

**RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO  
RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE  
REICHSTEIN FOUNDATION**

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Your Excellency and Mrs Chernov, distinguished guests, friends, colleagues.

I acknowledge we are gathering tonight in this majestic place on *what always was and always will be* Wurundjeri country. In doing so, I also acknowledge we have so much to learn from the Wurundjeri and traditional owners throughout Australia - about respect, dignity, forgiveness.

*'The man of action'* was the catchphrase the great Australian industrialist, Lance Reichstein, used in his successful 1956 campaign to join Melbourne City Council.

How fitting then that today the Foundation he created in 1970 is one of the truly great catalysts for societal *change (not charity)* in Australia !

For decades, Reichstein has engaged in progressive philanthropy in precisely the same way Lance's flagship business, *Industrial Engineering Limited*, flourished throughout post-war Australia.

By taking risks. Building strategic alliances. Bringing out the very best in others.

Reichstein is the *innovator to the innovators*. Its seed funding and leverage have helped incubate some of Australia's leading civil society contributors - Philanthropy Australia, Foundation House, Social Change Network, VCOSS, Change Makers, Environmental Defenders' Office, Woor-Dungin, Australian Women's Donor's Network, Australian Environmental Grant-makers' Network, Human Rights Law Centre, to name but a few.

Strong action requires strong leadership. Here, the Foundation has truly been the beneficiary of its longest serving trustee, Lance's daughter Jill. Jill leads with courage, grace and passion.

Jill's actions have been complemented by those of her fellow brilliant trustees over the decades, amongst them her two children Lucy and Tom, supported by executive and support staff of the highest integrity.

**Reichstein people truly understand the pain, the humiliation and the struggle of disempowerment, and they devote the very best of themselves to help overcome it.**

**Reichstein's legacy is profound. We all have our own rich Reichstein stories to share.**

**One of many of mine centres on Reichstein's steadfast commitment to some vulnerable young African-Australian men as they progressed their racial discrimination test case.**

**As their lawyers alongside FKCLC, my Arnold Bloch Leibler partners and I well know that but for Reichstein's exquisitely timed intercession - a hallmark of all its work - we could not possibly have reached what the Chief Commissioner recently described is a "*waypoint*" of radical change for Victoria Police - in its training, its openness to scrutiny and in all its public interactions.**

**I am humbled to stand before you this evening to give thanks, on behalf of all of us, to the Reichstein Foundation.**

**For the boldness of the actions of the father, of the daughter, of the grandchildren, and of all in the extended Reichstein Foundation family.**

**For the Foundation's renewed commitment to strategic philanthropy, focusing on tackling inequality and injustice.**

**For its clarion call to join with it in these causes, for the good of all - people and planet alike.**

**And for never, ever giving up !**