

2025-26 GRANT PARTNER SUMMARY



Food and Emergency Support Grants

FOOD RELIEF	
Drysdale Family Support - \$5,700 A local organisation that operates a foodbank, counselling service and second chance shop to support individuals experiencing disadvantage on the Bellarine Peninsula.	To deliver food relief through the weekly Foodbank. Funding supports the purchase of food items such as fresh produce, personal hygiene products, tinned goods and packaged products to ensure adequate stock and dignity of choice for clients.
Feed Me - \$50,000 <i>(Year 2 of 2 Year grant)</i> A for-purpose organisation that repurposes wasted food to provide meals and produce to those in need.	To deliver food relief through a Pay as You can Market and deliveries of pre-prepared meals to individuals and families in need. Funding supports the employment of a part time Coordinator and the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables through the wholesale market.
Geelong Foodshare - \$50,000 <i>(Year 2 of 2 Year grant)</i> The heart of the emergency food system in Geelong. They source and collect nutritious food that they distribute to community organisations to feed people in need. They also operate two mini-marts where clients can source nutritious food.	To deliver food relief support in Geelong through the distribution of food to community organisations and direct to public through two mini-marts. Funding supports the employment of a new full time Office Manager/Finance role which will support continued growth of the organisation.
Winchelsea Community House - \$30,000 <i>(in partnership with Hesse Rural Health)</i> Winchelsea's community centre is a hub for inspiration, growth and enjoyment and exists to connect the Winchelsea community with activities, community development and lifelong learning.	To deliver Food Access Winchelsea - a community foodbank providing food relief to reduce the number of people experiencing food insecurity in Winchelsea. Funding supports the employment of a Foodbank Coordinator.
HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE	
Lazarus Community Centre - \$30,000 <i>(\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2, \$30,000 Year 3)</i> A drop-in facility for people experiencing homelessness, disadvantage and social isolation. The centre provides a hot meal and access to a hot shower, clothes washing facilities and a place to rest and connect.	To continue to operate the centre and provide support to people experiencing homelessness, including provision of material aid (food, clothing, bedding), access to showers/laundry, referrals to health services and a safe place to connect with others. Funding supports core operations.
Samaritan House Geelong- \$60,000 A crisis and transitional accommodation centre that supports up to 20 men experiencing homelessness, 365 days a year. The men are supported to transition to, and keep, stable accommodation, access appropriate services and develop the skills to find employment and live independent, meaningful lives.	To provide crisis and transitional accommodation to men experiencing homelessness, including provision of the Accommodation Living Skills Program, which supports men to build tangible skills and knowledge to break the cycle of homelessness. Funding supports core service delivery managed by SalvoConnect Barwon.
The Outpost- \$15,000 A local Geelong organisation providing a hot cooked meal 7 nights and 3 lunches per week, to local people who are homeless or struggling. The Outpost operates 365 days a year and is the only after-hours non-referral service providing nourishing food in Geelong.	To provide volunteer-led community meals and place of connection for people experiencing homelessness and isolation. Funding supports core operations including the purchase of food items, small capital items and utilities.

MATERIAL AID	
Boots For All - \$12,700 Boots For All salvages excess sporting goods (new and pre-owned) from going to landfill and repurposes them to children and adults in need to increase their fitness and sports participation. It also runs Australia's first social enterprise sports store, "Sport for All," offering training and job opportunities to people facing employment barriers.	To deliver new and pre-owned sporting goods to dissolve barriers to sport and social inclusion. Funding supports the salary for the Program Manager and equipment distribution costs.
Our Village (previously Geelong Mums) - \$35,000 A state-based organisation that collects and rehomes donated essential baby and children's items by working with social workers and maternal and child health nurses.	To deliver essential baby and children's items to families in need through partnerships with community organisations. Funding supports the salary of the Geelong Community Services Coordinator.
Thread Together - \$35,000 <i>(Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)</i> A pioneering for-purpose organisation, committed to reducing clothing waste and providing essential clothing to people in need.	To establish a clothes distribution hub and local partnerships in Geelong including an online distribution hub, mobile wardrobe, in-store shopping experience and capsule service at women's shelters. Funding supports the employment of a local coordinator to establish the hub.



Education and Employment Grants

EDUCATION	
Back to Back Theatre - \$10,000 Back to Back Theatre is an inclusive arts company led by artists with disabilities. It addresses universal social, political, and economic issues through its work. Central to the company is its Community & Education Program, which fosters local engagement in Geelong, boosts self-esteem, and raises community visibility.	To deliver the Community & Education Program, engaging, supporting and employing students and artists with a disability. Funding supports three key components - a Residency at Indie School Geelong, a Residency at Nelson Park Development School, and a Theatre of Speed performance.
EdConnect - \$25,000 <i>(\$25,000 Year 1, \$25,000 Year 2)</i> A national organisation connecting volunteers to children in primary schools who need additional help and guidance through 1-1 mentoring and in-classroom learning support, fostering educational success and personal wellbeing.	To deliver in-classroom volunteer support to children including 1:1 assistance with literacy, numeracy and mentoring. Funding supports the salary of the Geelong Area Manager over 2 years, responsible for school partnerships and volunteer recruitment and management.
Hands of Change – \$14,520 Located in Meredith, Hands of Change was established with a purpose to deliver innovative programs that provide communities with the support, knowledge and tools to improve quality of life, by increasing social awareness of issues through community and partner engagement.	To deliver the Youth Executive Learning Program (YELP) at Meredith Primary School. YELP empowers young people with entrepreneurial skills and confidence through positive community engagement. Funding supports salaries for Program Facilitators and the purchase of capital equipment for the Meredith Community Garden, a project that provides learning opportunities as part of YELP.
Somebody's Daughter Theatre Company - \$40,000 <i>(Year 2 of a 2 Year grant)</i> A unique company of artists that uses the arts to engage women and vulnerable young people to create high quality theatre and pathways back into education and community.	To support marginalised students to complete their education through a theatre-based program and dedicated teacher from Newcomb Secondary College. The funding supports the salaries of key staff members delivering the program.

The Song Room - \$30,000 A national organisation that delivers multi-year, multi-artform arts learning programs with student and teacher outcomes.	To deliver school-based arts learning at Grovedale West Primary School to build engagement of students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Funding supports a third and final year of the Teaching Artists salaries and program coordination.
EMPLOYMENT	
Northern Futures (Meli) - \$40,000 A community organisation dedicated to addressing disadvantage in Geelong's northern suburbs by creating pathways into employment for individuals who are disengaged from education and work. Northern Futures has now amalgamated with Meli a not-for-profit community services organisation, that offers a wide range of services, including family support, early childhood programs, housing assistance, employment programs and family violence intervention.	To deliver intensive mentor support to participants undertaking Certificate III in Individual Support, with barriers to employment, including individuals from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. Funding supports the salary of the Training Mentor, who provides wrap-around support to training participants, fostering pathways to employment.
CatholicCare Victoria - \$40,000 (\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2) A social service agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne providing a broad range of child, family and youth services employment support.	To deliver 'Settle Well Next Phase' an intensive mentor support program for asylum seeker and refugee youth and their mothers recently settled in Australia, including supporting access to English classes, education and pathways to employment. Funding supports core operations of this program, including the salaries of a Program Worker, two Bi-Cultural Workers and education costs.
Cloverdale Community Centre - \$51,200 Cloverdale Community Centre is a community-owned and governed not-for-profit Neighbourhood House operating in Corio-Norlane. It offers diverse support services and learning opportunities where everyone can access opportunities for growth and connection.	To enhance Cloverdale Community Centre's social enterprises, Lotus@Cloverdale (catering) and Shoulder to Shoulder (manufacturing/retail), providing employment pathways for underemployed and unemployed people. Funding supports the employment of a dedicated Project Worker to develop, grow and manage the two programs.
Common Ground Project - \$50,000 The Common Ground Project is a not-for-profit regenerative farm and social enterprise located in Freshwater Creek, promoting food security and sustainability by creating fair access to locally grown, healthy food, while empowering community members through education, training, and hands-on engagement.	To deliver the Staying Ground program, which provides paid hospitality training and employment pathways for migrant and refugee women seeking meaningful employment in the Geelong region. Funding supports salaries for the Program Coordinator and Chef.



Environment and Sustainability Grants

RECYCLING & RENEWABLE ENERGY	
Geelong Sustainability Group - \$40,000 A community organisation supporting residents of Geelong and surrounds to be more sustainable in their everyday lives.	To deliver the Community Power Hub, supporting for-purpose organisations to install renewable energy and access other energy savings. Funding supports the salary of the Community Energy Officer.



Health, Resilience and Connection Grants

PHYSICAL HEALTH	
Cottage by the Sea - \$18,000 A Queenscliff-based children's for-purpose organisation providing short-term care through holiday camps and programs for disadvantaged and at-risk children and young people.	To provide short-stay programs to children aged 6-18 who are experiencing disadvantage. Funding supports 40 students from Whittington Primary School to attend 'Take a Break' camp, including staff salaries and program expenses (food and activities).
Expression Australia - \$13,705 Expression Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support, advocacy, and services for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, empowering them to overcome barriers and flourish.	To deliver a community-funded hearing aid bank that provides refurbished hearing aids and audiological support to individuals who are ineligible for local or federal funding initiatives. Funding supports equipment costs for twenty hearing aids (10 pairs) and salary costs for Audiology services.
Farm My School - \$20,000 Farm My School transforms unused school land into regenerative market gardens and is expanding infrastructure to increase the supply of nutrient-dense produce to the local community. The program works to strengthen the local food system, build community resilience and create employment pathways: supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.	To increase farm productivity and efficiency through the purchase of infrastructure equipment. Funding supports the purchase of capital items that will increase vegetable production.
MENTAL HEALTH	
Cherished Pets - \$30,000 An Ocean Grove-based for-purpose organisation that focuses on the Human Animal Bond as a tool for improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities.	To deliver the Home Care Assistance Program, supporting vulnerable pet owners through essential in-home support via community volunteers and a Veterinary Social Worker, harnessing the human animal bond. Funding supports the salary of the Program Coordinator.
Hope Bereavement Care - \$40,000 (\$40,000 Year 1, \$40,000 Year 2) Hope Bereavement Care is a community-driven organisation that provides informed bereavement support and counselling services to any person in the G21 Region impacted by the death of a loved one.	To provide additional bereavement support for people who experience a sudden and traumatic death of a loved one. Funding supports the salary of the Bereavement Counsellor.
LifeChanger Foundation - \$30,000 A preventative mental health and wellbeing organisation that empowers youth with the courage to thrive by developing their social, emotional and resilience skills, and building connections within the community.	To deliver school-based mental health and resilience workshops to up to 2,500 students. Funding supports the salary of the Regional Coordinator and casual employees to facilitate workshops and mentor sessions.
Lifeline Direct (Lifeline Geelong) – \$9,800 Lifeline Geelong provides crises support, education, community capacity building and referral services for individuals experiencing mental health distress, working towards an Australia free of suicide.	To provide psychological support and professional development training to Volunteer Crisis Supporters, answering calls from individuals in mental health distress. Funding supports supervision, training and Team Leader salary costs.
Ocean Mind - \$25,000 A local Surf Coast community organisation providing therapeutic surf programs for young people aged 8-18 years that are experiencing multiple issues and disadvantages in their lives.	To deliver additional surf therapy places for young people experiencing mental health challenges and disabilities. Funding supports the salaries of staff including facilitators.
Read The Play - \$30,000 (\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2) A mental health awareness organisation aiming to improve the mental health literacy and help-seeking behaviours of young people through fun, interactive games-based sessions at their sporting club.	To deliver interactive, evidence-based mental health literacy sessions in partnership with community sporting clubs. The education program will be delivered for an additional two years and will further expand to new sporting codes. Funding supports core operations.

The Empowerment Challenge - \$30,000 <i>(\$30,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2)</i> A Geelong-based community organisation that provides younger mums with a safe space to feel empowered, connected, respected and valued.	To support and empower vulnerable younger mums through weekly group sessions and mobile outreach service, including system navigation (Centrelink etc.), referrals to essential services and job application support. Funding supports core operations including the continuation of the mobile outreach program and expansion into a place-based Hub.
The Men's Table - \$20,000 The Men's Table is a national for-purpose organisation that fosters peer support and emotional well-being among men, by creating safe, confidential spaces where men can share openly about their lives.	To establish a Men's Table in the Geelong region, fostering positive mental health through connection and reduced social isolation. Funding supports the salary for the Regional Host and other program expenses.
Wombat's Wish - \$20,000 Wombat's Wish provides bereavement support to children in the Geelong region who have lost a parent.	To deliver support programs to 12-18-year-olds after the death of a parent, including Family Camp, Weekend Youth Program and counselling. Funding supports fees to attend Family Camp, Youth Camp and counselling sessions.
CONNECTION AND BELONGING	
Anam Cara Geelong - \$20,000 A community palliative care hospital, caring for people with a life limiting illness, residing in Geelong and surrounding areas. It aims to support people to live well for longer, at home.	To deliver 'Meaningful Moments' - a day program for people experiencing Dementia, Parkinson's and neurodegenerative diseases. Funding supports program costs including therapeutic and social activities, materials, transport, volunteer support and staff salaries.
Blue Light Victoria - \$11,600 A state-based not-for-profit organisation delivering early intervention and prevention programs to youth facing adversity across Victoria. It partners with the Police and Emergency Services to build strong relationships, meaningful connections and foster positive change.	To deliver the "Connected, Resilient, Engaged (CoRE)" program for at risk young people aged 15-17, fostering resilience, emotional regulation and reduced engagement in antisocial behaviour. Funding supports staff salaries to coordinate and deliver the program.
Bluebird Foundation - \$39,000 A Geelong-based community arts organisation delivering quality arts programs that make a real difference in people's lives.	To deliver the NORTH Children's Choir that provides a high-quality music education for children who experience socio-economic disadvantage, fostering connection and belonging and contributing to educational attainment. Funding supports the salaries of Choir Directors, Choir Teacher, Accompanist, Family Liaison Officer and other program expenditure.
Cloverdale Community Centre - \$30,000 <i>(auspice for the Real Deal Alliance)(Year 2 of 2 Year Grant)</i> A community-owned and governed not-for-profit Neighbourhood House operating in Corio-Norlane. It offers diverse support services and learning opportunities where everyone can access opportunities for growth and connection.	To support a community led alliance - The Real Deal Geelong Alliance - addressing policy priorities in the areas of housing, employment and care and connection. Funding supports the salary of the Community Organiser.
Orchestra Geelong - \$2,000 Orchestra Geelong's mission is "bringing music to the community". It is committed to making symphonic music accessible to the community, offering diverse and engaging programs that showcase both classical masterpieces and contemporary compositions.	To support a community collaboration between Orchestra Geelong & Geelong Youth Choir, through a combined performance. Funding supports consultant fees (Musical Director), music costs and choir costs.
The Good Neighbourhood Project - \$45,000 <i>(\$45,000 Year 1, \$45,000 Year 2)</i> The Good Neighbourhood Project is a place-based community development organisation in Norlane empowering local communities by fostering relationships and unlocking local potential, so everyone can thrive.	To deliver the Connected Communities Project which involves coordinating and seeding activities that foster inclusion, reduce isolation, and build a sense of belonging for local residents in Norlane. Funding supports core operations.

The Portsea Camp - \$11,880 The Portsea Camp offers a safe, supportive space for children experiencing economic hardship or social challenges to enjoy outdoor activities, build resilience, confidence and form lasting friendships.	To provide 18 children in Geelong with an opportunity to attend a five-day camp that promotes emotional regulation, resilience, self-awareness and social connection. Funding supports camp fees for 18 children.
FAMILY SUPPORT	
Consent Labs - \$14,500 Consent Labs is a national, youth-led not-for-profit organisation dedicated to transforming Australia's approach to sexual violence prevention through comprehensive consent and respectful relationships education.	To deliver at least 17 youth-led consent and respectful relationship education programs to students in Years 7-12 facing socio-educational disadvantage. Funding supports program delivery costs including staff facilitation.
MacKillop Family Services - \$30,000 A national organisation that provides education services, Out of Home Care, services supporting homeless youth and early intervention programs for at-risk parents and carers. MacKillop Education provides a positive learning environment to support students disengaged, or at risk of disengaging from school.	To establish a Therapeutic Hub at MacKillop Specialist School in Whittington, for families to access the support they need to thrive and increase educational attainment. Funding supports the capital costs to redevelop Edmund House into three consulting rooms, and the employment of a Family Therapist.
The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre - \$45,000 A specialist sexual assault & family violence organisation. Their vision is for a community free from sexual assault and family violence, and a society underpinned by the principles of gender equality, social justice and human rights.	To deliver the 'Respect Starts Here' program for football, netball clubs and cricket clubs, to take action to promote gender equality and address violence against women through activities such as gender equality needs assessments and active bystander training workshops. Funding supports the Project Officer salary and workshop costs.
LIFE SKILLS	
Cultura - \$14,000 Cultura is a not-for-profit organisation based in North Geelong, offering a wide range of services tailored to individuals and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	To deliver the Future Drivers mentor program. The program partners driver mentors with women from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to learn to drive and gain their drivers' licence. Funding supports costs associated with gaining a driver's licence including professional driving lessons, Hazard Perception Test costs and Probationary License costs.
Making Waves Foundation - \$15,000 A volunteer-based organisation that challenges and supports young people with disability or experiencing social challenges, to further personal growth and potential through sailing-based activities.	To deliver the Wright of Passage program that supports disengaged students aged 15-18 years through hands on boat-building and maritime activities, to gain trade skills, workplace readiness, confidence and teamwork skills. Funding supports the purchase of boat materials and the Program Coordinator salary to deliver the program.
Riding for the Disabled – Barwon - \$5,000 A volunteer-based community organisation providing safe riding lessons for children with a diverse range of disabilities in the Barwon Region.	To deliver an equine based horse-riding therapy project to children with disability. Funding supports costs associated with hiring the horses to provide one-hour riding sessions for primary school-aged children.
The Power In You Project - \$35,000 A not-for-profit organisation supporting participants with addiction, mental health, socio-cognitive disability and/or forensic challenges to achieve lasting change in their lives.	To deliver the New Directions Justice program that supports individuals affected by the criminal justice system to make a positive and lasting change in their lives, and to reduce recidivism in the Geelong community. Funding supports the salaries of the program facilitators and 1-1 outreach support.

25 YEAR CELEBRATORY GRANT

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Thread Together - \$100,000 A pioneering for-purpose organisation, committed to reducing clothing waste and providing essential clothing to people in need.	To establish a permanent mobile wardrobe service in Geelong to provide essential clothing to individuals and families in need, including people that have recently left incarceration, are fleeing family violence or are experiencing homelessness. Funding supports the three-year lease and fit out of a mobile wardrobe vehicle for the Geelong region.

OTHER GRANT INITIATIVES

2024 P500 GRANTS	
P500 Grant Recipient Farm My School - \$80,000 Farm My School transforms unused school land into regenerative market gardens and is expanding infrastructure to increase the supply of nutrient-dense produce to the local community. The program works to strengthen the local food system, build community resilience and create employment pathways: supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.	To contribute towards the wages of key roles vital to the continued growth of Farm My School's regenerative farming program at Bellarine Secondary College. The roles include the Lead Mentor Farmer, Trainee Farmers and Community Engagement Manager roles.
P500 Shortlisted Organisation Skyline Education Foundation - \$2,250 Skyline Education Foundation provides intensive financial, educational, emotional and practical support to gifted and academically talented students, whose potential to complete VCE, transition to tertiary education or employment is compromised by entrenched disadvantage.	To assist academically talented VCE students who come from less privileged backgrounds attending Northern Bay College, Geelong High School, Newcomb Secondary College, and Grovedale College, navigate social and economic obstacles, facilitating their completion of the VCE and their future transition to higher education or the workforce.
P500 Shortlisted Organisation The Men's Table - \$2,250 The Men's Table is a national for-purpose organisation that fosters peer support and emotional well-being among men, by creating safe, confidential spaces where men can share openly about their lives.	To establish new Men's Tables in the Geelong region, creating safe spaces for men to share openly and support each other and increase volunteering opportunities.
2024 ADROIT GOLF DAY CAPITAL GRANT	
The Empowerment Challenge - \$75,000 A Geelong-based community organisation that provides younger mums with a safe space to feel empowered, connected, respected and valued.	To purchase an 8-seater minivan that is helping to connect young mums to vital support by getting them to mum's groups, appointments, and, when needed, providing a safe way out of challenging situations.
STUDENT SUPPORT 2025	
The Gordon Scholarships - \$10,000 Our founding donor Ken Stott was a student of The Gordon. He recognised and believed strongly in the importance of education and lifelong learning. He would be incredibly pleased that we continue this scholarship support of mature age students.	To fund annual scholarships to mature aged students studying at The Gordon. Five \$2,000 scholarships are provided.

School Voucher Program - \$56,400 The Geelong Community Foundation supports students in their education by reducing the financial burden associated with attending primary and secondary school. Through the provision of Kmart and Target vouchers to purchase items such as school uniforms, school bags, lunch boxes, books and stationary, and other educational expenses, families increase their ability to equitably participate in the school environment and strive for educational attainment.	1,128 x \$50 Target and Kmart Vouchers distributed to primary & secondary Schools. The Foundation, in partnership with the Glover Foundation and several other supporters, provides vouchers to 35 schools in the Geelong region based on the scale of educational disadvantage.
COLLABORATIVE GRANTS- FUNDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBERS OF THE GEELONG FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE	
Meli - \$50,000 (Year 2 of 2 Year Grant) Meli is a not-for-profit community services organisation, established in 2023 from the merger of two longstanding local organisations: Barwon Child, Youth & Family (BCYF) and the Bethany Group. It offers a wide range of services, including family support, early childhood programs, housing assistance, employment programs and family violence intervention.	To deliver a Young Men's Behaviour Change Program for men aged 18-25 years to prevent instances of family violence. Funding supports the salary of the Specialist Men's Practitioner and Family Safety Contact.
Alcohol & Drug Foundation - \$50,000 ((\$50,000 Year 1, \$30,000 Year 2) A national organisation aiming to prevent and minimise the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs (AOD). It provides harm minimisation strategies, access to support services, community-based programs, training, evidence-based research and emphasises place-based approaches to support wellbeing.	To deliver the Geelong Systems Thinking Project, in collaboration with the Anthony Costa Foundation who co-funded this activity. This project is a deep exploration of systemic barriers and enablers in the service system in Geelong spanning mental health, education, family violence, youth, homelessness, AOD, employment and disability. The aim of this two-year project is to work towards overcoming the cycle of entrenched, inter-generational disadvantage that is present in our community, through a place-based approach. A series of workshops with local networks will be held to undertake this exploration and create a plan of action. Funding supports the salary of the Senior Community Development Officer, workshop and evaluation expenses.
Give Where You Live in partnership with Deakin University - \$8,500 A local Foundation that exists to build a fairer, more equitable community across the G21 region.	To deliver the Home Truths: <i>Local Insights into Homelessness Research Project</i>. The project will enable Deakin's Home Research hub to undertake research to help gain a more comprehensive understanding of homelessness in Geelong.