

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation announces grant recipients to receive funding from the special COVID-19 grant round

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has today announced the 13 charities that will share in almost \$600,000 to enable projects that address specific community hardship as a result of COVID-19.

Today's grant announcement follows the Charitable Foundation's announcement earlier this year to bring forward its December funding round to make grants available earlier and work closely with existing charity partners to provide dedicated COVID-19 support when and where it's needed most.

Many charities have been forced to cease or adapt their community outreach and fundraising operations as a direct result of the pandemic. The grants announced today will provide each charity recipient with the funding they need to adapt their services and help create wider access to vital support services.

The grants will also help to drive community-led recovery from the pandemic through initiatives that address disadvantage across the Charitable Foundation's key focus areas of health, social well-being and young people, including \$108,858 to enable six new projects on the Central Coast:

The projects which will benefit the Central Coast community from this round are:

- Central Coast Post School Options - \$50,000 to deliver an innovative theatre series for people with a disability to help bring meaning, purpose and creativity to their day-to-day lives.
- KIDS Foundation - \$7,500 to provide children with an essential health education resource to help them understand their role in keeping themselves and others germ free.
- Waves of Wellness - \$12,408 to deliver a tailored Surf Therapy Program that addresses the mental health impacts of COVID for people on the Central Coast.
- Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD) - \$9,000 to create a new online youth centre which aims to educate, empower and inspire young people who have experienced trauma or disadvantage and to break negative cycles through the power of music.
- Batyr - \$25,000 to expand their 'Being Herd Pathways' program which will enable at-risk youth on the Central Coast to create connections with their peers, while collaborating with employment and training providers for future opportunities.
- Life Education NSW - \$4,950 to deliver a new Auslan translated online health education series to special needs schools, enabling more children, no matter their location or personal circumstances, to have the same access to health education during and beyond COVID-19.

In her first major grant announcement as Chair of Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, Jennifer Leslie said the Board was committed to supporting the Charitable Foundation's existing charity partners, many whom were experiencing hardship as they worked through the impacts of significant loss of fundraising income and restrictions to service delivery as a result of the pandemic.

"Today's announcement will enable vital support services to be delivered to our communities that are most vulnerable and have been extremely disadvantaged and marginalised as a result of the pandemic. The funding will enable new and improved infrastructure, education and engagement platforms, vital health outreach services, and access for people suffering social or economic marginalisation," Jennifer said.

"Since the Charitable Foundation's inception in 2003, we've supported 272 charities that help to make a meaningful difference to people in need and to the social wellbeing of our regional communities.

“Our mission is simple but strong, ‘to help rewrite the future of people in need’. This mission is shared with our dedicated charity partners and together we are helping those in our regional communities who are disadvantaged, isolated and vulnerable.

“The Charitable Foundation congratulates and thanks all of grants recipients announced today for their dedication and innovation in developing ways for our community to commence rebuilding beyond COVID-19.

“Our charity partners have always been there when needed most by our community. It is a great honour to be able to bring this funding forward and grant it today to enable our partners to continue their great work,” Jennifer concluded.

The 13 new projects are expected to launch in the coming months, providing benefit to communities as soon as possible.

A summary of the grant recipients and their projects follows. More detailed project summaries are available for media and other stakeholders upon request.

[The Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation](#) distributes approximately \$1.5 million in grants each year to facilitate charitable and community projects to help rewrite the future of those in need. Now, and for generations to come. The projects supported address disadvantage, marginalisation and isolation in local communities throughout the Hunter, Central West, Central Coast, New England, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers regions of NSW. Since its establishment in 2003, the Charitable Foundation has provided almost \$22 million to 496 community initiatives.

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September 2020 COVID Funding Grant Recipients:

Region	Organisation	Project	Amount
Mid North Coast	Mackillop Family Services	Supporting students on NSW's mid north coast adapt to a new COVID normality	\$50,000
Hunter	Hunter Region Working Women's Group	Creating access to trauma counselling services post COVID-19 for women living in the Upper Hunter	\$44,218
All Regions	KIDS Foundation	SeeMore Bug Safety - the tiny germs we can't see	\$50,000
Central West	SHINE for Kids Cooperative Ltd.	"Storytime in Wellington" - Keeping kids connected during COVID-19	\$35,000
Hunter, New England, Mid North Coast	Little Wings Limited	Medical Wings for NSW	\$50,000
Central Coast, Hunter, Northern Rivers	Waves of Wellness Foundation	Waves of Wellness Surf Experience COVID-19 Response	\$49,633
Hunter	The Kaden Centre	Home Exercise Oncology/Medicine Platform	\$48,400
All Regions	MMAD	MMAD Online Youth Creative Intervention and Support	\$50,000
Northern Rivers	RizeUp	RizeUp Online Education Series	\$26,600
Central Coast, Hunter, New England	Batyr Australia Limited	Being Herd Pathways - Support through Covid-19	\$50,000
Central Coast	Central Coast Post School Options Inc	The Friday Show (Development of OTC Studio)	\$50,000
All Regions	Life Education NSW Limited	Life Education Equitable Learning - Developing Auslan Proficiency in response to COVID19 and into the future.	\$45,000
Central West, New England, Mid North Coast, Northern Rivers	National Stroke Foundation	StrokeLine Outreach	\$50,000
Total			\$598,851