

FROM THE POCKET



23 AUGUST 2021

HELPING YOUNG FAMILIES THRIVE

Raising a family is possibly one of the hardest jobs in the world. But for young parents from communities in need, it's much harder. Many experience social isolation, discrimination, poor health outcomes and unstable housing.

Organisations such as YFS in Logan know young parents have great potential to create meaningful lives for themselves and their children.

Tailored support is what's needed and that's exactly what YFS will provide with the support of Hand Heart Pocket the Charity of Freemasons Queensland.

Over the next two years, 150 young people and 750 young families will be supported to thrive, thanks to \$900,000 in philanthropic funding from the Freemasons' charity.

The new partnership will directly contribute to building the capacity of these young parents, enabling them to successfully navigate the challenges they face.

YFS CEO Cath Bartolo said the funding would allow YFS to trial new ways to improve the outcomes for vulnerable young parents.

"Over the past two years, YFS has trialled the integration of a housing worker with our families teams, with amazing outcomes for families despite a dire housing market," she said.

"We learned a lot about how to integrate services so people can sustain change in their lives.

"Now we hope to expand our services to address the common barriers young



families face; things like domestic violence, isolation, trauma and unemployment."

Young dad Dean is one of the first parents to experience the new approach.

Dean was homeless when he first connected with YFS. Quick work by the YFS young parents team ensured he had a safe place to stay with his children and was able to navigate complex family issues.

Dean was part of Young Dads' Squad, an initiative to support young fathers and teach them about children's development.

Dean said, "I learned new skills, and learned about coping with children and how to read children's behaviour. I've met other young dads and you talk

about different things. And you're not being judged."

Now Dean is becoming a mentor for other young dads. Dean said he got a lot out of Young Dads' Squad, and he wants to pass that on.

"You can meet other young dads, talk about dad stuff, and help support dads who might have a few issues going on, and just be there for each other."

YFS

Impact area: Logan

Amount: \$900,000 over two years

Directly impact: Over 150 young people each year and up to 750 families and their children each year.

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

(awarded July 2020 to July 2021)

\$2.79M

13 Significant Grants

\$44,800

14 Benevolence Grants

\$217,000

56 Grassroots and COVID-19
Emergency Grants

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Freemasons, I know how dedicated you all are to supporting the causes you care about in your local communities and I commend you for your continued efforts.

I'm sure many of you are waiting patiently until you are able to ramp up your community work, to the level that you did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our philanthropy

Last financial year, Hand Heart Pocket provided \$3.14 million in philanthropic support a majority of which funded programs to support our most at-risk young people to thrive.

Helping Lodges to engage with their communities has continued to be a focus of ours, having provided over \$200,000 to support local initiatives last financial year. Many were COVID-emergency grants identified by Lodges.

Youth and Family Services

Youth and Family Services (YFS) in Logan is our latest Significant Grant recipient.

The grant will help to break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage in Logan and help young families to lead more independent lives, as active members of their community.

River 2 Reef Charity Ride

The Hand Heart Pocket River 2 Reef Charity Ride will take place in Mackay next month. Anyone in the area is encouraged to register for this family friendly, COVID-safe event on 11 September.

As the Naming Rights Sponsor for the last three years, we've provided \$25,000 p.a. towards the event and have also matched the first \$50,000 raised by participants.

Three local charities will benefit from the event including, Real Mates

Talk, RACQ CQ Rescue and Sporting Wheelies & Disabled Association Mackay.

Mental health and wellbeing

September and October brings a focus on mental health and wellbeing across the country. As part of our commitment to men's and women's wellbeing within our broader strategy, I urge you to find out what's happening in your local area and take part if you can. See page 4 for ideas.

New board appointments

As I announced in our recent e-newsletter, Lisa Siganto has joined our Board as of July 2021. Freemason Craig Reimers is new to the Board as well. It is great to see such complementary expertise on our Board. I look forward to working with them both.

Alasdair Begley
Chairman

MEET THE DIRECTORS: CRAIG REIMERS



What attracted you to the role of director with Hand Heart Pocket?

I have been a Hand Heart Pocket Champion in Toowoomba for a number of years and have witnessed firsthand the real difference that Hand Heart Pocket is making in my local community through strong partnerships with local charity organisations and Freemason members. I believe I have skills and experience that will enable me to represent the membership of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland and assist Hand Heart Pocket to deliver high impact charitable outcomes across the whole state of Queensland. Having the ability to change the lives of people in need in a positive way is a huge motivation for becoming a director with Hand Heart Pocket.

What excites you the most about Hand Heart Pocket's future?

The level of experience and the commitment of the Board and team is very impressive. I think it is important to acknowledge the past generosity and hard work of Queensland Freemasons that has enabled Hand

Heart Pocket to exist as a significant charitable organisation now and into the future. Building on that history, the current Board have a clear strategic plan for the future that will enable Hand Heart Pocket to continue to build collaborative partnerships with like minded organisations to increase the impact of our giving. The ability to make change not only through philanthropic activities but through a targeted investment strategy that aligns with our charitable objectives is also very exciting.

How do you think Hand Heart Pocket can help support Lodges to engage with their communities?

Hand Heart Pocket provides assistance to Lodges through grassroots grants, that enable Lodges to maximise the impact of any support they give to local charities. In some cases, Lodges may want to be involved in charity work but do not know where to start. Hand Heart Pocket has a wide network across the state and can assist Lodges to identify like minded organisations that would appreciate support from Freemasons either through volunteering or donations.

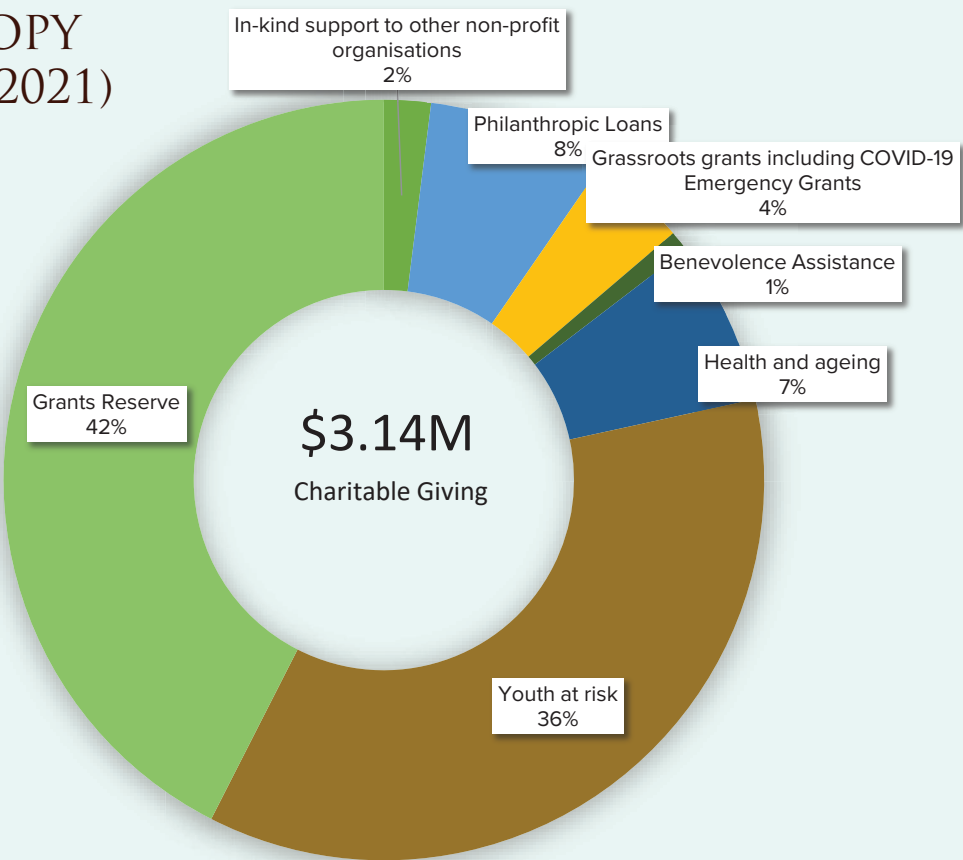
Can you tell us about your background, qualifications and experience?

I started my working life by joining the Australian Army at the age of 17 as a Radio Operator. I have worked in quality management and health and safety roles within the resource sector and I am now working for the Queensland Government.

I hold formal qualifications in Risk Management, Quality Auditing and most recently I have completed a Graduate Certificate in Safety Leadership.

OUR PHILANTHROPY (JULY 2020 TO JULY 2021)

A copy of our audited financials will be published in November.



Grants Reserve indicates Significant and Flagship Grants awarded in 2019 and 2020 that have payment pending. The Grant Reserve for this year will provide for multi-year funding.

MEET THE DIRECTORS: LISA SIGANTO



Can you tell us about your background, qualifications and experience?

Right from the start I was grounded in social justice. I surprised everyone when I did Civil Engineering, but it made sense as I love solving problems.

The day I graduated from the University of Queensland I won a scholarship to work in London as a project manager which took me there for 4 years and then I found myself at Harvard doing an MBA. It was 20 years ago, when I was having my fourth child, that I really felt conflicted

about my work and my heart wasn't in corporate life. I wanted to work with business to solve social problems and that's really what I've been doing ever since.

What attracted you to the role of director with Hand Heart Pocket?

Philanthropy plays such an important role in our society and impact investing is a growing sector, both of which help people in need through partnerships for change.

Hand Heart Pocket has the opportunity and responsibility to manage its assets well and focus on the best possible investments, outcomes and impact in Queensland. This is a privileged position I'm delighted to take on. It fits in well with my own experience in impact investing, social enterprises and board positions.

I'm also currently a Director for Indigenous organisation Cape York Partnership. Having been on boards for nearly 30 years, there has been much learning along the way. I now choose carefully where I spend my time. My criteria is that the Board and organisation need to have purpose,

have integrity, be in a position to be achieving significant impact and they have to have great people around the board table. Hand Heart Pocket meets that criteria.

What excites you the most about Hand Heart Pocket's future?

There is a great executive team at the helm with the new CEO Sara Parrott who I believe will deliver a great future. There is a detailed plan in place with clear direction, actions and KPIs. The Board is enthusiastic, competent, engaged and warm.

What excites me is that Hand Heart Pocket has the scale to make great impact in Queensland and I'm sure it will.

How do you think Hand Heart Pocket can help support Lodges to engage with their communities?

Any opportunity to engage with community to help understand where support is most needed is really important. Community is what connects us. Sharing those experiences inspires and reminds us of the difference that support makes.

GOOD TOGETHER

Matched giving and Member-led initiatives



Young people working at the social enterprise Emerge Cafe in Toowoomba were given a boost with Southern Cross Lodge paying for their uniforms, allowing them to focus on gaining skills in hospitality.



Dialysis and chemotherapy patients at Roma Hospital will receive treatment in added comfort thanks to a \$22,659 donation for three new day treatment chairs. Five Freemason Lodges including Raphael, Maranoa, Corona (Wallumbilla), Bonnie Doone (Injune) and Mitchell contributed.



Vulnerable families supported by Act for Kids in Maryborough received winter pyjamas and blankets to stay warm. Fraser Coast United and Mundubbera-Burnett Freemason Lodges made the thoughtful donation.



Maleny Neighbourhood Centre received \$5,000 towards the running of Women's House, to help women experiencing homelessness to get back on their feet. Maleny Lodge engaged the local organisation.

Save the date

The Hand Heart Pocket Year in Review event will take place on 1 November at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The venue has been chosen based on its accessibility so that Members can easily attend the venue via private or public transport. Given the recent COVID lockdowns, we are exploring possible ways to broadcast the event online. More details to come but if you would like to register your interest please email us at info@handheartpocket.org.au

Mental health and wellbeing events



R U OK Day
9 September
www.ruok.org.au



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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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