



REICHSTEIN
FOUNDATION

change not charity

Report
July 2007 –
December 2008

Our Vision

Reichstein Foundation's vision is for a just and sustainable society that celebrates diversity and mutual respect for all peoples. The Foundation is committed to the elimination of discrimination and oppression based on gender, race, class, sexual orientation, disability or age and to restoring the health of the planet for future generations.

“Social change philanthropy focuses on the root causes of social, economic and environmental injustices. It strives to include the people who are impacted by those injustices as decision-makers. It also aims to make the field of philanthropy more accessible and diverse.

In social change philanthropy, foundations are accountable, transparent and responsive in their grant making.

Donors and foundations act as allies to social justice movements by contributing not only monetary resources but their time, knowledge, skills and access.

Social change philanthropy is also sometimes called social justice philanthropy, social movement philanthropy, and community-based philanthropy.”

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Our Mission

The Foundation's mission is change not charity. We support projects and organisations that empower people to challenge the policies, institutions and attitudes that foster inequality. We also support work for a sustainable future. Our grant programs work for social change to create an equitable distribution of wealth and power and a healthy and sustainable environment. We seek to inspire others to work with us to grow social change philanthropy.

"This was the first support that Rainbow Network ever had and made it possible for it to move from a self help support group to a professional training and advocacy body."

Associate Professor Anne Mitchell, Director Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria

Our Grant Making

The Foundation provides grants for projects that address the cause of social inequities and environmental degradation. We support innovative solutions to systemic problems.

The Foundation supports community groups who:

1. Actively work towards the pursuit of human rights and social justice for disadvantaged members of the community.
2. Involve consumers in the management and decision-making structures of the group or project steering committee.
3. Use community development processes to tackle the cause of social issues.

Reichstein Foundation's current priority is to support projects that involve:

- the environment
- human rights
- Indigenous people
- justice and the law
- newly arrived communities
- people with a disability, in particular, mental illness, and
- the western metropolitan region of Melbourne, in recognition of Lance Reichstein's involvement in the area.

The Foundation

Reichstein Foundation was established by Lance Reichstein in 1970. Lance Reichstein was an engineer, industrialist, entrepreneur, civic leader and quiet philanthropist.

Upon Lance's death in 1979, the Foundation inherited a significant proportion of his wealth. Jill Reichstein, Lance's daughter, is Chair of the Foundation and has reshaped the Foundation from a traditional supporter of established charities, to one actively involved in community development and social change philanthropy. The Foundation is committed to making philanthropy more accessible and responsive to the most disadvantaged members of our community.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees is made up of community activists and family members, and our Executive Officer has a strong background in community development.

Foundation Trustees



Photo: Gavin Blue

Jill Reichstein

Jill's involvement with social change philanthropy grew from her early involvement with the first women's refuge in Victoria and with the community childcare movement.

As chair of the Reichstein Foundation since 1987, Jill has been active in developing strategic partnerships and alliances towards growing

progressive philanthropy as well as mentoring and resourcing new donors who are seeking to clarify their own philanthropic direction.

Jill is also on the board of the Koorie Heritage Trust, Trust for Young Australians, Melbourne Community Foundation, Melbourne Health Ethics Committee, Changemakers Australia and the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.



Jane Tewson

Jane is founder and director of Pilotlight Australia, a catalyst for social change. Pilotlight is the fifth charity Jane has founded; the others, all flourishing today, include the phenomenally successful Comic Relief UK. She sits on the international and Australian boards of Virgin Unite. Jane has been a Trustee since 2001.



Lucy Larkins

Lucy studied Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne and completed her Articles of Clerkship at Arnold Bloch Leibler. She is currently working at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center, a non-profit law firm that represents people facing the death penalty in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Lucy has been a Trustee since 2001.



Ian Seal

Ian has been a teacher, a youth worker, a lecturer, a community project worker and a consultant to government, schools and community organisations. Ian is active in a number of areas with young people who are marginalised - working with Indigenous communities, creating safe schools for same-sex attracted young people, advocating for improvements to the foster care system, and developing models for connecting disadvantaged young people to school and community. Ian has been a Trustee since July 2004.



Fiona Smith

Fiona is a lawyer and a former Chairperson of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, where she led the Commission's implementation of Victoria's Human Rights Charter. She is Chair of the Victorian Business Licensing Authority, and an Ambassador for the Melbourne Community Foundation. Fiona has been a Trustee since July 2004.



Tom Larkins

Tom is studying Landscape Architecture at the University of Melbourne. He is currently living at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra where he is training as a rower. Tom has been a Trustee since 2006.

Staff & Volunteers

Christa Momot
Executive Officer

Denise Chevalier
Office Manager
(from March 2008)

Leonie Mugavin
Office Manager
(fill December 2007)

Mary-Ann Barnard
Finance Officer

Jonathan Finighan
Casual administration

Selma Sali
Casual administration

Jenni Mitchell
Archive and Library
Resources (voluntary)

Judith Freidin
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Community and
Philanthropy project
worker (voluntary)

Chair's Report

Image: Peter McConchie

Our mission of working for 'change not charity' can at times be daunting. Our society faces many complex challenges, including social, economic and environmental issues.

For those committed to working for change, one of the greatest challenges is to know how and where to start. This is why Reichstein Foundation focuses its work on specific priority areas and sets itself specific goals.

Significant and lasting change can often result from the smallest of steps. Social change philanthropy can work towards a seemingly slight shift in policy or conditions, but that shift can lead to substantial and systemic change.

Sometimes the social change we seek to effect may revolve around old and entrenched inequalities. Sometimes, we are motivated by the need to change laws and institutions to meet more recent circumstances. Common understandings about what is right or true can change. Social change affects the way we treat each other (such as attitudes to asylum seekers), what is considered normal (such as gay marriage), and established ways of developing policy (such as communities demanding input into environmental decisions). Social change activism often seeks new laws and policies that reflect changed community needs, and in turn, such institutional change can help alter the hearts and minds of people.

Progressive social change focuses on the root causes of problems, rather than just alleviating the symptoms. To do this usually requires a multi-pronged strategy – not just a particular set of actions, but also organisation, education, and advocacy. Social change organisations work with the long term in mind. Real change takes time.

This is why funding social change requires patience. It is also the reason we give multiple year grants. We have been very fortunate this year to be able to collaborate with many individuals and foundations to increase the effectiveness and reach of our grant making.

Our role as partners for social change extends beyond funding. We need to speak with conviction about the areas that we think are most important, and we should be enabling the people we work with to speak more vigorously on their own behalf about their lives and the struggles they face.

This is a most exciting time for philanthropy, and the sector itself is more dynamic than ever. New funders are willing to take risks and new approaches, and strive to develop best practice.

It can be hard, however, for new funders to find the information and links that they need in the early stages of their philanthropy. That is why Reichstein Foundation is involved in building Changemakers Australia, an organisation which encourages and develops social change philanthropy.

Reichstein Foundation is a founding member of Changemakers Australia, an incorporated national organisation which aims to support the growth of social change philanthropy in Australia. Changemakers represents a growing body of people who want to see more philanthropic funds directed at projects and other initiatives that bring about social change. It profiles examples of how this can be done, produces information and educational material that help explain important issues of social justice, and runs discussion forums and seminars that show funders using innovative grant making strategies to deal with what can be tough and intractable issues.

Changemakers' mission is to encourage and resource people and organisations in the philanthropic world and beyond to focus on social and economic justice, equality for all, and environmental sustainability.

Our belief in social change philanthropy is why we support the Women Donors Network, which encourages women donors to meet, collaborate and co-operate locally and globally to channel more funds to benefit women and girls.

Further, it is why I sit on the board of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, which supports the education and collaboration of grant makers wishing to fund the environment.

As a member of each of these three organisations, Reichstein Foundation has continued to support cooperative networks of funders, in order to share ideas and learn from each other about new approaches to philanthropy and best practice. This support operates at both the board and staff levels, formally and informally.

Reichstein Foundation has continued to work with our fantastic group of donors who support our projects in so many positive ways. The organisations we fund could not achieve their outcomes if it wasn't for the generosity of the donors who contribute to the projects. They enable many great ideas to be put into practice.

I wish to record my thanks to Christa Momot, our Executive Officer, whose professional expertise and positive relationships with our donors has led to some very creative partnerships. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all our trustees who give so much of their time and wisdom to our work.

A small sample of some of the projects the Foundation has funded over the past 18 months is presented in the following pages. They have all helped to make a real difference to lives, and demonstrate the power of social change partnerships. To all the organisations we work with, thanks for your passion and commitment to making our society a better place for us all.

Jill Reichstein

Executive Officer's Report

Image: Peter McConchie

Reichstein Foundation works for social change through its granting programs as well as advocating for the growth of social change philanthropy in Australia. We actively promote social change philanthropy with other donors, trusts and foundations.

Social change philanthropy is as much about the process of working with grant seekers as about selecting projects to fund. We don't just give to groups; we work closely with groups. Once we establish mutual trust, we then develop a strategy together. This process takes time and requires different types of support – including capacity building, mentoring, leveraging pro bono contributions, and assistance with project and submission development.

Social change does not happen quickly. The Barmah-Milewa project that Reichstein Foundation has funded for a number of years is a good example. This and three other inspiring case studies, Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support, the Refugee Council of Australia, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Philanthropy Partnership are featured in this report.

Collaboration and Capacity Building

Because our target groups are consumer-controlled organisations, capacity building is a critical part of the way we work. These groups are usually led by people who have directly experienced the challenges of disadvantage and inequality. They are generally not lawyers, or accountants, or formally trained managers, and so they do not necessarily have the skills, networks or resources that the bigger not-for-profit organisations are able to rely upon. That's why we don't just wait for fully developed submissions: instead, we work with groups to identify needs, design projects, and build networks to make the projects happen.

My own background is in community development. I have worked with disadvantaged communities in Melbourne's western suburbs and taught advocacy and campaign skills.

The processes I used in my previous work are the same I use to assist groups with project development, except now I have the additional advantage of being able to support the process through access to philanthropic resources. Through my contact with numerous groups, I can also assist grant seekers to identify and build vital alliances. Structural issues can't be tackled in isolation, so working in collaboration is crucial.

A significant amount of our time is spent explaining our grants program to groups representing newly arrived communities in Australia. Several meetings are usually required to enable these communities to participate in an informed way. One such example is the work we undertook with a number of African women's groups in Footscray.

In collaboration with the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) Clearinghouse, I organised a workshop to outline the process of making submissions for grants. The meeting confirmed that many of these groups need practical assistance to obtain tax status, to develop projects and proposals, to apply for funding, and to monitor and acquit grants.

Subsequently, a pilot support program for African women's groups was established with funding from Planet Wheeler Foundation. Footscray Community Legal Service and VCOSS Clearinghouse are steering the project, and will produce a report highlighting the supports needed to assist newly arrived groups achieve autonomy and self determination.

This project highlights the broader challenge for Reichstein Foundation, and indeed the philanthropic sector generally: that is, to make philanthropy more accessible.



If we service only those groups who have the knowledge and ability to apply for grants, we will miss supporting the very groups who need our support the most.

Changemakers

Jill Reichstein is a member of the board of Changemakers Australia, and I represent Reichstein Foundation on its Advocacy Working Group. The working group aims to broaden the definition of charity to enable more philanthropic funding to go to social change projects. We have written a paper about dispelling the myth that philanthropy cannot fund advocacy, and another paper outlining the problems with the current definition of charity, together with a historical overview of attempts to change the legislation.

The group also organised a well attended workshop, where speakers explained problems with the current definition and suggested legislative opportunities for change. Subsequently, a meeting was held of stakeholders who are actively working on these issues, and a project is now being scoped which will assist Changemakers to collaborate with community organisations and present a position to the Federal Government.

The Changemakers Advocacy Working Group will also research services offered by organisations in the United States which support the philanthropic funding of social change projects, such as the Alliance for Justice. We will examine whether such a body could be replicated in Australia.

Christa Momot

Refugee Council of Australia

Refugees and asylum seekers are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in the community. Torn away from their original homes for reasons well beyond their control, suffering trauma, loss and multiple relocations before even reaching Australia, they often find themselves without income, support, many basic services or any idea of their future status.

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) is the peak national body representing refugee and asylum seeker issues, with over 325 members (both organisations and individuals) and a focus on research, policy analysis and advocacy. RCOA aims to promote the adoption of flexible, humane and constructive policies towards refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons.

RCOA plays a key role in bringing the various groups across the sector together and ensuring that the issues faced by asylum seekers are represented at the federal level. Through advocacy, and the provision of a forum for sharing information and ideas, RCOA continues to be a catalyst for change through advocacy.

Many of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers relate to visas, health care, income support, transport, housing and mental health.

RCOA works at the national level to discuss policy alternatives with the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, members of the Australian Parliament, ministerial advisers and senior staff of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

With support from Reichstein Foundation, RCOA was able to establish an office in Melbourne in 2002. Since that time, Reichstein Foundation has continued to support RCOA, which receives no core funding, through various research, advocacy and development projects.

For example, RCOA provides support for the Network of Asylum Seeker Agencies-Victoria which has undertaken a range of practical campaigns on behalf of asylum seekers. The Network successfully lobbied the Victorian Government for the provision of subsidised public transport, and significant emergency relief funds for agencies that support asylum seekers. It also successfully lobbied the Victorian Government for free emergency treatment in public hospitals for asylum seekers who do not have access to Medicare.



Outside Parliament House
Photo: Fitzroy Learning Network

A collaboration between Reichstein Foundation and private donors provided funding for the Refugee Policy and Advocacy Project, which employed a research and policy officer to support and resource refugee organisations.

Reichstein Foundation supported RCOA's study entitled "Reuniting Families: Assessing the Settlement Impact of Travel Costs for Special Humanitarian Programme Entrants". The background to this study is that Special Humanitarian Programme (SHP) entrants must be supported by a sponsor in Australia, which includes paying the costs of travel to Australia. Many sponsors borrow money at high interest, and often the debt is passed on to the new arrivals, leading to poverty, housing stress, and breakdown

in family relationships. The "Reuniting Families" report made some key recommendations to government and the International Organisation for Migration aimed at providing a fairer outcome for both sponsors and new entrants, and also assisted in spreading a greater awareness of low or no-interest loan schemes available to sponsors.

In partnership with the Melbourne Community Foundation, Reichstein Foundation has also funded the Victorian Asylum Advocacy and Sectoral Collaboration Project, to look at the plight of asylum seekers who live in the community and are denied work rights, Medicare and other basic services while their protection claims are being assessed.

Reichstein Foundation's support of RCOA has assisted the organisation to build upon several years of work and development of the refugee and asylum seeker support network, and has contributed to a number of significant policy changes at local, state and national levels.

For more information see: www.refugeecouncil.org.au

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support

From the 1920s to the 1980s asbestos was widely used in a number of industries in Australia, including power generation. It is a cruel irony that the very strength and resilience of asbestos, once hailed as a 'wonder fibre', is what makes it so deadly to those who inhale it. Once it has embedded in a person's lung, a tiny fibre may give rise to cancers and lung disease which eventually rob the person of the capacity to draw breath.

It is a tragic fact that thousands of Australians die each year from diseases caused by inhaling asbestos fibres. This is still happening decades after the truth about asbestos was understood, because the fibres are already lodged like tiny time bombs in their lungs.

Many of those who have been affected are former workers of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (now privatised) and their families, in the Latrobe Valley. Asbestos was handled within the power generation industry widely and freely.

Workers had no special protective clothing. Asbestos fibres covered their skin, were inhaled, brought home on their clothing, and left lying in the open where children played.

Mesothelioma, whose only cause is asbestos, is seven times more common in the Latrobe Valley than in the rest of Victoria. It is rising at a faster rate than almost any other type of cancer.

A group of people – mainly women who had lost husbands to asbestos-related diseases – came together in 1993 at the Latrobe Community Health Service. They established a self help group called GARDS – Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc. For seven years, the group continued to meet at the Health Service, sharing stories, sharing grief and hope, and giving each other support.

In early 2001, many of the GARDS members started asking questions about asbestos. They wanted answers from governments, they wanted better services, and they wanted a coordinated response to the health, social and emotional issues faced by sufferers and their families. It soon became clear that the victims of asbestos needed a voice for greater justice and compensation. For instance, if an asbestos sufferer died before a claim was settled, the claim would not be paid out to the surviving family. When the group decided to actively campaign for the rights of sufferers and their families, and move into the political arena, it was clear that they could no longer remain just a support group at the Latrobe Community Health Service.

So a small band of dedicated individuals – Vicki Hamilton, Faye Needham, Dorothy Roberts, Lyle Sear and Trevor Callow – held a public meeting in 2001, which agreed to establish an independent association with an elected committee.

For six months, the GARDS committee worked from Vicki Hamilton's house. GARDS then received a \$10,000 donation from the workers at Peaker Power Project at Loy Yang Power Station – money that was paid by the employer as a bonus for accident-free work days on site. This allowed GARDS to rent cheap office space and buy a second hand computer and a telephone line.

GARDS continued to be supported by a generous community, and became an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, run completely by volunteers.

Christa Momot still recalls her first visit to meet the GARDS committee: "It was freezing cold and wet when I entered the old red brick building in Newborough, near Moe. The GARDS office was a tiny room at the back of the building. I was greeted by a group of people, the majority of whom were hooked up to oxygen bottles. We sat around a strip heater and as they told me their stories, I felt increasingly angry at the injustice of the system and enormously impressed by the passion and commitment of this voluntary group. Most of them were relatives of people who had died or were terminally ill with asbestos-related disease."

With support from Reichstein Foundation, GARDS was able to employ a part-time co-ordinator.

GARDS was eventually successful in having the law changed so that families could receive compensation after the death of a victim, as long as the action was started before the victim died.

GARDS also played a part in lobbying the Victorian Government in 2008 to change the law so that asbestos sufferers can claim for a non-life threatening condition without jeopardising a second claim, should they develop a terminal illness at a later stage.



GARDS members in 2004 on the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne at the launch of the James Hardie campaign

GARDS also became involved in the long fight for compensation against asbestos manufacturer James Hardie. GARDS bussed members to Melbourne for the protests, and sent members to Sydney to attend the Commission of Inquiry hearings. GARDS actively advocated for appropriate compensation, for government investigation into the circumstances surrounding James Hardie's asset restructuring, and for a review of responsibilities of company directors.

The case against James Hardie established the largest personal compensation claim in Australian history. The fund will be ongoing for the next 40 to 50 years, and up to \$6 billion in compensation will be claimed by sufferers and their families.

Every year, GARDS conducts a memorial ceremony and an Asbestos Awareness Event. Other activities include the free provision of oxygen cylinders, nebulisers, wheelchairs, and other health equipment for sufferers. GARDS also organises counseling and guest speakers, as well as keeping an extensive library on asbestos issues and other health-related topics.

GARDS has advocated for equal access to mesothelioma treatment via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has now recommended. Without PBS listing, a full six cycle course of the standard care chemotherapy treatment for the disease is around \$22,000 per patient.

A presentation by GARDS secretary, Vicki Hamilton at a palliative care conference spurred a study by Monash University's School of Nursing and Midwifery into end-of-life care issues for asbestos sufferers and their families.

GARDS is working with medical researchers on a study specific to Gippsland, which may lead to earlier detection of asbestos-related diseases. Nine hundred power workers have donated blood for this research.

For the last five years, GARDS has staffed an information stand at the annual Occupational Health and Safety Reps conference during WorkSafe week, reaching 1500 workplace reps from all over Victoria. GARDS conducts tutorials for medical students and allied health students about the effects of asbestos-related illness.

As well as fighting for the rights of victims, GARDS is also at the forefront of asbestos awareness campaigns. The expected peak of asbestos-related disease amongst those who have been exposed largely within the power industry is the year 2020, however with home renovations booming, GARDS fears that there may be another wave of disease unless people receive important information about asbestos and how to handle it safely.

With Reichstein Foundation support, GARDS produced a kit for home renovators on safe asbestos removal. The kit is the first of its kind in Australia.

In 2008, after calls from GARDS, Victorian Premier John Brumby publicly apologised to asbestos victims of the power industry in the Latrobe Valley.

"I was greeted by a group of people, the majority of whom were hooked up to oxygen bottles."

"It is unacceptable that any person, through the course of their work, is exposed to what we now know is a deadly substance," Premier Brumby said on Asbestos Awareness Day in Morwell.

"While the suffering and the loss that so many in the community have had to endure is profound. . . I sincerely hope that this apology and the changes that we've made to compensation legislation goes some way to bring closure and resolution for so many families that have suffered from asbestos-related diseases," Premier Brumby said.

For more information see:
www.gards.org



Yorta Yorta elder Uncle Colin Walker / Photo: Soc Hedditch

Friends of the Earth and the Yorta Yorta Nation

In December 2008, Premier Brumby announced the creation of a chain of new River Red Gum National Parks along the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens rivers in northern Victoria. Premier Brumby also committed to enter into co-management agreements with the Traditional Owners over two of these areas, the Barmah and Nyah Forests.

The announcement comes ten years after Friends of the Earth (FoE) and the Yorta Yorta Nation first agreed to work towards a jointly managed Barmah-Millewa National Park and it comes after more than four years of independent investigations and public consultation.

Barmah-Millewa is the largest parcel of crown land within Yorta Yorta country and is commonly regarded as the Yorta Yorta heartland. It is also the largest river red gum forest-wetland in the world, and is home to more than half of all threatened species in the region. It is also crucial to the health and water quality of the Murray River.

Reichstein Foundation and other donors have supported FoE and the Yorta Yorta people for the past five years in developing community support for a jointly managed National Park in Yorta Yorta country. A number of grants have allowed FoE and the Yorta Yorta people to employ a worker to keep people informed and involved during the

years of independent investigations and public consultation undertaken by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council.

The December 2008 announcement was a great victory but there is still much to be done. New legislation must be developed and specific co-management agreements must be negotiated.

Joint management involves a sharing of land management responsibilities between government and Traditional Owners. It delivers substantial environmental, cultural and socio-economic outcomes to Traditional Owners and the wider community. As part of making joint management a reality, Reichstein Foundation and our donor partners have funded a participatory research project enabling the Yorta Yorta people to investigate experiences of joint management around Australia in order to develop an agreement tailored to their own needs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Philanthropy Partnership

Reichstein Foundation is committed to working with and supporting Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) communities.

For many years, Reichstein Foundation has been an active member of Philanthropy Australia's Indigenous Affinity Group (IAG) which brings together a number of philanthropic organisations to better understand Indigenous community needs, and to work in partnership to address them.

In an effort to try and address the capacity of ATSI organisations, and as a strategy to increase the quantity and quality of applications for philanthropic funding from ATSI organisations, a program was developed in 2005 by Reichstein Foundation in collaboration with RMIT and Lumbu Foundation, and supported by funding from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and RE Ross Trust.

The Indigenous Capacity Building program offered a training course for ATSI community activists in how to work with philanthropic trusts and foundations, how to develop applications for funding that were more likely to be successful, and how to identify suitable pro bono support and resources.

ATSI organisations based in Victoria were invited to participate in the 11 week program, which culminated in a recognised qualification in workplace training. Resources were also available to enable rural organisations to participate.

One component of the program was a forum for participants to engage with grant makers, particularly members of the IAG, and suggest ways that philanthropy could improve its working relationship with ATSI communities. Many of these suggestions were presented in a joint session of the program and the IAG in November 2005.

Using these suggestions, and with the input of program graduates

and IAG representatives, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Philanthropy Partnership was formed to pursue longer term capacity building projects for the benefit of many of the estimated 170 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations across Victoria.

The ATSI Community and Philanthropy Partnership has the following aims:

1. to strengthen capacity within ATSI organisations – ranging from those concerned with health and welfare issues, to those working in the areas of arts and culture, and those established as advocacy and peak representative bodies – to articulate their needs in a confident and compelling way;
2. to increase know-how and confidence in ATSI organisations to access available resources;
3. to build relationships between ATSI and philanthropic organisations; and
4. to change the way philanthropic organisations perceive and interact with ATSI organisations, including becoming more involved in the grant making process.

The Partnership's current project will employ two full-time project officers to provide capacity building training sessions for ATSI organisations, to assist in identifying their needs, and in finding suitable funding partners, supporters, training providers and pro bono resources. VCOSS Clearinghouse's participation will provide a valuable link to additional resources and networks.

The Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT), a not-for-profit community arts and cultural centre based in Melbourne, was approached to host the project and facilitate its completion. KHT preserves,

protects and promotes the Aboriginal culture of South-Eastern Australia and provides a unique environment that welcomes and encourages Koories and non-Koories to come together in the spirit of learning and reconciliation.

As an ATSI organisation well regarded by the community, and with a governance structure that already models a successful partnership with the philanthropic sector, KHT was seen as the best body to facilitate such a broad ranging project.

The ATSI Community and Philanthropy Partnership project is based on the growing belief that in order to bring about real change, philanthropic organisations need to be become more engaged with the community. North American research has identified four key strategies for grant makers working in communities where there is often little capacity:

1. being a steward for the community;
2. developing leaders;
3. developing organisations; and
4. being an engaged partner.

The project hopes to encourage these strategies in Australian philanthropy.

This type of engagement should not be unique to the ATSI community, and it is hoped that eventually, philanthropic organisations will be able to learn from the models developed within this program and apply them more broadly.

In 2008, the project received its first grant of \$90,000 (\$30,000 a year for three years) from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. Reichstein Foundation will continue to play a central role in promoting the project amongst other philanthropic trusts and foundations.

Grants

Made from
1 July 2007 –
31 December
2008

Environment

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions

www.breaze.org.au

Employment of a part-time project manager \$30,000

Developing environmental sustainability in Ballarat

Supported by Hamer Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

Climate Action Network Australia

www.cana.net.au

Building for Poznan: Increasing the capacity of Australian NGOs to work on climate change \$2,000

Increasing the capacity of NGOs to engage in the climate change policy debate

Environment Victoria

www.envict.org.au

Strengthening community involvement in sustainable water management \$15,250

Creating a strong voice to protect and restore river health

Environment Victoria

www.envict.org.au

Multicultural leaders in sustainability \$20,000

Engaging young culturally and linguistically diverse youth to work with their local environment

Friends of the Earth Melbourne

www.melbourne.foe.org.au

Victoria's desalination project, at what cost? Forcing change to responsible water policy \$31,000

Educating the public about Victoria's water supply options and sustainable water use

Supported by Grigg Family Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

Friends of the Earth Melbourne

www.melbourne.foe.org.au

Communications tools & platforms to strengthen the climate movement \$13,000

Generating stronger campaigns through developing communication and networking tools

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

www.masg.org.au

Focus on community \$10,000

Resourcing the local community to work with disadvantaged groups on environment projects

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

www.nattrust.com.au

Devilbend Reserve aquatic ecology monitoring \$5,500

Surveying ecological studies to ensure the sustainability of the Devilbend Reserve

Supported by Philippa and Peter Currie

Victorian National Parks Association

www.vnpa.org.au

Protection of Victoria's marine and coastal biodiversity \$25,000

Raising awareness and changing policy concerning Victoria's coastlines

Supported by Philippa and Peter Currie and an anonymous donor

Wilderness Society

www.wilderness.org.au

Gunns proposed pulp mill \$17,560

Resourcing the community in the Tasmanian Tamar Valley affected by the proposal to build a pulp mill

Responsible Forest Management Australia

www.fscaustralia.org.au

Visit of Dr Michael E Conroy from the US Environmental Grantmakers Network \$2,500

Supporting discussion around responsible forest management

Wilderness Society

www.wilderness.org.au

Development of a regional biodiversity and cultural heritage agenda \$37,000

Building capacity and collaboration between environment groups and Indigenous Traditional Owners

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT \$218,810

Human Rights

Brophy Family & Youth Services

www.brophy.org.au

Ssafe in the South West (2008-09) \$15,000

Advocating the safety needs for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex (GLBTI) community in south-west Victoria

Supported by Foundation for Young Australians and Ian Gould

Cobaw Community Health Service

www.cobaw.vic.gov.au

Getting strategic about promoting sexual diversity & challenging homophobia in rural Victoria \$30,000

Working in rural communities on strategic plans to address homophobia and the needs of same sex attracted young people

Supported by Ian Gould

Cobaw Community Health Service

www.cobaw.vic.gov.au

WayOut media management & skill development \$3,000

Developing more powerful media engagement through skills development

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc

www.gards.org

Pilot asbestos storage facility in Gippsland & asbestos awareness and advocacy – part 2 \$25,000

Protecting the interests of victims of asbestos in Gippsland

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service

www.goodshepvic.org.au

Researching the gaps: recovery needs of women in domestic violence \$30,000

Supporting domestic violence victims in post-crisis situations

Supported by H M Carson and Anne Carson

Industrial Deaths Support & Advocacy Inc

www.idsa.com.au

Organisational capacity building for IDSA \$20,000

Building the capacity and advocacy skills of those affected by a workplace death

Matrix Guild

www.matrixguildvic.org.au

Determining strategies to enhance the aged care services provided to GLBTI seniors \$20,000

Identifying structural gaps that impact on GLBTI seniors in aged care services

Meadow Heights Learning Shop

www.mhls.com.au

YADI (Youth Addressing Diversity Issues) \$41,000

Addressing institutional and community homophobia in the City of Hume

Supported by Foundation for Young Australians and Ian Gould

Open Channel

www.openchannel.org.au

Short & sharp pitching competition \$3,000

Supporting the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival

Oxfam Australia

www.oxfam.org.au

Letter of support for African refugee communities \$1,000

Advocating for African refugee communities

Project Respect

www.projectrespect.org.au

Prostitute - Who is she? \$30,000

Encouraging change through education about the realities of women in prostitution

St Luke's Anglicare

www.anhlc.asn.au

Stage 3 DGR research and advocacy project for neighborhood houses and learning centres \$10,000

Advocating for a broader and more appropriate charity tax status for Neighborhood Houses

The Trustee for the Brigidine Association Asylum Seeker and Refugee Trust

Paddling in the excised zone \$2,000

Generating interest in Australia's denial of asylum seekers' access to Australian territory and its onshore protection determination process

Upper Hume Community Health Service

www.uhchs.vic.gov.au

Safe schools and communities together \$20,000

Developing effective responses to inappropriate sexual behavior or assault occurring in the school or in the community

Upper Hume Community Health Service

www.uhchs.vic.gov.au

Let go - WayOut Albury Wodonga \$15,000

Raising community awareness of same sex attracted services in Albury Wodonga

Supported by Ian Gould

TOTAL HUMAN RIGHTS \$265,000

“Thanks to the invaluable assistance of the Reichstein Foundation, we were able to secure funding for the Inside Access Pilot Project, a specialised legal service for prisoners with mental illness. This unique project will provide access to justice and human rights for mentally ill prisoners.”

Samantha Sowerwine,
Inside Access
Coordinator, Mental
Health Legal Centre

Indigenous People

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

www.frrr.org.au
www.kric.org.au

Koorie Resource and Information Centre
Goulburn Valley Woongi Women's Centre \$45,500

Assistance to enable the employment of staff at the Woongi Women's Centre

Supported by Ricci Swart Multimedia and Fleur Spitzer

Friends of the Earth Melbourne

www.melbourne.foe.org.au

Reconciliation bus \$2,000

Assisting Indigenous groups to attend the official Parliamentary apology to the Stolen Generations

Supported by Belinda Gross

Friends of the Earth Melbourne

www.melbourne.foe.org.au

Yorta Yorta informed consent for national parks on country \$51,000

Community education and resourcing to secure joint ownership of Yorta Yorta country

Supported by S & J Rothfield Family Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation, H M Carson and Jane Abercrombie

Mildura Aboriginal Corporation

'Step up': youth empowerment \$17,200

Establishment of an Indigenous leadership program in Mildura

Supported by Social Justice Fund and Silver Gold Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)

www.pilch.org.au

Indigenous issues research \$9,900

Improving access to legal assistance for Indigenous organisations and people

Supported by Social Justice Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

Tarerer Gunditj Project Association

www.tarerer.com.au

Dreaming up a change - Where to from here? \$12,500

Addressing the lack of representation for the Indigenous Australian voice in the wider Australian community

Supported by Rick Begg

Uniting Church in Australia Kilmany

Walking together \$30,000

Engaging and empowering Indigenous communities through community development practices

YWCA

www.ywca.net

Sisters doing it for themselves \$60,000

Support for Indigenous women to become more active in community affairs

Supported by S & J Rothfield Family Fund, Stegley Fund, Fairness Fund and Social Justice Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

TOTAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE \$228,100

Justice & the Law

Federation of Community Legal Centres

www.communitylaw.org.au/fedclc

Is community a crime? \$2,000

A forum for communities affected by anti-terrorism laws and policing

Fitzroy Legal Service

www.fitzroy-legal.org.au

Fitzroy Legal Service criminal record project \$20,000

Advocating for Victoria to amend current laws on discrimination relating to having a criminal record

Flat out

www.flatout.org.au

Centre for Human Rights of Imprisoned People \$30,000

Enhancing access to justice and human rights for imprisoned people

National Children's and Youth Law Centre

www.ncylc.org.au

Research and development - national child rights monitoring kit \$20,000

Development of a national child rights monitoring process

Uniting Care - Cutting Edge

www.ucce.org.au

Access to justice in the Goulburn Valley: demonstrating the need for community legal services \$20,000

Assisting the community to build a case for the establishment of a community legal centre in Shepparton

TOTAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW \$92,000

Newly Arrived Communities

Advocacy and Rights Centre Ltd

Rural Australians for Refugees - now and into the future \$6,000

Solving structural issues in relation to the provision of settlement support

Supported by Becher Foundation

Jesuit Social Services

www.jss.org.au

Somali Australian Council advocacy and community capacity building \$35,000

Encouraging greater advocacy and community capacity building within the Somali community

Supported by Fleur Spitzer, Jane Abercrombie and an anonymous donor

Multicultural Arts Victoria

www.multiculturalarts.com.au

Do the Right Thing! Human Rights Day Festival 2008 \$10,000

Coordinating young culturally and linguistically diverse youth to run a youth focused social awareness raising festival

Tenants Union of Victoria

www.tuv.org.au

Somali women's community enterprise \$28,000

Coordinating leadership seminars for Somali women to further their business and employment skills

UCA - Hotham Mission

www.asp.hothammission.org.au

Asylum seeker community advocacy \$32,000

Campaigning for the rights of asylum seekers

People with a Disability

Western Region Health Centre

www.wrhc.com.au

Developing self-sufficient leadership in peer education \$30,000

Coordinating health and nutrition projects amongst newly arrived communities

Refugee Council of Australia

www.refugeecouncil.org.au

Victorians asylum advocacy and sectoral collaboration \$21,000

Alliance building in Victoria amongst refugee and asylum seeker organisations

Supported by Grigg Family Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation

TOTAL NEWLY ARRIVED COMMUNITIES \$213,000

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations

www.afdo.org.au

Transport standards review \$1,000

Reporting experiences of people with a disability on public transport

Disability Justice Advocacy Inc

www.justadvocacy.com

Aids and Equipment Action Alliance \$50,000

Advocating for fairer access to disability aids and equipment in Victoria

Supported by an anonymous donor

Disability Resources Centre

www.drc.org.au

Public transport access watch: phase 2 \$30,000

Promoting the needs of people with a disability in accessing public transport

Gippsland Advocates for Mental Health

www.barrierbreakers.org.au

Barrier Breakers \$25,000

Resources to establish a mental health advocacy network in Gippsland

Mental Health Legal Centre

www.communitylaw.org.au/mentalhealth

Planning for community wellbeing - living wills for people living with mental illness \$20,000

Increasing awareness about living wills (a document that records an advance directive to inform family, friends and practitioners about a person's preferences for treatment in the event they become unwell)

Psychiatric Disability Services (Vicserv)

www.vicserv.org.au

Listening to the voices of women mental health consumers \$31,000

Advocating for safety and gender sensitivity within mental health services

Supported by NE Renton Family Fund of Melbourne Community Foundation, Fleur Spitzer, HM Carson and an anonymous donor

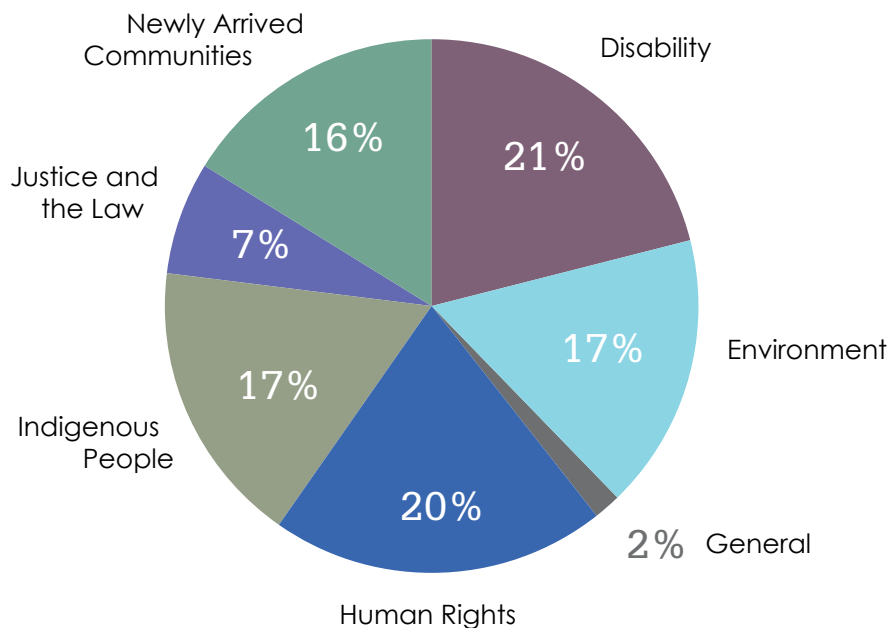
Self Help Addiction Resource Centre

www.sharc.org.au

Peer helper \$30,000

Increasing awareness of peer-to-peer projects that address addiction

What we support



People with a Disability

Social Firms Australia

www.socialfirms.org.au

Advocating for accessible employment opportunities for people with a psychiatric disability \$30,000

Informing and advocating to government for more appropriate support for employees with a mental illness

Supported by an anonymous donor

St Mary's House of Welcome

www.smhow.org.au

Homeless doesn't mean vote-less \$1,368

Empowering the homeless community to vote

Victorian Council of Deaf People

www.vcod.com.au

Needs of community interpreting \$25,000

Raising awareness of structural gaps in interpreting for deaf people

Supported by an anonymous donor

Women's Health Victoria

www.whv.org.au

Building the evidence: the case for improving family violence practice \$35,000

Documenting standards of practice for women with disabilities experiencing violence

Supported by an anonymous donor

TOTAL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY \$278,368

General

North Central Rural Financial Counseling Service

www.lmclp.org.au

LMCLP disadvantaged access scholarship \$12,000

Creating access in the Loddon Mallee Region to the Community Leadership Program for young aspiring community leaders from disadvantaged backgrounds

Victorian Council of Social Service

www.vcross.org.au

Advocacy training program \$5,000

Capacity building program for 30 Victorian community groups

Yarraville Community Centre

Creating the future by embracing the past: spanning three centuries of community connection in Yarraville \$2,000

Bringing the community together to help save the Yarraville Community Centre

RMIT Foundation

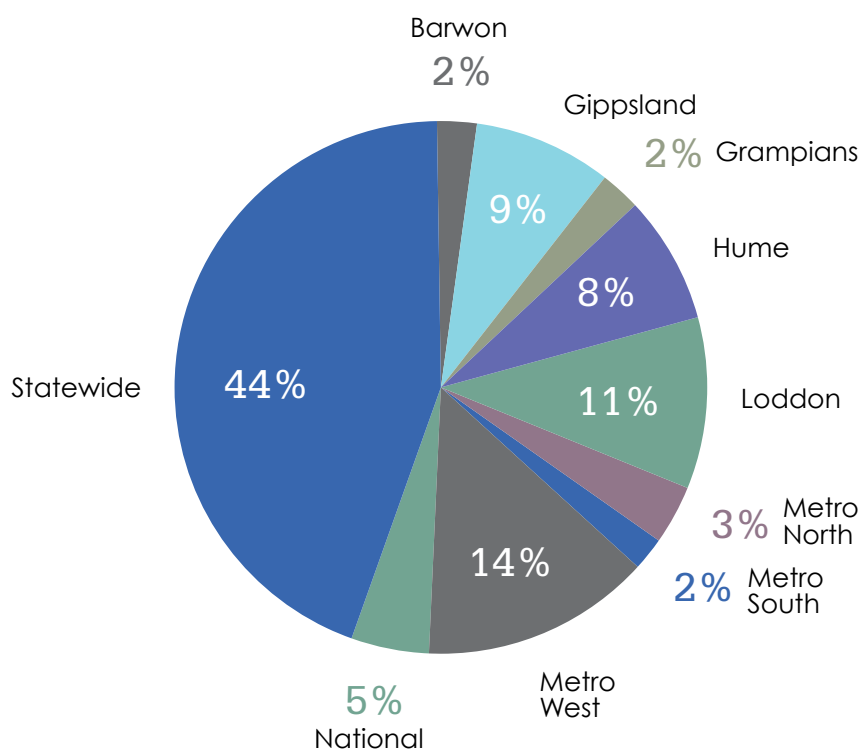
Scoping study: Advocacy is a legitimate charitable activity \$5,000

Support to Changemakers to enable input into federal government review of charities law

TOTAL GENERAL \$24,000

TOTAL GRANTS \$1,319,278

Where we support



Become a Donor

For 20 years, Reichstein Foundation has worked with individuals and foundations who like to fund the organisations we support financially. We are a platform from which to learn about and engage in social change philanthropy. We run donor forums and produce newsletters that inform our donor partners of the issue areas we support.

Many of our donors have now gone on to develop their own foundations and granting programs. Others still continue to fund with us.

We have developed a donor partnership program to enable this to take place. Interested donors register with us and specify the types of projects they would like to financially support. Donors are then sent project summaries to consider. These projects are ones which we have researched and decided to fund.

By building our funding networks and donor partnerships Reichstein Foundation has been able to greatly increase the scope and effectiveness of its grants and projects.

Please contact Christa Momot on (03) 9650 4400 if you would like more information.

“Long-term, meaningful and effective social change takes time. It also takes real resources and real commitment. Our ten year Barmah-Millewa campaign recently achieved a Victorian first: a new, co-managed national park. Reichstein’s support has meant that this campaign exists - it is that simple.

Reichstein had the foresight to take the risk on a long-term investment in our work. Today we can say with confidence - that risk will pay off. With Reichstein’s support we will create a new future for the Yorta Yorta people and the threatened environment of the world’s largest River Red Gum Forest.”

Jonathan La Nauze (Friends of the Earth) and Jade Miller (Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation).



REICHSTEIN
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change not charity

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