. Photos, brochures, stories and memories will show how the community adapted to the pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland

Co-Ground Limited	Brunswick Artist Market Re-Launch	Re-launch of Co-Ground's monthly Brunswick Artist Market	Moreland	Moreland
Collective Being Foundation	Wellbeing Care Kits	Digital and non-digital kits tailored for children who participate in weekly Kids Yoga Club session at Cubbies in Atherton Gardens. Kits are complimented by online program.	Yarra	Yarra
Collingwood Children's Farm	IT Hardware to Facilitate Supported Volunteer Program	Purchasing hardware to support Collingwood Children's Farm with migration to online volunteer management and communication tools	Yarra	All
Collingwood Toy Library	Keep Playing	Funding new toys and petrol costs for contactless delivery of toys and play resources to families.	Yarra	Yarra
Community Information Support Victoria (CISVic Coburg)	No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS)	Supporting the no interest loans scheme for vulnerable people. This program is enabled by the purchase of a laptop for staff to use while working from home.	Moreland	Moreland
Conscious Creative	HoMie Retail Ready Support	Providing young people experiencing homelessness or hardship with a laptop to continue the now online training program them with a laptop, HoMie will be able to continue to run its social impact programs in an effective, meaningful, way. Procuring a pool of laptops will also increase HoMie's capacity to help young people remotely in future editions of the program.	Yarra	Yarra
Creative Art Therapy Australia	Online Creative Art Therapy	Free one hour Art Therapy sessions provided by Qualified, Registered & Experienced Art Therapists to support the community mental health through Covid19.	Darebin	Darebin
Croxton Community Garden Incorporated	Croxton Community Garden	Enabling a volunteer community group of 40 members to start a community garden in a newly acquired location in Darebin with the purchase of materials.	Darebin	Darebin
Darebin Ethnic Communities' Council (DECC)	Building community resilience and fostering cultural vibrancy	Darebin Ethnic Committees Council (DECC) is a peak body representing migrant committees. The program will engage members of all age groups via Zoom to participate in online activities such as, sharing recipes and cooking, artistic activities and share diverse cultural music.	Darebin	Darebin
Darebin Information & Volunteer Resource Service	Response to COVID 19	To provide 5 staff printers/scanners to support emergency relief phone service to ensure they can still provide community service from home.	Darebin	Darebin
Environmental Film Festival Australia*	Reimagining Communities and Landscapes	Purchasing a virtual technology platform improving organisation capacity to deliver environmental film festival online.	Darebin	Darebin

Fawkner Food Bowls Inc.	Fawkner Commons	Coordinate the distribution of affordable veggie boxes, dry and bulk food online shopfront at affordable prices for vulnerable community. In addition to supporting these local initiatives and the Bowling Club, we expect to employ local drivers to deliver orders. Minimal overheads ensure cost-savings for Fawkner residents, many being low-income families and pensioners.	Moreland	Moreland
Finucane & Smith	The Shop of Hope	Supporting artists and equipment hire costs for online shop of hope performance	Yarra	All
First Australians media Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation Operating Account	Support Equipment during	To enable the staff at the community radio station to continue to produce quality content from home during the pandemic the Foundation funded the purchase of equipment to be used remotely at home.	Darebin	All
Fitzroy Legal Service	Darebin site: Women's Leadership Group	Operating Costs for Darebin site for the general work of the Fitzroy Legal Service Women's Leadership Group - Women Transforming Justice aims to reduce the number of high number of women in the Victorian criminal justice system by addressing links of gender and female criminalisation.	Darebin	Darebin
Fitzroy Legal Service*	The Agency Enhancing Legal Service Project	This project engages VALiD, a highly respected disability advocacy org to support Fitzroy Legal Service conduct 5 online focus groups. The aim of the focus groups is to design and trial a new legal service model to help people make their own decisions, participate in legal processes and have more choice and control in their lives. The program will be implemented in legal centres to increase the service accessibility to all people.	Yarra	Yarra & Darebin
Flag Inc	Corona Confessions	Administration costs of Corona Confessions, a collation of anonymous responses to the Corona virus lockdown experience. Online and physical Letterboxes will be placed in locations throughout Melbourne's inner north.	Yarra	Yarra
Footscape Inc.	Foot Care Kits	Footscape is assembling foot care kits to help identified disadvantaged persons access necessary resources, prioritise their foot health and promote daily self-care practices.	Moreland	Moreland
Free to Feed	Transition to Free to Feed virtual cooking classes	Keep refugee cooks employed and transition to online classes for 'pay as you feel' model.	Darebin	All
Friends of Merri Creek	Sewer Box Art by Merri Creek	Beautifying Merri Creek's concrete sewer 'boxes' with mosaics and paintings of local flora and fauna. The boxes are designed to be like a treasure hunt eg. "how many blue-banded bees can you find?".	Moreland	All

Friends of the Earth Melbourne	Nourishing local communities during COVID-19	The Friends of the Earth Food Coop and Cafe is providing food locally sourced, available ethical food and essential groceries online during the pandemic to vulnerable community members via click and collect.	Yarra	Yarra
From The Ground Up Inc	Sunflower September - Spread the Sunshine	Encouraging residents of Moreland to plant Sunflower Seeds by delivering a free packet to 300 households. They will be encouraged to share the other pack with their neighbours.	Moreland	Moreland
Gamelan DanAnda Australia Inc	Sekolah Rumah (Home School)	A remote music education program, incorporating instrument hire, video tutorials, individual lessons via Zoom.	Darebin	Darebin
Gellibrand Crescent Kindergarten -NDCKA	Procedure & Communication Enhancement for Staff and Families during COVID-19	Funding a sms program for families with updates. The purchase of a colour printer and ongoing costs such as ink and paper so they can support vulnerable kids who are not physically at the centre.	Darebin	Darebin
Good Karma Network	Volunteer community manager capacity building	Supporting new project to build the capacity of the volunteer managers of the online community Good Karma Networks by establishing and providing greater training and support.	Moreland	all
Growing Farmers Inc	Backyard Farmers Project	Matching aspiring farmers with older Fawkner landholders wishing to maintain productivity of their garden and access social connection.	Moreland	Moreland
Hello Cass*	Hello Cass - Translating Assistance	Creation of shareable translated content to support women and families at risk of family or sexual violence	Yarra	Yarra
Help Himalayan Youth Foundation Inc.	HHYF COVID Relief Food program for Refugees, Asylum Seekers & international students confined in home	HHYF partnered with Refugee Communities Association of Australia to support vulnerable Asylum Seekers, Refugees & international students holding temporary visa on weekly basis to provide food items.	Moreland	moreland
ICMG BRUNSWICK	Ecommerce Platform Establishment	Establishing an online platform for volunteers to continue to make art and crafts for sale.	Moreland	Moreland
ICMG Brunswick	ZOOM Seminars/Lectures/Cla ses	Purchase Zoom Membership and appropriate technology to run Lecture/Seminars and Fitness Sessions Online	Moreland	Moreland

Indochinese Elderly Refugees Association Victoria*	Seniors Community Participation during the pandemic	IERA support and connect Indochinese elderly groups, especially those who are vulnerable, self-isolating, lonely and located at Preston, North Richmond and Collingwood during the pandemic Covid 19. Beneficiaries will have support with medical appointments, food drop offs and regular check-ins. There is also the capacity to build on their IT skills to enable connection with family from a safe distance.	Yarra	Darebin & Yarra
Islamic Society of Victoria	COVID-19 Multicultural Awareness	This program supports Islamic community of multiple cultural backgrounds support during Covid, by providing ongoing practical safety precautions, such as posters, disinfectant and doctor q and a on social media.	Moreland	Moreland
J Studios Artists Community Inc	Keeping the community together online	Supply internet infrastructure to support organisations supporting vulnerable cohorts and artists impacted by pandemic.	Yarra	Yarra
Jesuit Social Services	Artful Dodgers Studios - Animated Distances	Animated Distances is a pilot animation project aiming to give 'at-risk' young people from diverse backgrounds a creative and direct means of expression and a medium to tell their stories.	Yarra	Yarra
Jesuit Social Services TA Jesuit Community College	Hub Meals for Moreland	Funding for chef to prepare meals from their food hub to provide to vulnerable communities	Moreland	Moreland
Jika Jika Community Centre*	Chalk Drawing Festival	Jika Jika Community Centre will support the community in a Chalk Drawing Festival, by distributing flyers, letterbox drop, providing chalk for the community to engage in creativity together. There will be a standalone website with uploaded photographs submitted.	Darebin	Darebin
Kevin Heinze Grow Peppertree Place	Powering up at Peppertree	Covid-19 has kept their loyal band of volunteers off-site during pandemic restrictions so their program will fund efficient ways of completing works at Peppertree's garden with power tools for the skeleton crew.	Moreland	Moreland
Kong's Kings	Kong's Livestream Series	Kong's Kings will host a series of livestreamed events to bring together the local LGBTIQA+ community. The events will be Auslan interpreted and feature a variety of local performance artists.	Moreland	All
Lighthouse Foundation	PPE for Lighthouse Mothers and Babies Home	Funding for PPE for young mothers whom are pregnant or have young children that access their services due to experiencing homelessness	Moreland	Moreland
LINK Community Transport Inc	Food Relief Transport	Providing a responsive transport solution for emergency food relief for the Moreland City Council.	Moreland	Moreland

Liquid Architecture Sound Inc.*	Polyphonic Social Community Workshop	Liquid Architecture will engage local artists to lead a series of workshops around the theme of collective listening and experimental learning accessible online and supporting local artists.	Yarra	Yarra
Loconomics	Loconomics (in association with Sophie deLightful Presents)	A roving circus created during lockdown that will be pulled around Reservoir offering socially distanced entertainment from local performers to residents. It will be in pre-determined locations with featuring acts like hula hooping, juggling, unicycle, whips and fire.	Darebin	Darebin
Melbourne Farmers Markets	MFM Community Connections	Funding the work of a volunteer coordinator to write grant applications, develop safe protocols and programs to suit the offers of volunteering support. Melbourne Farmers market engages local social enterprises in providing emergency relief programs.	Darebin	Darebin
MERRI OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICES LTD (MOSS)	MAINTAINING BARKLY STREET FOODBANK - MERRI OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICES (MOSS)	Support of volunteer coordination with laptop and tech equipment to manage food security program.	Moreland	Darebin & Moreland
Moreland BUG (Moreland Bicycle User Group)	Moreland BUG History Project	Moreland BUG (Moreland Bicycle User Group) is celebrating its 30th anniversary by recording and promoting the history of cycling activism, successful community campaigns and the various projects conducted by the Moreland BUG over the years. The anniversary activities will highlight the stories of people in our local community who have contributed to that community over the years with a view of promoting cycling benefits and accessibility for all people particularly during the pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland
Multicultural Women's Sewing Group	Multicultural Sewing Group goes online!	Transfer the group's activities online to connect and create flags for a multicultural project and scrubs for medical staff.	Moreland	Moreland
Muslim Women's Council of Victoria Inc.	Friday Lunches	Halal meals cooked and prepared by the volunteers from the Muslim Women's Council of Vic at Coburg Town Hall, distributed Fridays for anyone who needs nutritious food.	Moreland	Moreland
Mycelium Studios	Mycelium Live Stream	A streaming channel to present content including workshops and seminars covering topics such as creative enterprise during isolation, community resilience, health and wellbeing and urban food security.	Moreland	Moreland
Non Resident Nepalese Association (NRNA) Victoria Incorporated	COVID-19 relief support	NRNA COVID-19 Relief Support aimed to provide culturally sensitive food relief and other emergency assistance to 35 vulnerable individual and families from the Nepalese background impacted by COVID-19.	Moreland	Moreland

North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House	Computer Room Refurbishment	Refurbish and repurpose our computer room to become a multipurpose, inclusive space that can be used post-COVID for a range of uses.	Yarra	Yarra
NorthWest Neighbourhood House Network	Fawkner Sew and Sell	The purchase of three new overlockers would give the house the ability to loan an overlocker to participants who do not possess a machine of their own for a duration of 10 weeks. The project aims to support Urdu speaking women in Fawkner make garments and soft furnishings to a standard that will enable them to sell their products on line.	Moreland	Moreland
Northern Darebin Combined Kindergarten Association	Early Education Distance Learning Packs for vulnerable children - Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten	Distance learning packs with essential items that support their Early Learning program from home	Darebin	Darebin
Nth East Neighbourhood House Network*	Improving Online Delivery of Neighbourhood House Programs and Activities	Professional development for teachers and program facilitators and purchase of equipment to improve the quality of online learning and social connection programs. The equipment will be available for use from Darebin & Yarra neighbourhood houses.	Darebin	Darebin
Office AU Limited	The Politics of Public Space: Volume 3	The Politics of Public Space is a quarterly publication containing edited transcripts of free public lectures and conversations held in contentious public spaces throughout Melbourne. The project invites local Melbourne speakers from a diverse range of fields such as design, public art, activism, architecture and landscape architecture to contribute to Vol 3 publication.	Yarra	Yarra
Open Table	Open Table Fresh Food Parcels	Food security program that uses surplus food to provide accessible and consistent boxes to vulnerable cohorts.	Moreland	Moreland
People Outdoors - Australian Camps Association	Response to COVID-19	Training new camp staff on personal care and personal protective equipment use with participants	Darebin	Darebin
Philanthropy Australia	Philanthropy Australia	The Jobs and Skills Funders Network (JaSFN) brings together parties that make grants to organisations that remove the barriers people face in their journey to work. Philanthropy Australia will support the coordination of the program.	Moreland	All
Pottery Collective Inc	Adapting to Pandemic Restrictions with Remote Ceramic firing Services for Moreland ceramic artists	To enable local artists to keep creating by continuing to fire their ceramic artworks, by offering a pick-up, firing & drop-off service for Moreland members free of charge during the pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland

Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education	Internet Rescue	Tech resourcing for students	Darebin	Darebin
Project Respect	Enhancing Data Collection	Updating IT systems to align with best practice family violence data collection	Yarra	All
Refugee & Asylum Seeker Toy Drive	Covid-19 Response	Funding for delivery costs to distribute 16,000 n95 masks to emergency relief providers and local charities.	Darebin	Darebin
Reservoir Neighbourhood House	COVID Food Relief Equipment	Purchased Freezer to store frozen meals for distribution to vulnerable community impacted by COVID.	Darebin	Darebin
Reynard Street Neighbourhood House	RSNH Covid19 Food Relief Project	Maintain and increase our food relief activities to serve vulnerable local community members during COVID-19 outbreak and increased restrictions.	Moreland	Moreland
Riding for the disabled	Horse care	Supports ongoing food costs for horses until the end of year while there is a loss of income due to restrictions. Usual income derived from disability services and university vet science classes.	Darebin	Darebin
Rotary Club of Pascoe Vale	Establishment of a new Rotary Club	Establishment of a new Rotary Club in Pascoe Vale to address local community needs.	Moreland	Moreland
Schizy Incorporated	We're Still Here	The Purchase of technology to keep members of Schizy Inc connected during the pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland
School Volunteering Program trading as EdConnect Australia	A Focus on Child Mental Health & Wellbeing due to COVID-19	Partnering with RDP enterprise solutions to provide webinars for volunteers that focus on child mental health and wellbeing due to COVID-19.	Moreland	All
Shirley Robertson Children's Centre Inc.	Supporting our Service to Service our Community	To provide Shirley Robertson Children's Centre (childcare and kindergarten) with computer hardware to expand their capacity and improve the delivery of their service to the local community in Moreland	Moreland	Moreland
SmartMeals*	SmartMeals	SmartMeals is helping vulnerable people, at risk or experiencing homelessness with meals. Using Ladro Collingwood, also impacted by the pandemic. Meal vouchers are provided for St Mary's House of Welcome to distribute to people experiencing homelessness. The grant will fund 150 meals.	Yarra	Yarra

Society Melbourne Ltd	Work Readiness Workshops	Work Readiness Workshops are to be run in collaboration with Launch Housing. Engaging with young people supported by Launch Housing, the workshops aim to provide practical support to young jobseekers.	Moreland	Moreland
St Bernard's Out of School Hours Care Incorporated	Replace broken ducted heating	Engage a registered plumber to install a new Ducted Heating System in their Childcare in preparation for the children's return to face to face learning on Tuesday 26th May 2020.	Moreland	Moreland
St Mary's House of Welcome	Welcome Relief	Funding to support 500 meals and adapt to increased costs of their services during pandemic. Each day, we are providing over 100 substantial take-away meal packs to rough sleepers and other highly vulnerable, disadvantaged people who visit our service. We're providing showers, fresh underwear, hygiene packs, hampers and resources, as well as outreach support to clients via telephone where possible.	Yarra	Yarra
Sussex Neighbourhood House	Pascoe Vale Food Collective	Purchasing Storage Containers to store bulk bought food. Members can access the food by bringing their own containers with a view of keeping cost down and reducing single use plastic.	Moreland	Moreland
Sustain: The Australian Food Network	Melbourne Food Hub Food Justice Drive	Provide volunteer coordinator capacity for growth and management of food security project	Darebin	Darebin
The Alevi Community Council of Australia (ACCA)	COVID-19 Social Welfare Support Project	Equipment costs to keep Turkish community together (remotely) during pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland
The Boite (Vic) Inc	ThisConnected	Series of online hangouts for musicians to brainstorm and share ideas and solutions to challenges faced by artists during pandemic	Yarra	All
The Social Studio	The Social Studio Covid-19 Medical Supplies Initiative (Part One)	Manufacture urgently required medical scrubs needed by all frontline healthcare workers, helping them to stay safe from the Covid-19 virus.	Yarra	Yarra
The Wellington Collingwood Inc.	Welling - Access	Providing data and internet support to families accessing the community services provided by The Wellington Collingwood Inc.	Yarra	Yarra
Thornbury Kindergarten	Connection to Community	Tech for programs to connect with children in isolation	Darebin	Darebin

Two Birds One Score*	TBOS Frozen Meal Channel	Two Birds One Score collects unsold food from Second Bite to distribute to local churches and community centres.	Darebin	Darebin
Unihill Church (Hope centre)	La Trobe University - emergency food relief	Providing free food for students at La Trobe University Oct-Dec 2020.	Darebin	Darebin
Uniting Victoria and Tasmania Limited	Building Community Resilience	Supplying data to identify 12 of the most vulnerable people/families who they currently work with and provide them with an additional 50GB per month for a period of 3months to access learning, health and connection during the pandemic.	Moreland	Moreland
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	Young Gungs Sports Club - State-wide sports carnival participation	Victorian Aboriginal Community organisations hosts a state-wide basketball carnival in March 2021. The program engages men aged 16-30 years. The older males will mentor younger males with leadership skills. Some beneficiaries are living in out of home care and will greatly benefit from culturally sensitive mentoring and training which leads to the carnival next year. This program has been successful with football and netball and is now being transferred to basketball.	Darebin	Darebin
Weenthunga Health Network Inc.*	Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie – First Nations Student Support	The program supports various young women in Darebin. The program is about cultural connection, mentorship with a view to support indigenous young women in yrs 10-12 with school engagement if needed but principally around mental health support required as a result of covid-19.	Yarra	Darebin
Westgarth Kindergarten	Keeping our kinder community connected	To provide laptops to families without access to a device. To enable all children in our community access to remote programs initiated to maintain connection and community.	Darebin	Darebin
Westside Circus Inc.	Big Sky Circus	Big Sky Circus Pilot Project is the creation of the world's first online interactive 3D circus studio, an exciting new way for community members to connect, create and grow during the pandemic. The online studio is the platform created to engage young VCAL students in their learning.	Darebin	Darebin
Wholefoods Unwrapped Collective	Times They are a (Covid) Changin'	Capacity to supply foods locally and ethically in bulk to vulnerable people.	Moreland	Moreland
WISHIN - Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North	Material Aid for Emergency Support for Women	Material Aid to women impacted by domestic violence during Covid.	Moreland	Moreland
Yarra Riverkeeper Association	Connecting the Community through the comfort of Nature	This is a volunteer-led project, aiming to create a podcast series to connect and engage the community to foster social connections and a shared sense of environmental responsibility for the Yarra.	Yarra	Yarra

\*funded in partnership with Clifton Hill Bendigo Bank



## Feedback to date

As at the end of September 2020, acquittal reports for just over half (51) of the 94 Rapid Response grants made have been received. These reports will continue to be collated in the time ahead, but the interim reports inform the following.

### Output and outcomes

The Foundation gave grants for Rapid Response across three areas, which gave capacity to respond for a variety of needs. Across the north there were common reasons that groups required funding to help support people over the last 6 months as the pandemic has unfolded.

Much of funding was directed to simply giving groups the capacity to continue to respond – to purchase fuel, computers or other IT needs, or support with food. The following outlines broad themes of work supported:

- **Food relief:** Organisations have worked dynamically as need and numbers have grown, and many have extended both their capacity, and service-type, in order to meet the needs of their community. Grants have enabled communities to be responsive to the massive increase in people presenting for food relief through supporting logistics, storage solutions, and delivery methods.

Some organisations used their grants to scale their operations, enabling them to meet the needs of hundreds (rather than tens) of people in need each week. Organisations have also responded to the needs of their community (service users), including adapting access, culturally-appropriate options, and preferences regarding supply of fresh food hampers / food vouchers / cooked meals.

- **Food systems:** in addition to direct support to help with food relief, some groups helped with changing practices around purchasing. Organisations have made partnerships with a wide range of others to create a network approach to food security, community engagement and ownership, and skill-development.

The engagement with several organisations that save food from waste, as well as the accumulative contribution of bulk food buying, has enhanced the availability of food for organisations to distribute with their locals. Other collaborations have enabled a combination of support options to be available, so that consumers have choice.

Other organisations and community groups have simultaneously provided food relief, as well as creating food security systems that are planned to equip the community in the medium to long-term future. Such measures have included securing land and equipment for crop-growing (urban farming), skill-sharing and community ownership, and developing the share-economy with locals that have excess produce in their gardens. Other groups have collaborated with local farmers and producers for easier bulk purchasing of produce and supplies, which in turn helps sustain the producers with a viable income.

- **Direct relief in other ways:** A range of organisations became aware of gaps, and more specific issues being faced in the community, and saw this as an opportunity to provide relief with more tailored outcomes; contributing to a more holistic or wrap-around support within the community.

Some of these issues were medical or personal care based, such as providing orthopedic footcare to vulnerable groups (such as diabetics). Other groups supported their community with resources to continue learning in home (from kindergartens to tertiary education, seniors' groups and neighbourhood houses).

Other groups moved to meet the ongoing needs of their target audience, even though the organisation's resources had changed. One such organisation used RR grants to purchase items for babies and young children (goods that would normally be received through donations); as basic needs of the young families continue, despite no government income support is available for them.

- **Organisational capacity:** The potential health-implications of Covid-19, and subsequent physical-distancing measures across metropolitan Melbourne have posed new challenges to the provision of services for community and welfare organisations. Many have had to dramatically adjust and adapt their services; this has been two-fold - to meet health requirements (some having to temporarily close operations), and to meet shifting community needs (with a focus on prioritising basic needs).

Other organisations have been called to refocus the ways that they can respond to their community whilst their buildings have been closed to public, leading to grants that support in creativity, connection, consultation, and projects with purpose.

Some projects focused on the repair or replacement of facility services so that their physical premises were maintained as a place of health and wellbeing. (OSHC heater)

- **Systems for Sustainability:** in addition to food systems and food security, others created systems that enabled their communities to work together and become self-sustaining – such as ecommerce platforms to sell their wares and artworks:
- **Social Welfare.** Mental, psychological and emotional health can be difficult subjects to broach with those around us, particularly during challenging times; and we have never experienced social or physical isolation like Melbourne has this year. Many organisations recognised the importance of supporting social welfare by targeting programs to keep their community (and newcomers) engaged, stimulated and connected. Primarily using technology as a safe space to meet up and connect, organisations have continued to education, social groups, special interest projects, artistic collaborations, culturally and linguistic-specific spaces, and entertainment:
- **Emotional welfare and service provision:** Many organisations reported that as services shifted and physical distancing was enforced, many services experienced their clients really wanting to converse with employees and volunteers

**Petrol and other fuel:** other grants supported fuel and transport costs. Health concerns and the impacts of lock-down measures saw the need for deliveries to increase; shifting from supporting independence to prioritizing the promotion of health and safety (by encouraging people to stay home).

Grants for vehicle fuel was supported in order to facilitate the delivery of essential food packages or PPE (bulk deliveries to services and individuals). Despite these services being outside many of the services' standard operations, their implementation was intent with compassion and risk-minimisation.

Other funding for 'fuel' included the granting of funds for horse feed for the "Riding for the Disabled" organisation. At this organisation, the budget for the purchase of feed was normally allocated from fees paid by clients that ride the horses, and closure of the center cut off this budget-line.

Another community organisation used their RR grant to purchase an electric bike, for the delivery of fresh food packages. The outcomes of this initiative include no fossil fuels are used, one less truck on the road, and deliveries are faster and more agile as they can use the network of bicycle paths through the community, rather than roads.

## Issues

Vulnerable groups in our community were hit hardest by the lockdown measures and potential health impacts of Covid-19. Simultaneously, with the closure of many workplaces (loss of income from unsecured jobs), and the reduction of many support services, meant that the isolation measures further highlighted socio-economic inequities. Financial hardship and the capacity of households to adapt to Covid-19 isolation measures were major issues that services responded to, as well as meeting the needs of CALD groups, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, poverty, disability and mental illness; and many young families that may not normally present to services for support.

Of the groups presenting, international students, asylum seekers and refugees have been severely affected. Though this group are already hard-working and resourceful (as they are not supported by government payments), the loss of their part-time and casual jobs meant that many had no income; and culturally were less likely to ask community organisations for assistance. Organisations and groups have emerged or strengthened during this time, and other more 'general' support services have seen a marked increase in this group presenting for support.

Other emerging issues include:

- **Momentum to change and respond:** In the initial weeks and months of Covid-lockdown measures in Melbourne, most services did not stop providing to their communities. However, during this period, as well as maintaining services, they were required to adapt to the changing landscape of community needs, changing methods and types of service delivery, developing new partnerships, building new systems, as well as a reduction in available volunteers (due to health risks, and isolation), or the reduction in capacity to physically have people in the work-space.

- **Changing practices:** As well as shifting many services to online, the physical services that continued also adapted to meet the most immediate needs of the community, whilst providing Covid-safe practices and procedures. Services and programs have been extremely agile in changing the way they provide services (including adapting policies and procedures), to keep their staff, volunteers and clients safe.
- **Ways to connect to people:** With the introduction of isolation measures and the ensuing change to service provision, most organisations quickly created new programs to keep community members (and groups) connected. Many services focused on remaining connected to their community via online measures, including transferring existing classes to online, and creating new and interesting ways to keep people engaged. Other organisations created new programs that were aimed at connecting members of their geographic communities by inviting them to share stories, create art together, ...to create a sense of belonging together.
- **Technological divide** – both for people and for small organisations: Many organisations realized that, whilst they had the program content to deliver, they may not have had the technological infrastructure to host online programs (or, efficiently deliver them). Some of these organisations had also loaned out some of their tech resources to enable their community, but required more powerful resources to simultaneously host, and create, programming.

And, as so many services and programs went online, it quickly became apparent that there was inequity amongst the community in regards to access to technology. Some organisations moved to address this by either providing devices (laptops or phones), or internet connection (dongles), so that the individuals and groups could remain connected. The addressing of these technological gaps also supported the mental and emotional wellbeing of users, as they could not only remain connected to their host communities, but also with family, friends, and other services such as medical, entertainment and information services (news and research).

## Innovation, partnership and collaborations created.

Many new programs served to keep communities connected. Others built on existing relationships and connections. The wonderful outcome of many of these projects is that they gave mutual benefit to each other (sharing of space, connection, ideas and skills), and benefited others in the community. Example of such projects include:

- Due to COVID- 19 restrictions many community support agencies in Moreland were unable to continue to provide support to isolated and vulnerable members of their local community. To address this gap in service provision **Jesuit Social Services** was able to coordinate an alternative meal and care pack distribution service for isolated and vulnerable members of the Moreland community, 'Hub Meals For Moreland' program from the Ecological Justice Hub in Brunswick.

The Rapid Response grant enabled JSS to employ a professionally qualified chef who is also experienced in sustainable, zero waste cooking techniques. The chef, working out of the kitchen in the EJH, was responsible for preparing freshly cooked vegan meals and salads. The first delivery of 10 meals was to Bapcare in Brunswick for distribution by their staff to residents. Since mid- April the number of meals delivered to individuals was between 30 and 40 per week.

*The Hub Meals for Moreland program continues beyond the Rapid Response grant. The learnings from the Hub Meals for Moreland pilot program were used to inform a submission to the state government to continue the program under its Working for Victoria initiative. This submission was successful and has enabled Jesuit Social Services to recruit and employ the staff required to keep this much needed meal drop service going in the Moreland area. The program is now called the COVID-19 Ecological Justice Hub Meal Drop*

- The **Multicultural Women's Group** (Moreland) worked with a nurse from the Sunshine District Hospital, to create hundreds of sets of scrubs for frontline medical staff in the north, whilst people of the community group taught each other sewing methods, connected with stories, and found purpose in having a common goal.

*"The hats are a hit! My colleagues are crazy about them. We now have to wear full face shields all shift & the caps are preventing unsightly forehead sweat rashes! All the nurses were also really appreciative that people would spend the time handcrafting something for them. Thanks so much!!"*

- The **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Toy Drive** (Darebin) usually provides toys to each and every refugee and asylum seeker across Australia, and so has a detailed knowledge of the immigration sector, and the relevant support services to partner with in order to be able to efficiently conduct this work.

In this instance, they took this same approach to identify services providing support to a number of varied cohort of vulnerable peoples, and distributed masks out accordingly. They worked with staff from both Federal

MP Ged Kearney's and State MP Kat Theophanus' offices, which was successful in identifying need across the local area. They distributed 16,000 masks out to: refugees, asylum seekers, the homeless, indigenous, indigenous elders, amongst others.

*“The RASTD is a small grass-roots organisation that is run completely by volunteers. Your covering the expenses associated with getting these masks out into the community not only helped those who received such directly, but ensured that our limited funds can be used to support the refugee and asylum seeker children that is our main aim. Thank you very much! This was our very first ever grant!”*

- **Celebrating Abilities Inc** (Yarra) provided fitness exercise classes focusing on supporting kids with cancer and their families, promoting positive health and wellbeing, building resilience. Mental Health & Wellbeing strategies to cope during isolation . They gave kids the chance to be kids, play and have fun, laugh, connect, make new friends, with support from Camp Quality.

*“Being at home in ISO sucks I can't see my friends I'm lucky I love ❤️ my cat and Margie - I love you for making me happy- I want to see you again soon- I like the fun zoom sessions you make me laugh 😊 I like that your silly and pull funny faces - —I can't wait for next session” thankyou –“*

## Emergency Relief Vouchers

The Covid-19 Emergency Relief Vouchers Grant program provided vouchers to bolster existing emergency relief activity provided by charities in the Inner North. Funding ranged from \$500 to \$6,000 per charity, depending on the funding source, type of intervention and capacity of local groups to deliver meaningful support.

The purpose of the vouchers is to address the increase of support required in response to Covid-19. The vouchers are purchased at local participating traders and social enterprises in the inner north and given to eligible charities to help their response to people in need.

Emergency Relief Vouchers	Trader	Amount	Location of Project
Aborigines Advancement League Inc.	Biviano & Sons	\$ 7,000	Darebin
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House	Toscanos (Richmond), The Vegetable Connection	\$ 2,000	Yarra
Bridge Darebin	Psarkos, Terra Madre	\$ 1,000	Darebin
Brunswick Neighbourhood House	La Manna Fresh	\$ 1,000	Moreland
Community Information Support Victoria (CISVic Coburg)	La Manna Fresh and 2,500 Operational costs	\$ 5,750	Moreland
Cultivating Community	The Vegetable Connection	\$ 1,000	Yarra
Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria	Touch of Asia Pacific	\$ 2,000	Moreland
Encompass Care	Psarakos	\$ 5,000	Darebin
EQubed	Psarakos	\$ 1,000	Darebin
Fawkner Food Bowls	Andre's of Melbourne	\$ 2,000	Moreland
Islamic Society of Victoria	Al Fajr Halal Meats	\$ 1,000	Darebin
Jesuit Social Services	NSM Foods	\$ 2,000	Moreland
Merri Outreach Support Services (MOSS)	Terra Madre	\$ 1,000	Moreland
Muslim Women's Council of Victoria	NSM Foods and Coburg Market Halal Meat & Poultry	\$ 2,000	Moreland
National Zakat Foundation	National Zakat Foundation	\$ 2,000	Moreland
Open Table Inc	The Vegetable Connection & Operational Costs	\$ 6,000	Yarra
Our Daily Bread c/o Coburg Greek Church	Coburg Traders Vouchers	\$ 1,500	Moreland
Reservoir Neighbourhood House	Reservoir Traders Association	\$ 1,940	Darebin
Richmond Churches Food Centre Incorporated	Richmond IGA Express, Fredericks Richmond Hagen's Organic Butchers	\$ 5,000	Yarra
RISE Refugee Survivors and eX Detainees	Reservoir Traders Association	\$ 500	Darebin
Saint Bartholomew's Anglican Church Burnley	Hagen's Organic Butchers	\$ 2,000	Yarra
Salvation Army Tinning Street	Basfoods	\$ 2,000	Moreland
St Vincent's De Paul Society Inc (Brunswick Conference)	Brunswick IGA	\$ 2,000	Moreland

St Vincent's De Paul Society Inc (Fawkner Conference)	Fawkner IGA	\$ 2,000	Moreland
St Vincent's De Paul Society Inc (Pascoe Vale Conference)	Piedimontes Pascoe Vale	\$ 2,000	Moreland
The Foundling Archive	Gervasi Supermarkets	\$ 500	Moreland
The Wellington	Ladro	\$ 2,000	Yarra
Uniting Victoria and Tasmania Limited	Gangemi Fruit and Vegetables	\$ 2,000	Moreland
Youth Projects Inc	Reservoir Traders Association	\$ 60	Darebin

## Feedback to date

### Output and outcomes

Organisations reported to have assisted 2351 people (across) 15 projects. There were a number of outliers in the data reported, and different ways in which people responded to the acquittal questions (eg 1x food hamper vs 1x food hamper directly benefitted four people in a household).

### Issues

Access to essential items is critical, and needs are increasing. This is in particular for people seeking asylum, international students and indigenous groups. Impacts reported by local organisations using vouchers to bolster emergency relief services include:

- Poverty
- Loss of Income due to impacts of Covid
- Vulnerable groups that have no government financial support (eg International students, asylum seekers and refugees)
- Food Insecurity
- Impacts of isolation – not feeling safe to go shopping or visit services for assistance
- Prioritising rent, bills and living costs (other basic needs) over purchase of food
- Hunger
- Rising financial and food stress increasing the risk of family violence
- Availability of culturally-appropriate food (via food relief)
- Culture-specific sentiment/behavior to not ask for assistance outside of community
- Severe lockdown conditions for residents in housing estate towers (during July 2020)

Groups that are particularly being served by organisations include:

- Asylum seekers, refugees and international students
- CALD groups, including concentrated communities in geographic areas
- Young families and single-parent families
- Older / seniors in the community
- Individuals with immune-compromised / vulnerable health conditions

### Innovation, partnership and collaborations created

Within the Emergency Relief and Food Relief sector, most organisations formed partnerships with other charity organisations. This enabled front-line providers to respond to their service-users' feedback for more choice, to meet growing needs, and to offer a variety of expanding services, such as culturally-appropriate foods, and delivery.

In partnership, organisations were able to support each other better, with different skill-sets, network connections, and client-bases. Partnerships enabled front-line organisations to support the community with a range of fresh fruit and vegetables, pantry staples, hot meals, meal take-home packs, and other necessities for everyday living. This enabled more organisations to provide for more people, and supported the health and wellbeing in the community.

Other partnerships were formed with food retailers and small businesses, to offer even better value from local supermarkets and suppliers.

## Pathways to Employment Grants

Pathways to Employment is our major annual grant round. This year, our focus was on employment pathways for local people disadvantaged by the impacts of Covid19 in their access to employment. This focus on employment pathways is shaped by our relationship with our founding and key ongoing sponsor, IntoWork, and a strong theory of change demonstrating the multiple benefits to community members that comes through workforce participation.

A total of 35 applications were received. 10 projects were successful for funding by the Foundation this year, split almost evenly across cities of Yarra, Moreland and Darebin. All projects funded are at 100% of the requested amount for single year funding.

Of the 35 applications received 22 applications were not funded by the Foundation. The total amount for these projects is \$362,111. The Foundation liaised with sub-fund holders and other philanthropic organisations with a list of projects that are vetted by the board. Some of these projects will be funded by other trusts and foundation.

### Allocated Grants

Organisation	Project	Description	Amount Funded
Bridge Darebin (trading name of Preston Neighbourhood House Inc.)	Bridge Darebin Makers Marketplace	The 'How to launch an online based creative micro business" training program provides business training and an online launching space for new makers, while promoting and highlighting the work of established mid-career makers.	\$15,000
Carringbush Adult Education	Remote Pathways Guidance - Strength through resilience and connection	The program provides short and long-term individualised pathways guidance to 15 participants from City of Yarra's CALD community who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and those who are long-term unemployed and facing additional barriers due to social distancing measures.	\$15,000
Fitted for Work	Fitted for Work's Virtual Services	Fitted for Work's Virtual Services provides employment services to women experiencing disadvantage who are looking for work during the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing restrictions. 40 women will have access to their virtual core services.	\$15,000
Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria Tarwirri	Indigenous Legal Pathways Program Round 2	The Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria- Tarwirri is a membership body comprising Indigenous legal professionals and law students that supports and mentors and provides work experience indigenous students on their pathway to law.	\$15,000
Life Saving Victoria Limited	CALD Youth Aquatic Employment Program	The CALD Employment Program aims to remove barriers to participation and improve the overall physical, mental and social wellbeing of CALD communities by building local capacity	\$15,000

Operation Newstart	Operation Newstart	The Operation Newstart program is a therapeutic, outdoor activity and life skills program for young people 14 -17 years of age who are deemed to be at educational and social risk, identified by school wellbeing staff and/or mental health agencies.	\$14,000
Outer Urban Projects	Associate Artists Program – Creative Development Training	The Associate Artist Program identifies diverse artists and arts workers from our Community Access programs who are seeking to advance their creative and performing arts practice and career but lack opportunities in the mainstream and small to medium arts sector.	\$15,000
Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education	Careers and Employment Pathways Program	PRACE works with disadvantaged youth, adults facing barriers to employment, newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers. The Program targets those looking for further support with re-entering the workforce and/or further education and is designed to assist participants to determine a career action plan and the next steps towards their career goal.	\$15,000
The Social Studio	TSS Medical Scrubs Initiative	The TSS Medical Scrubs project commenced in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 crisis, by manufacturing urgently required medical scrubs needed by all frontline healthcare workers, helping them to stay safe from the Covid-19 virus. The program responded to a major shortage of scrubs currently available.	\$15,000
Westside Circus	Power Up!	Westside Circus works with referred at risk youth to help them achieve recognised qualifications. 'The Power Up!' program focuses on the personal development of participants, by developing qualities such as open-mindedness, self-esteem, tolerance, respect, responsibility, autonomy, perseverance and self-confidence.	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$149,000</b>

Further detail about Pathways to Employment grants will be available in early 2021.