

Summary of P500 Shortlisted Grant Applicants for 2018

The applications for the following three shortlisted grant applicants are summarised below:

1. Good Cycles
2. Barwon Child Youth & Family
3. Winchelsea Community House



Organisation overview:

Good Cycles is a bicycle-based social enterprise that uses bikes as a vehicle to create meaningful and lasting opportunities for vulnerable youth and communities in need. Our vision is an Australia focused on advancing equality, health and sustainability through bicycles and cycling. As well as our many engagement and education programs, we run a range of commercial enterprises to support our mission to provide training, work experience and employment for young people. These include two bike shops, consumer bike mechanic training, maintenance services for Melbourne Bike Share and other mobility services for local councils and businesses. All our profits go back into our social programs and creating new employment opportunities for at risk youth.

Recently the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) invited Good Cycles to Geelong. We want to share our knowledge and successful programs with other communities.

Our bicycle-based programs help prepare our participants for entry into the open labour market, achieving financial independence, increasing mobility, facilitating social inclusion, and improving health and wellbeing. These programs are designed to provide a therapeutic and supportive environment for participants to develop new skills, connect with others and explore new opportunities.

After five years of operation, Good Cycles is commercially successful with 80% of our revenue coming from our commercial enterprises and remaining 20% through grants and fundraising.

How the grant funds will be used:

To develop the Geelong Pedal Empowerment Program (PEP), a bicycle education and vocational training program to engage at-risk youth in bicycle riding & bicycle maintenance with the aim of transitioning young people into further education & employment. The objectives of the PEP are to:

- Deliver 3 x 8-week Introduction to Bicycles courses;
- Work with 30 at-risk youth from the Greater Geelong region, taking them through bicycle education, bicycle mechanical training, employability skills and an employment pathway;
- Build strong relationships with job services and employers in Greater Geelong to build supported employment pathways for our young people;
- Establish a Community Bike Hub in Little Malop Street for commuters to access bike maintenance courses and link our young people to the wider cycling community;
- Evaluate the success of the program.

Good Cycles will partner with Victoria Police, Youth Justice, Whitelion, Leisure Networks and CoGG to tailor the program for youth on corrections orders, transitioning out of foster care and those struggling with mental health issues. We will connect youth to the cycling community, provide a bicycle, teach healthy lifestyle habits, vocational mechanical skills and provide an employment pathway.



Organisation Overview:

BCYF is an independent, not for profit community service organisation committed to achieving better outcomes for vulnerable communities across the Barwon Region. BCYF collaborates with partners to deliver evidence based prevention, early intervention and treatment programs. Six service platforms are in place to address the needs of BCY&F clients; Early Years, Family & community, Out-of-Home Care (OOHC), Youth, Specialist Intervention and Headspace.

How the grant funds will be used:

To support the Foster Carer Recruitment & Retention Project which aims to increase the number of foster care places available for vulnerable children and young people in the Barwon Region in order to foster their healthy social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. The objectives are twofold: to increase the number of foster carers and enhance the stability of foster care placements.

These objectives will be achieved by the development and implementation of an evidence based foster carer recruitment and retention campaign with three key cornerstones:

- The implementation of an evidence based marketing campaign that will prioritise targeting the right audience, addressing the barriers to recruitment, foster care attrition and placement breakdown, key messaging, dispelling common fears of foster carers and addressing key information needs
- The recruitment of a 0.6EFT Foster Carer Advocate to advocate for the needs of foster carers and bring the foster carer's voice to the forefront of operations. This person will harness the voice of foster carers, bringing the experience and advice of foster carers into the service delivery model and advocate for foster carers.
- The recruitment of a 1.0 EFT Foster Carer Support Worker to provide practical/logistical placement support. This may include transporting children to/from school and after school recreational activities and /or providing occasional care in instances where foster carers are unable to provide unanticipated care when a child leaves school early etc. Word of mouth from existing foster carers has consistently shown to be the most effective recruitment strategy. Supported foster carers leads to increased recruitment and increased recruitment leads to increased placements.

Foster care in Victoria operates from a fee for service model. BCYF is funded by Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) to provide staffing to support placements including four caseworkers. When BCYF achieves more placements than it is funded for (48 children & young people), DHHS funds BCYF according to the number of children placed. If BCYF increases the net number of foster care places available and thereby the number of placements, BCYF's funding increases. Increased funding from DHHS would provide in part the necessary capital to pay for ongoing resources to continue to successfully recruit and retain foster carers and therefore increase the number of and stability of placements. Further, BCYF is currently working to secure three corporate partners to participate in a matched giving program for the Foster Carer Recruitment & Retention Project. Prospective partners will be asked to match BCYF's donor/grant income for the current project dollar for dollar. If the Geelong Community Foundation's \$40,000 grant is secured, it is feasible that an additional \$120,000 will be directed toward sustaining the project. With these two income streams, the project and its benefits will be sustained beyond the Geelong Community Foundation funding period.

Winchelsea Community House auspicing the Winchelsea Youth Leisure Drop In



Organisation Overview:

Winchelsea Community House is a local Community House situated in the small rural town of Winchelsea. The Community House has been in operation for 40 years. Funding is primarily provided by the Department of Health & Human Services under the Neighbourhood House funding program. Smaller funding is also received from Surf Coast Shire. The Community House is a Local Learn funded organisation and receives funding from Adult Community & Further Education. To deliver various training programs. There is also an Occasional Care Program which runs five days a week.

Winchelsea Community House has auspiced Winchelsea Youth Leisure Drop In (WYLD) since late in 2017. They have been using a space at the Community house but have outgrown this and are seeking to have a space of their own. Hesse Rural Health, being a public health service in the town of Winchelsea, has offered to provide organisational support and a site to establish a prefabricated building for WYLD, 'A Place of Our Own'.

WYLD is a facilitated, self-directed group which enables Winchelsea's youth to connect and engage. Everyone is welcome. WYLD's vision is to have its own place where youth can have fun, maintain friendships and develop skills and community connections.

WLD operates weekly, guided by two leaders, one having a formal qualification in youth work and the other, considerable experience and training in Guiding. The young people have developed a program of social, education, skills development and leisure activities.

There is a long standing commitment within the community to improve opportunities for youth. Compared to the Shire and State, Winchelsea has a high proportion of single parent families, high percentage of people in the lowest 25% of income, low rate of completion of year 12, low rate of tertiary qualifications, high unemployment and a low proportion of young people who have completed year 12 or equivalent.

WYLD is a true community initiative and has exceptional partnership support from Winchelsea Football & Netball club, Winchelsea Lions club, Growing Winchelsea Inc., Winchelsea IGA, Winchelsea Anglican church, Winchelsea Branch of the Bendigo Bank and Winchelsea Police.

How the grant funds will be used:

WYLD needs a home. The space at the community House is appreciated but it inadequate to support WYLD's vision. Better facilities and storage are required and WYLD youth want to confirm their identity and demonstrate responsibility for 'their place'.

The grant funds will be used to purchase and install a prefabricated building for WYLD. Hesse rural Health has offered an appropriate site to locate the building close to a sporting oval with access to water, power and toilets. The building will include a potable water supply and a kitchen to support WYLD's focus on food preparation and nutrition, space for games and a large wall-mounted television for movies. It will also be located to accessible storage space owned by Hesse rural Health.