

## Summary of P500 Shortlisted Grant Applicants for 2017

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

1. Lazarus Community Care
2. Samaritan House
3. Gateways Support Service

### Lazarus Community Centre Geelong

**Organisation overview:**

The Lazarus Community Centre operates in partnership with SalvoConnect Barwon, which has a long and revered history of caring for the homeless and disadvantaged persons of the Geelong region. This dual relationship is directed toward making a positive and lasting difference to the physical, emotional and mental health needs of those who find themselves in situations of homelessness, insecurity and social isolation.

The Centre strives to ensure that clients are welcomed into a warm and safe environment, that there are skilled practitioners available to assist them with the daily necessities of life, including providing them with a meal, a shower, facilities to wash and dry their clothes, and access to social activities and specialist support.

The Centre welcomes all people whether they are homeless or not, with no bias or exclusion. In the 13 weeks following the Centre opening, they had 1176 contacts with over 2269 activities (e.g. meals, showers, laundry and recreational activities) provided.

**How the grant funds will be used:**

As the Centre is still in the establishment phase, the grant funds will be used to purchase essential equipment and fixtures as follows:

- Purchase and installation of a commercial washing machine and dryer
- Purchase and installation of kitchen equipment including an upright cooker, food mixer and blender, pressure cooker and new microwave
- Purchase and installation of computer hardware and software, and office furniture
- Hanging racks and storage unit for clothing and footwear
- Materials and labour to install fencing for privacy and protection
- Financial support for partial payment of food purchases on a dollar for dollar basis

## Samaritan House

### **Organisation Overview:**

Samaritan House is a community-based not-for-profit organisation which provides nightly crisis overnight accommodation and support from a purpose-built facility in Newcomb for up to 13 homeless men (guests) who would otherwise be sleeping rough. There are multiple causes of homelessness and each person's situation is unique and often complex. By offering a safe and welcoming place of hope, Samaritan House's guests are supported and enabled to move into more permanent accommodation and begin to rebuild their lives.

Each afternoon, guests are picked up from the city centre and transported to the accommodation in Newcomb where they are provided with a meal and a bed for the night. The following morning they are returned to the city centre, and also provided with assistance in getting to appointments and occasional social outings.

In 2016, Samaritan House welcomed 115 guests for a total of 2,515 bed-nights, served more than 6,000 meals and shared countless stories around the table. This important support gives the men the vital dignity, self-respect and confidence they need to transition to a better future. Nearly 50% of the guests have been able to move into stable housing and a further 25% are now in short term housing.

### **How the grant funds will be used:**

Samaritan House uses a 12-seater mini-bus to collect guests from the city centre and transport them to the facility in Newcomb. The current bus was purchased second-hand five years ago and is now 14 years old. While still serviceable, maintenance has become costly, with safety of volunteers and guests of paramount importance. A replacement bus is essential for ensuring daily access and support to vulnerable men is maintained.

Samaritan House plans to trade the existing mini-bus in for a new bus, with the grant funds being used to partly fund the cost difference and Samaritan House funding the balance.

It is anticipated that the new bus would have a useful life of 10 years, with added benefits being lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs, and improved safety for volunteers and guests.

## Gateways Support Service – Boost 4 Kids

### **Organisation Overview:**

Gateways Support Service is a Geelong-based organisation that has been supporting children and adults with a disability to maximise their quality of life for over 20 years. Gateways is recognised as a specialist provider for people for complex needs, including children and adults with autism. Each year Gateways assists more than 2,100 children and adults and their families across Geelong, and Western Victoria. Some of the services provided by Gateways include autism assessments, early childhood intervention, therapy and positive behaviour support, inclusion support at kindergarten, community based and facility based respite for children and families, holiday and recreation programs, and support for adults living in independent and supported accommodation.

Gateways has developed a 'Boost 4 Kids' program specifically for children and young people in the Geelong and Barwon region with complex medical support needs. Many of these children and young people experience social isolation, and their constant medical requirements put a considerable financial and emotional strain on their families and carers. It also makes access to suitable, safe and appropriate overnight respite care difficult, as many of them require constant, active intervention such as suctioning, peg feeding and administration of medication. The Boost 4 Kids respite program offers overnight out-of-home care for four to six children at a time, with appropriately trained personal care staff. The focus is on ensuring the children and young people have fun and socialise with their peers while having their medical needs attended to.

### **How the grant funds will be used:**

Many of the children who attend the Boost 4 Kids program have specialised beds in their own homes to keep them safe from falls as this could be catastrophic for their health. The specialised beds also ensure that carers aren't exposed to OH&S risks while assisting the children in and out of bed.

Some of the beds in the respite facility do not have sufficient specialised 'Hi-Lo' capability and the purchase of this vital equipment would enable a wider range of children with complex medical needs to access the program. Gateways is proposing to use the grant funds to purchase 4 Hi-Lo beds.