

# FROM THE POCKET

25 MAY 2021



## HELPING AT-RISK YOUTH TO THRIVE



Queensland's rising youth mental health crisis is posing a significant challenge, with reports that waitlists for psychologists are now between six and nine months for young people across the state.

However tailored care can be provided to struggling young people in regional communities when they need it. According to one of the leading youth intervention charities in the country, it is possible by having local social workers embedded in the community, coupled with a specialised peer-to-peer program.

Youth Insearch CEO Stephen Lewin said while there is still a long way to go to meet this need, a new partnership with Hand Heart Pocket the Charity of Freemasons Queensland, will see them support more than 600 at-risk youth over the next three years, across seven regional communities in Wide Bay Burnett and Western Downs regions.

Mr Lewin said the \$731,000 grant will fund a program to engage with young people and develop support networks with their peers to address childhood trauma, the rising youth mental health crisis, combat youth crime and delinquency, prevent youth suicide

and help young people re-engage in education and employment.

"With this generous funding Youth Insearch will be able to help with the appointment of seven local social workers to provide case management support and fund weekend workshops, weekly local support groups and peer mentoring."

Eighty per cent of young people in the peer-led program make significant positive change in their lives.

"Many of these young people go on to become Youth Leaders themselves and continue to volunteer for an average of seven years, providing ongoing peer support networks within the community," Mr Lewin added.

Youth Insearch is already active in Dalby, Chinchilla, Tara and Bundaberg. They are keen to work closely with other Queensland communities including Hervey Bay, Roma, Miles and Maryborough.

In all areas, Youth Insearch works in partnership with high schools, councils and community groups to support at-risk young people.

The program is also supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Tenix Foundation.



### Significant Grants

12 Grants  
\$1.91 million



### Grassroots Grants

11 Grants  
\$54,811



### Community Grants

13 Grants  
\$84,942



### COVID-19 Emerg. Grants

19 Grants  
\$110,964



### Benevolence Assistance

14 People  
\$44,773

## Snapshot of this year's Hand Heart Pocket Grants

(July 2020 to March 2021)

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The Board of Benevolence and of Aged  
Masons, Widows and Orphans' Fund  
trading as Hand Heart Pocket the Charity  
of Freemasons Queensland

ABN: 54 216 065 828

Charity No: CH2627



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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During the first half of 2021, Freemason Lodges and Hand Heart Pocket have continued to work together to make a difference across the state and it is our hope that this increases as we emerge from the pandemic.

## Philanthropy in action

This financial year, Hand Heart Pocket has provided \$2.66 million in philanthropic giving. Much of this has been for youth at risk programs which is our current focus.

At a grassroots level, a quarter of a million dollars has been provided to support local initiatives, many being COVID-emergency grants identified by Lodges, who continue to be restricted from going about their normal charity work.

With regard to our latest Significant and Flagship grant round, we will be making an announcement soon about the successful grant recipients.

## Our social impact

Our new CEO and I were lucky enough to meet with some of the young people supported by Youth Insearch at an event in Dalby, also attended by Lodge representatives in the region.

Over the last few months our Board and CEO have also attended the workshops and webinars as part of the Men's Health Matters community awareness campaign and were delighted to have met so many of our members.

## ACNC final outcome

I wrote to you in late April to update you on advice received by the Board of Benevolence from Senior Legal Counsel about options to recover

remuneration of previous Directors and the subsequent action taken by the Board.

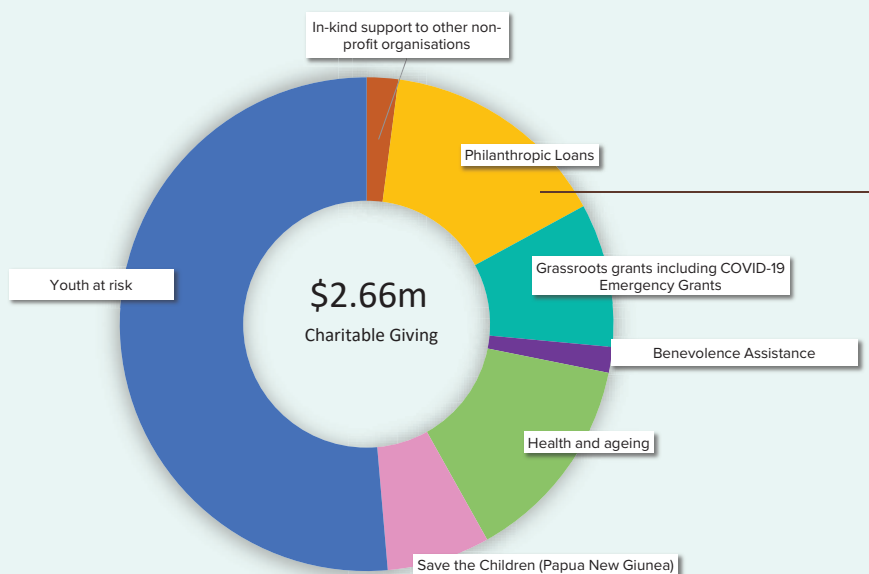
I received just over 30 responses to my letter, and I would like to thank those who took the time to provide feedback. I appreciate the support expressed for the efforts of the current Board to finalise the matter and acknowledge the disappointment felt by some Members.

I urge you to keep in mind that the Board's sole focus has and always will be to act in the best interests of the charity.

As the Senior Counsel's advice reflected, the relevant facts and legal issues were complicated. He advised that the previous Directors were in breach of their fiduciary duties by allowing a conflict of interest to persist. But he also advised that they were still entitled to compensation for the services they performed.

## OUR PHILANTHROPIC WORK

(JULY 2020 TO MARCH 2021)



\* Significant and Flagship Grants were awarded in November but some have payment pending. The grant amount for this year may be part of a possible multi-year funding approach.

Philanthropic Loans include:	
Organisation	Amount
Micah Projects (Brisbane)	\$400,000

## Notes on YTD March 2021:

- The strategic asset allocations have assisted in the rapid recovery of the corpus from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Operating expenditure remains in line with expectations with grant payments of \$2.2 million paid to March 2021.
- Cash/financial assets consists of investment portfolio \$192.5 million and cash \$3.9 million recognising the unrealised market gains to 31 March 2021.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Performance Snapshot	Jul 2020 - March 2021
Realised Income – Reinvested Distributions	7,957,842
Unrealised Gains – Market Movement	13,952,017
Expenditure	(2,449,748)
Charitable Giving	(2,209,742)
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>17,250,369</b>
<b>Opening Total Equity 1 Jul 20</b>	<b>183,265,042</b>
<b>Closing Total Equity 31 Mar 21</b>	<b>200,515,411</b>
Represented by:	
Assets	
Cash/Financial Assets	196,434,577
Property, Plant & Equipment	4,163,119
Other Assets	664,864
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>201,262,560</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>747,149</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>200,515,411</b>



Therefore only some small portion of the remuneration might be recoverable.

After considering that advice, along with the costs involved and the impact on the reputation of our organisation, the current Directors decided that it was in the best interest of the charity to ask the previous Directors to recognise the issue and provide restitution in the form of a donation to the Board of Benevolence.

The previous Directors of the Board of Benevolence acknowledge the shortcomings of the past and have expressed to me their regret for the hurt and distraction that this has caused for our organisation and our members.

The previous Directors agreed to provide a donation to the Board of Benevolence that will be used to support our charitable purposes. This donation has now been paid.

The Board of Benevolence will not be taking any further action. The ACNC has advised that the investigation is finalised.

The current Directors of the Board, along with the new CEO of Hand Heart Pocket, are committed to best practice governance and accountability.

There is much work still to be done, and it is important for us to rebuild our relationship and trust with our members so that we can achieve more in our community by working together. The Board of Benevolence has a clear purpose to protect the legacy built up by past generations of members and invest in the future of our community and our young people. Together we have an exciting opportunity to help those in need and live our values.

#### Director development training

Earlier this month twelve members with aspirations to become skilled volunteers with a registered charity in

their community took part in Director Development training facilitated by Directors Australia and Hand Heart Pocket. At this one and a half day workshop, they learnt about best practice for governance of modern charities, as well as director duties and responsibilities.

#### Change in Board appointments

As outlined in the last Quarterly Communication, Greg Short has stood down as a director of the Board of Benevolence due to ongoing health challenges. On behalf of the board, I would like to extend a very big thanks to Greg for his service to the board and to the members. Greg was involved in the process of identifying a worthy replacement and we will soon be able to announce this respected Grand Lodge elected director.

**Alasdair Begley**  
Chairman



## GRASSROOTS GRANTS

*Working together to make a difference in your local community.*



Phones will help Atherton's disadvantaged to stay connected to support services and loved ones, thanks to a \$5,000 grant for Better Together Community Support instigated by Barrine and Millaa Lodges.



Children at Hear and Say on the Sunshine Coast will be able to learn in any weather, with a new roof over their outdoor play area. Rosslyn, Maleny, Maroochy, Kenilworth and Waverly-Palmwoods Nambour Lodges all contributed towards the \$42,000 initiative.



The Changing Lanes initiative at Wynnum Community Place has received a \$15,000 boost to provide food, haircuts, hot showers and outreach support for the vulnerable. A joint submission for funding was put forward by Redlands, Moreton, Kianawah, Wynnum and Tuscan Lodges.



New office furniture will enable Act For Kids to reconfigure their office space in Maryborough to accommodate and support more families. Fraser Coast United and Star of the East Lodges championed the \$5,479 Community Grant.



# GETTING TOGETHER FOR MEN'S HEALTH MATTERS

Seven face-to-face workshops and a six-part webinar series were held across Queensland over the last few months as part of the Men's Health Matters community health campaign, delivered in partnership with CheckUP Australia. Ted Gibbons of Murilla Freemasons Lodge said close to 50 people attended the workshop in Miles.

"We had a very successful evening with attendees from as far as Roma, Injune, Chinchilla, Tara, Paroo and St George. The clinical psychologist guided an excellent discussion and we would have enjoyed staying longer to hear more about Men's Health in general. The feedback we've received from the community has been fantastic."



Miles



Brisbane North



Townsville



Toowoomba



Brisbane South



Cairns

# HELPING HOMELESS YOUTH TO TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND

With winter approaching, we're reminded of the hardship faced by people sleeping rough.

In Toowoomba youth homelessness is a major issue with as many as 130 young people said to be sleeping rough each night.

The situation has been so dire with only 11 beds being available until now, leaving many with nowhere to turn.

According to YellowBridge QLD, young people do not become homeless by choice.

"The real issues are complex and varied", said CEO Adrian Bonica.

"Their lives are often burdened by poverty, neglect, physical and sexual abuse, addiction, disability and mental illness.

"Without the right support, many will struggle with homelessness for the rest of their lives and be adversely impacted by the emotional, social and physical challenges of it."

The charity and a number of other community organisations in the

region are working together to get on top of the issue, with the aim of providing a bed for every young person experiencing homelessness in Toowoomba by 2025.

YellowBridge QLD has already accommodated seven young people in four two-bedrooms units.

Before the end of the year, they will provide transitional housing for another 14 young people in seven units, with the support of Hand Heart Pocket the Charity of Freemasons Queensland.

The \$220,000 grant will also fund their new Youth Matters program and a case manager over the next two years.

They will work closely with each young person, linking them to support services, developing their independent living skills and helping them to continue with education, training or employment.

Mr Bonica said early intervention is key to helping young people turn their lives around.

"Providing a safe place to live and assistance to finish their education, get a driver's licence, find a job or training and learn life skills can be life-changing."

You can help by donating or volunteering with YellowBridge QLD. Phone 1300 882 764 or visit their website: [www.yellowbridgeqld.com.au](http://www.yellowbridgeqld.com.au)

