



# StreetSmart Collective Community Grants

MAY 2017



# What We Do

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**“StreetSmart is a unique organisation, empowering us all to help people who are homeless by funding grassroots, ‘hard to reach’ projects.”**

Tim Costello

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**The team at StreetSmart believe no one should be without a safe and secure place to call home.**

We take action against homelessness through effectively engaging with 700+ businesses and the community to raise vital funds and awareness for small, ‘independent’ grassroots homeless services and projects.

We seek out, support and partner with organisations and projects in the communities where funds are raised. We have an unrivalled thirteen year track record of getting funding to where it is needed most.

We are now inviting you to partner with us to double our impact through matching our 2017 Community Grants funding by DineSmart.

# Collaborate With Us

During November / December StreetSmart partnered with 90 restaurants to run our DineSmart Campaign. Patrons are asked to donate \$2 on their table bill. We will raise in the region of \$200,000-\$225,000 and are looking to partner with like minded funders to match these grants.

Listed below are our 'Lead Projects. Matched funds can be contributed to a specific Lead Project or allocated to the General Grants Pool.

LEAD PROJECTS			
Organisation	Project	StreetSmart Grant	Matched Opportunity
Youth Projects	Womens Wellness	\$5000.00	\$5000.00
Wombat Housing	Project 'Opportunity'	\$7000.00	\$7000.00
Safe Futures Foundation	Safe Place	\$7250.00	\$7250.00
Council to Homeless Persons	PESP	\$7500.00	\$7500.00
WISHIN	Making a House a Home	\$8000.00	\$8000.00
Youth Law	Creating Positive Futures	\$8500.00	\$8500.00
Elizabeth Morgan House	Kids Need to play	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

COMMUNITY GRANT POOL			
		StreetSmart Grants	Matched Opportunity
Victoria	General Grants Pool	\$100,000	pooled
New South Wales	General Grants Pool	\$50,000	pooled
South Australia	General Grants Pool	\$11,000	pooled
Queensland	General Grants Pool	\$10,000	pooled

Note: All matched grants are made under the StreetSmart Collective model.

# Youth Projects

## Women's Wellness Programme

The Living Room is part of Youth Projects, an independent, not for profit agency that provides health, outreach, employment, education and training services to individuals experiencing disadvantage, unemployment, homelessness and alcohol and other drug issues. The Living Room Primary Health Service provides free healthcare and support to improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, disadvantaged or marginalised, with complex healthcare needs.

### WOMEN'S WELLNESS PROGRAMME – THE LIVING ROOM

There are approximately 144 registered female clients at the Living Room based in Melbourne's CBD, but these numbers are often not seen in terms of women actually coming in to the centre for support.

We are applying for funds to support our Womens Wellness Program that recognises the unique experiences of women who are experiencing homelessness, to better meet their needs and aid them in their recovery. Some of the women we work with have been victimised or abused alongside experiencing homelessness and trauma, some have found themselves involved in sex-work in order to survive, many have quite low confidence, and some do not feel safe when on the streets. Working in both an in-house and outreach capacity, the Program will be informed by our women and will include:

- A monthly women-only drop in clinic with female health specialists, food and peer support
- Weekly groups and sessions include self-defence, exercise classes, health and beauty and creativity.
- Access to events and day trips to improve links with the community, anchor them positively with friendship groups
- Additionally, we would like to reimburse volunteers for their travel expenses and any costs incurred if they purchase food or drink whilst out with a women's group and staff.

On researching the provision of a Womens Wellness Program we interviewed a number of clients:

'L'

*Out on the street we are outnumbered, but women don't connect well with other women out on the streets - for safety we end up gravitating towards groups of guys, but that often means our needs come second. We need a safe space to come to, where we aren't censored and where we don't get shut down, where it is confidential and we can speak to people going through the same things. We also need to be better advocates for each other.*

'D'

*I want the women to feel safe and to be able to come somewhere and talk to another woman about what they're going through.*

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:

A grant of \$10,000 will assist in providing the Womens Wellness Program over 12 months. This budget will provide specialist instructors for self defence, yoga and other activities. Equipment such as mats, Relaxation/ sensory equipment, Resources for creative/ health beauty sessions, Entry into local events or exhibitions (e.g. for group of ten clients, Volunteer travel expenses, welfare, entry to events with groups, Food and refreshments for sessions, and admin/ incidental as arising.

# Youth Law

## Creating a positive future

**The Young People's Legal Rights Centre (Youthlaw) is based in Melbourne CBD at Frontyard Youth Services, a co-location of services for homeless and very vulnerable young people. Every year we assist over 800 young people through our daily drop in legal clinics. We provide practical legal assistance & representation in court where required. Our lawyers are knowledgeable about youth issues and laws, highly skilled in youth advocacy and working with young people with complex needs. We recognize that legal assistance alone is not enough & work closely with non-legal services.**

### THE PROBLEM

The young people we assist are largely invisible to the community. They have usually dropped out of school, find it difficult to obtain & maintain employment & often turn in on themselves through drug addiction and self-harm. They have legal problems; often associated with being homeless this includes fines, debts and low level criminal offending.

Our young people have often been victims of abuse at home and are very vulnerable on the streets.

Not dealing with their legal issues impacts on their mental health and can burden them with lifelong debt, a criminal record & continued mistreatment.

The demand on our Frontyard legal clinic services has significantly increased since December 2013 with the introduction by Victoria Legal Aid of strict aid guidelines. This has meant that many very vulnerable 18 to 25 year olds are not receiving the assistance & support they need.

### THE PROJECT

Your funding will contribute to the employment of our legal clinic lawyers. \$17,000 will pay for a lawyer providing 2 afternoon clinics for 12 months.

Subject to securing further funding this project will contribute to our capacity to embark on a new service to the Melbourne Magistrates Court. This will see a lawyer and youth/social worker to attend court a

few days a week, and in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid duty lawyers, identify & assist young people between 18 and 24 who are homeless or highly vulnerable. This is an exciting project extending our reach to young people who too often fall between the cracks and are highly susceptible to further engagement with the criminal justice system.

### AIMS:

- Young people who are homeless & vulnerable are provided legal assistance that enables them to live a more positive life
- A legal service that educates and empowers young people.

### OUTCOMES:

- Assistance to over 200 young people annually and including court representation for 50.
- They are referred & assisted by non-legal supports and services
- They have a reduced burden of fines and criminal records
- They feel more knowledgeable & confident to deal with legal issues in the future.
- At court their situation is heard and understood by authorities
- Their stories are communicated to decision-makers, to achieve systemic changes and funding of services that will assist all young people.

# Wombat Housing and Support

## Project Opportunity

**Wombat Housing and Support Services has been providing a broad range of services to people in Melbourne's inner-west metro area for over 30 years. Wombat is an independent, secular organisation managed by a Board of Directors. Wombat offers a range of programs including: Support & advocacy for social housing tenants, support programs for Department of Health & Human Services youth clients, transitional services for families, single people and youth, specialist youth programs for culturally & linguistically support young people, support program for young people on parole and support to rooming house residents.**

### **PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**\$10,000**

All our programs work directly or indirectly with children and young people, and provide a level of support either individually or as part of the holistic support provided to their family. Currently we are supporting 82 children from 0 – 14 and 84 young people from 16 -24 which is over 56% of our current clients. For many of the children and young people we work with, the experience of homelessness causes disruption in both their development and connection to community. They are also disadvantaged in their access to opportunities that come readily to others particularly in the areas of education, health and wellbeing.

The following needs are often identified by our Case Managers;

**School & Education:** access to school activities including; Camps, Swimming Programs, Books, Tutoring and Uniforms.

**Health/Wellbeing:** Sports Clubs/Gear, Music classes or Equipment, Arts classes or Equipment, specialist health needs

Through this project we will be able to provide a more holistic service, meeting the needs identified in our case management assessments that would otherwise not be possible to fund.

### **ESTABLISHMENT BROKERAGE**

**\$4,000**

People who have been homeless often lack many of the essentials required to establish a long-term home when moving into housing. Though it takes up many hours work, Wombat's staff are skilled at obtaining furniture, white goods, bedding and the like, however there are no funds available for setting up a kitchen, filling a pantry or other essential household items.

StreetSmart's grant from 2016 provided \$2,000 for establishment brokerage, which funded 20 x \$100 packages for households to assist with the costs of setting up a home. This was an extremely successful project, with great outcomes for our young people. This additional funding would enable us to continue providing this vital support; decreasing anxiety & stress, assisting in sustaining tenancies, allowing for an improved transition into housing and assist to make a placement feel more like a home.

# Council to Homeless Persons (CHP)

## Peer Education and Support Program

**The Council to Homeless Persons is the peak body for the homelessness sector in Victoria. Our vision is to end homelessness in Victoria, and therefore we represent organisations and people who are also working towards this goal.**

### THE PEER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Peer Education Support Program (PESP) is a volunteer two year program that provides people who have experienced homelessness with the opportunity to improve the homelessness service system, provide input into policy and further develop the understanding of homelessness in the community. When they have completed the program, PESP members have the opportunity to become graduate members. Graduate members continue their involvement with CHP through activities such as providing training to new PESP members, presentations, special projects and consumer consultations.

The Peer Education and Support Program (PESP) was formally evaluated in 2016. This was funded through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund. Below is an excerpt from the Executive Summary of the evaluation publication: PESP outcomes and achievements

"The program has been overwhelmingly successful in meeting its two stated aims of providing people who have a lived experience of homelessness with the opportunity to improve the service system, and in helping them end and prevent their own homelessness."

Over the period 2005-2013 the program has trained and supported 25 people with lived experience of homelessness to become highly skilled and confident consumer advocates. Of these 25 members, since their involvement with the PESP.

### PROPOSAL

The training and support provided aims to prepare PESP members for their role in the program, develop personal capacity, develop new skills and build on existing ones. In supervision, the PESP team leader works with PESP members on an individual development plan which explores advancement options, sets goals and a plan to achieve these goals. This planning is particularly important as PESP members approach their graduation from the program, as it provides them with a clear focus on what they are hoping to achieve next.

CHP is applying for a StreetSmart lead grant for the PESP Professional and Personal Development project. The project aims to enhance the personal and professional development of the PESP members, build their skills and knowledge, build resilience, protect them from becoming homeless again and increase their opportunities for future employment. The project has three elements:

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

- Funding for PESP to attend professional Homelessness related conferences: **\$5,000**
- Personal development brokerage (eg clothes for interviews, computers, software, car registration): **\$5,000**
- Training for the PESP team (e.g. Public Speaking, Mindfulness training, Mental Health First aid training): **\$5,000**

# Safe Futures Foundation

## Safe Place

**Safe Futures Foundation provides a range of services to women, children and young people who have experienced control abuse and violence from a family member. Our services are centred on each person to address their individual risk of harm and case management needs. We provide crisis and transitional support for between three days and up to 18 months, along with a range of therapeutic services and referrals to other services including mental health and drug and alcohol and links to schooling, education and employment services. Our services are based in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne.**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Safe Futures operate a number of secure crisis properties for women and children and ensure that we have appropriate security measures in place to enhance security for clients and staff. Safe Futures Foundation has identified the need to upgrade our security systems at two of our locations, our crisis property and our staff office building. Our existing systems are inadequate, do not provide the ability for external monitoring and in some cases are not operating effectively.

### YOUR IMPACT

Women and children are provided with accommodation and support, often in the days after leaving a relationship that has been abusive for a number of years. They and their children are traumatised and require a safe, secure location in order to commence the process of addressing their immediate needs, ongoing risk and planning for their future.

Often they have been subjected to coercive control and their partners will attempt to track them. Safe Futures provides a holistic service and strives to meet the safety and case management needs of all the women and children we work with. We are not

currently funded to provide a 24/7 service and thus ensure additional safety needs are met by the provision of improved safety measures including security lighting and CCTV cameras. With the funding we would be able to install new up to date equipment, monitored externally as well as recording possible attempts to break in via a digital video recording device.

Expected outcome: to ensure the safety for women, children and staff of Safe Futures Foundation is enhanced and any incidents can be monitored and responded to in an appropriate manner.

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

We have previously obtained quotes for the required works of

**\$7,500** to upgrade the crisis premises

**\$4,000** to upgrade the office building.

In addition we need to upgrade the personal safety alarms carried by staff members, the remaining funds:

**\$3,000** would provide new personal alarms for seven direct care staff who are working directly with clients at high risk of harm from their former partner.



# Women's Information, Support and Housing in the North

## Making a House a Home

**WISHIN is a small social change organisation based in Melbourne's northern metropolitan region that supports single women and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This region carries some of the highest rates of family violence offending in the state; more than 85% of the women we work with have recently experienced family violence which has led to their housing crisis. We offer a range of services for women with multiple and complex needs including short-term, task-focused support, and long-term case management support. We support them in strengthening their safety and wellbeing through ongoing risk assessment and risk management, as well as addressing their housing and support needs. We are the only support service in Melbourne's north which performs this dual function; with an outreach support team of 6 we work with up to 65 families at one time. Many have been trapped in cycles of homelessness, family violence and disadvantage for years.**

We take every aspect of women's lives into account and consider all factors contributing to their situations. These include violence, injury and illness, financial hardship, estrangement from community, culture and family of origin issues, social isolation, loss of education and employment, parenting concerns and mental illness. All our services are based on the individual needs and wants of the women and children we support. We respect what they've been through and help them to get where they want to be.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Making a House a Home project commenced in 2016 from a StreetSmart grant and has proven to be an integral component of success for women transitioning to affordable housing. When she finds a place to live, a woman has usually been homeless for many months and is on her last dollar. This leaves her with no way of scraping together the hundreds of dollars needed to move in and start afresh. The project provides women with small discretionary funding packages to establish new, safe, affordable tenancies in private rental or long term social housing with essential goods and services where no other funding sources exist. Common purchases include: removalist services, linen, cutlery, connection of utilities, bedding, crockery, laundry supplies (e.g. pegs, basket, clothes airer), small electrical items, cleaning supplies, extension leads, furniture, baby goods etc.

### WHY IT WORKS

Following a period of homelessness, many of the adjustment challenges we see in women and children arise from extreme financial disadvantage. It can take years for women on low incomes, especially those with children, to generate enough money to buy essential household items to live safely and comfortably. The resentment and grief felt by their children who may have left a more materially comfortable life adds to the woman's distress. One of the most often cited reasons for women who stay with violent partners - or return to them - is to keep their children in comfortable beds in houses with connected electricity and gas and food in the cupboards. Even a small grant goes a long way to empowering women to start again in safe housing on her own terms, and creates a safe, home like environment for her children.

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Vouchers & small grants for essential supplies	<b>\$8,000</b>
Direct payment to suppliers on request	<b>\$8,000</b>

# Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service Inc

## Kids Need to Play

**Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service Inc. (EMH) is the peak body for Aboriginal women in Victoria as well as being a peak body responding to Family Violence. EMH is a proud not for profit, community controlled organisation. We provide specialist Family Violence support to Aboriginal women and their children who are currently experiencing or have experienced Family Violence.**

EMH aims to provide safe and secure accommodation as well as support and counselling services to Aboriginal women and their children. EMH services and programs are available to any Aboriginal women regardless of age, ability, marital or socio-economic status, religion or sexual orientation. Our supports also extend to non-Aboriginal partners or ex partners of Aboriginal people as well as non-Aboriginal mothers of Aboriginal children.

We strive to take direction and work consultatively with the Aboriginal community in all aspects of our services. Central to our work and business is EMH's commitment to providing advocacy and support for the continued empowerment of Aboriginal women. We also seek to promote social justice and equity for Aboriginal women and their children in the broader community.

EMH operates two sites, our high security refuge that can accommodate four families at any time in four self-contained units. Our refuge is staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week and 52 weeks of the year.

Our second site is our administration office, where our management, counselling programs and outreach program are based Monday to Friday.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OUTCOMES

EMH is aiming to update our refuge outdoor and children's play area to a safe and educational space for children who enter our refuge. Our refuge only has a communal space that our four units have access too. EMH's outdoor space is currently just a BBQ area and a sandpit and a lot of cemented areas. This space is currently under utilised by the children and doesn't help us promote healthy outdoor play.

Our ultimate goal is to make it more child friendly, as the families entering refuge have had to leave their homes due to Family Violence, some come with little or nothing at all. We would love to have a space within the refuge so that children could interact with other families in a safe environment. We hope through this grant to be able to lay down a safe rubber rocks surface, to eliminate some of the cemented areas. We also plan to include playground equipment including – age appropriate rockers, basketball hoops, sensory play and the educational panels.

The positive outcomes of a refurbished play area will be many including helping to keep our kids active, enjoying the outdoors and the opportunity to play. Also helping to create friendships and re-building strong relationships between mother and child.

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Play equipment, rubber rocks and the labour has been quoted at **\$40,000** and we are seeking a grant of **\$20,000**, contributing **\$20,000** of our own funding.

# Our Team

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monica Logan – Director, Upper and Lower

Jerry Marston – (Chairman) Director, The INCUS Group

Zoey Masunungure – (Treasurer), Australian Red Cross Blood Service

Adam Milgrom – Director, Dot Point

Adam Robinson – Founder and CEO, StreetSmart Australia

Matthew Rowe – (Secretary) Corporate Governance Advisor, AFIC

## LEGAL ADVISORS

Herbert Smith Freehills

## AUDITORS

Jeffrey Thomas & Partners

**If you're interested, let's talk. We want to make things happen and are keen to hear from you.**

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Please contact our Founder and CEO:

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**StreetSmart Australia has Public Benevolent Institution and DGR 1 Classification.**