



MELBOURNE
WOMEN'S
FUND

Shaping Futures for Women & Families

2023 GRANTS INFORMATION EVENING

12 October 2023



Melbourne Women's Fund provides financial grants to nonprofit organisations which support vulnerable women and families in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Grants

1 x Signature Grant	\$ 80,000
1 x Nurturing Grant	\$ 45,000
4 x Merit Awards	\$ 8,750



MELBOURNE
WOMEN'S
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FOUNDATION



Melbourne Women's Fund thanks Shape Victoria for their generous sponsorship & support

Melbourne Women's Fund is a Charitable Fund Account within
Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund ABN 63 635 798 473



Nurturing Grant Finalist



Presented by:
Sarah Davies - Grants Committee

www.thebeautifulbunch.com

The Beautiful Bunch is a nonprofit social enterprise providing life-changing training and employment opportunities to young women from refugee backgrounds experiencing barriers to employment.

Annual Revenue	\$ 766,857
Project Name	Bb* Botanics
Focus Area(s)	Education; employment/economic empowerment

Project Aim

The Beautiful Bunch would like to launch Bb* Botanics, a plant delivery and maintenance service for corporates, supporting our enterprise to diversify our income stream and provide additional employment for our trainees.

Need for Project

We are the only Victorian social enterprise focused specifically on supporting young women aged 18 - 24 years, from refugee backgrounds into employment and education pathways.

The confluence of being young, a refugee, and female means this group face complex challenges when trying to enter the workforce.

We provide a comprehensive training program in floristry skills, and in computer literacy and business administration.

This project would specifically impact on three of the six main barriers to employment: Lack of confidence, Lack of professional networks & Limited work experience.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Migrants and refugees
- Women 18 -24 years

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 87,700	
Secured	\$ 7,700	(Westpac Foundation)
Unsecured	\$ 45,000	(Nurturing Grant)
In-kind:	\$ 35,000	(Storage facility)

Grant will be used to support wages for florist trainer + initial graphic design materials.

Longer Term Outlook

We will establish a comprehensive client list, the revenue from which will form a robust income stream to support the additional trainee wages. We will have developed and refined our model in a way should we wish to scale beyond the initial proposal, revenue will be able to absorb the additional wages involved in supporting that growth.

Nurturing Grant Finalist



Presented by:
Jean McMullin - Grants Committee

www.forchangeeco.com.au

For Change Co is a social enterprise with the vision of a Melbourne free from youth homelessness.

Annual Revenue	\$ 1,320,000
Project Name	Young Women's Pathways Program
Focus Area(s)	Employment/economic empowerment; homelessness

Project Aim

For Change Co will use this funding to review and expand the capacity of our *Pathways for Change* employment program to provide tailored support to young women from a refugee and migrant background and young mothers.

Need for Project

Many young women experiencing homelessness are from a refugee or migrant background, who face additional barriers to accessing employment, education and housing. This is due to a range of factors such as English comprehension, employer discrimination, lack of cultural safety. Young mothers who are at risk of homelessness encounter barriers to employment due to the commitments required to raise a child.

In our 2022-23 financial year, 46% of our female trainee cohort were women from a refugee and migrant background and 15.3% were young mothers.

We will utilise this funding to improve the support offered to these cohorts and ensure they align with the average rate of graduation and transition to further employment we see in our *Pathways for Change* program.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Migrants and refugees
- Women 18 - 23 years
- Mothers

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 45,000
Unsecured	\$ 45,000 (Nurturing Grant)

Grant will be used to support costs associated with staffing, workshop materials and resources required for the employment program. \$10.4k will cover wages for 15 participants in their first month of employment at 'For Change Co'.

Longer Term Outlook

This project will build the foundations of an inclusive and impactful program for all participants. We will embed into the program co-designed processes and procedures developed with program participants and graduates. Regular evaluation and iteration will ensure we maintain the key outcomes for the cohort of beneficiaries in 2024, and for future participants going forward.

Nurturing Grant Finalist



Presented by:
Roshni Banwait - Grants Committee

www.stkildagatehouse.org.au

St Kilda Gatehouse offers a wrap-around model of support to deliver practical assistance, places of belonging and to holistically build on strengths to provide positive pathways for vulnerable people.

Annual Revenue	\$ 1,033,603
Project Name	Step Up
Focus Area(s)	Family violence; homelessness

Project Aim

Creating a safe community space for marginalised women experiencing homelessness and family violence by providing practical assistance, material aid, supports and referrals to critical services enabling positive change.

Need for Project

A staggering 78% of the women to access our service in 2022 reported having experience childhood trauma and/or family violence and 82% were experiencing homelessness.

The relationship between trauma, homelessness, mental health and social disadvantage is complex and interrelated and can lead to devastating long-term health, housing and socio-economic impacts. St Kilda Gatehouse adopted a trauma informed client centred model of support focusing on women's resilience and her strengths to aid in her recovery.

Step-Up is an initiative run from the Drop-In centre and is uniquely positioned to provide trauma informed support and unhurried kindness. Each woman will receive the resources she needs for as long as she needs to move beyond survival to achieve her personal goals.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Women 24 - 54 years
- Mothers
- Women (she/her) reliant on street-based sex work due to hardship

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 119,365
Secured	\$ 54,705 (Government funds)
Unsecured	\$ 45,000 (Nurturing Grant)
In-kind:	\$ 19,660 (org contribution/volunteers)

Grant will be used for wages 0.7FTE Support worker (\$37k) and program evaluation (\$8k)

Longer Term Outlook

St Kilda Gatehouse will continue to source funding from government (local and State), trusts and foundations, and fundraising efforts via our Greeves Street social enterprise and annual winter and Christmas Appeals. We are continually networking partners to ensure the viability of all our programs to create a sustainable funding pipeline.

Signature Grant Finalist



Presented by:
Caroline Rhodes - Grants Committee Deputy Chair

www.prisonnetwork.org.au

Prison Network's Mission: To journey with women in and beyond prison, providing the support and courage they need to navigate positive pathways and create change.

Annual Revenue	\$ 615,817
Project Name	Protective factors for survivors of family violence after prison
Focus Area(s)	Family violence

Project Aim

This project aims to support women released from prison to build protective factors that support their safety, recovery, and well-being as survivors of family violence.

Need for Project

Emotional and psychological impact of family violence has often led to coping mechanisms, disrupted social support systems, and limited access to resources and treatment which has ultimately resulted in engagement in criminal activity. Time in prison can disrupt the violence being perpetrated against women, however on release from prison these women can be exposed to even greater risk.

Women released from prison often must rebuild their lives from little or no material base whilst experiencing social stigma and discrimination based on their criminal record. This stigma can affect their chances of securing employment, housing, and building positive relationships. Time in prison separates women from the outside communities, which can further exacerbate social exclusion and weaken already-fragile family relationships and social support systems. Breaking out of this vicious cycle of intensifying vulnerability, reliance on violent partners, and sometimes repeated incarceration can become an impossible challenge.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Migrants and refugees
- Women of all ages
- Mothers
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people
- Women of cultural/linguistic diversity

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 151,259
Secured:	\$ 40,303 (Philanthropic/donations)
Unsecured	\$ 80,000 (Signature Grant)
In-kind	\$ 30,956 (Volunteer capacity)

Grant will be used to pay wages and oncosts for additional staff: Senior Support Worker (0.4FTE), Volunteer Manager (0.1FTE), Support Worker (0.1FTE), Intern Support Worker (0.1FTE).

Longer term outlook ...

As part of our impact measurement, we will collect data, surveys and observations from staff and volunteers to determine what impact the project has had on women who have experienced family violence and incarceration. These outcomes will be used to build a case for government funding and multi-year philanthropic funding. The resources created via this project will be a permanent investment not requiring funding beyond the project.

Signature Grant Finalist



St Kilda Mums

Presented by:
Sue Coonan - Grants Committee

www.stkildamums.org

St Kilda Mums Mission: Share more. Waste less. Every child thrives.

Annual Revenue	\$ 3,270,650
Project Name	Reach every vulnerable child in five high-need local government areas
Focus Area(s)	Family violence; homelessness; vulnerable babies and children.

Project Aim

Increase support of vulnerable children, aged 0-6 years in five high-need LGAs- Melton, Hume, Dandenong, Wyndham and Casey, by increasing engagement with support agencies and workers.

Need for Project

We know that the attachment between a child and their primary carer in the first 2,000 days of life influences that child's health, development, and resilience. Research demonstrates that economic, psychological and/or physical distress during this time is linked to a host of child developmental issues, including inferior language development, insufficient school readiness and impaired cognitive development. By providing essential items St Kilda Mums alleviates these pressures and creates the opportunity for every child to feel secure and stable enough to access educational opportunities.

Our essential material aid allows parents/primary carers to take their babies home from hospital in an approved car seat, to sleep in an approved cot and engage with their community in a pristine pram. Children go to school appropriately clothed. The books and toys donated provided the benefits of educational play. All of this will reduce stress and anxiety for caregivers, enabling them to bond with their child and creating the foundations for the child's stable life and successful education and ensure they are able to engage with other support services. It significantly impacts the trajectory of a child's life.

We have identified five Melbourne high-need LGAs that currently are underserved. They are Melton, Hume, Dandenong, Wyndham and Casey. In FY2022 we supported 5,800 children in these LGAs. We have estimated the need to be 18,800 children by 2030.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Women together with their children
- Migrants and refugees

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 199,585
Secured:	\$ 118,565 (Thyne Reid Foundation)
Unsecured	\$ 80,000 (Signature Grant)
Unsecured	\$ 1,020 (Fundraising appeals)

Grant will be used to support communication costs and wages for outbound services team & Senior Operations & Network Manager. Thyne Reid Grant will cover transport/warehouse costs. Fundraising appeals will cover staff travel expenses.

Longer term outlook ...

Grants to be sought to fund the project.

Signature Grant Finalist



Presented by:
Sue Coonan – Grants Committee

wpi.org.au

Women's Property Initiatives aim to build a secure future for women and children in need by developing and providing good quality long-term affordable housing.

Annual Revenue \$ 4,107,477

Project Name **Connecting Support**

Focus Area(s) Disability; education; employment/economic empowerment; mental health; sexual exploitation; homelessness; physical health; financial counselling

Project Aim

To employ an additional employees whose focus will be linking WPI renters and their children to the support services they require. Accompanying the woman and/or her child in the first instance may be required.

Need for Project

Many of the WPI renters require additional support once they are housed in safe, secure and affordable homes. It is only when they are stabilised they can address issue/s they may need to focus on other than having a safe home. WPI Tenancy & Property Managers have been undertaking this role in a limited capacity. They do not have the time to attend appointments to link the women into a particular support service which is sometimes needed to provide encouragement and support.

The Tenancy and Property Managers will be able to refer women and their children who need support, no matter what that may be, to the Support Connector.

The employee will be responsible for sourcing the appropriate service and linking the women and children into that service and where required. Providing that additional encouragement, support and handholding will be a focus that the Tenancy & Property Manager do not have the time to undertake.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Migrants and refugees
- Women of all ages
- Mothers
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people

Activity Budget

Total cost:	\$ 100,000	
Secured:	\$ 20,000	(Organisation contribution)
Unsecured	\$ 80,000	(Signature Grant)

Grant will be used to pay wages for Support Connector position. WPI will cover costs of corporate overheads (\$20k)

Longer Term Outlook

WPI will have more properties by the end of 2024 which will result in us receiving more rental income that will be able to support this position on an ongoing basis. We may also need to contribute some funding from other fundraising efforts should the increased rental income not be enough.



Thank you and Acknowledgements

We thank and acknowledge our Grants Committee for their outstanding commitment and hard work.

The committee researched and assessed 43 grant submissions in total to identify these worthy finalists.

MWF members will vote at our Grant Awards Celebration on Thursday 16 November 2023.

Interested in joining Melbourne Women's Fund?

We welcome anyone 18+ years old who is interested in a future where women and families in Melbourne thrive.

Membership is by an annual tax-deductible donation and non-tax-deductible administration fee.

Membership categories:

Next Gen	18–35 years old (incl of age 35), \$500 annual donation +\$65 admin fee
Standard	36+ years old, \$1,000 annual donation +\$132 admin fee
Life	\$25,000 no admin fee

A member must donate in each financial year to continue their membership.

Membership lasts until June 30th of the financial year *following* the financial year in which their last donation was made.

We ask members to renew 12 months after their last donation to assist our volunteers with administration and planning.

Become a Melbourne Women's Fund member

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