

# YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION LTD

*Annual General Meeting Report - 2017*



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### FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

Our journey over the past twelve months has been both productive and exciting. As outlined in detail later in this Report, we have focused our energies in alignment with the focus areas outlined in our Foundation Strategic Plan:

1. Partnership Development;
2. Raising Funds;
3. Branding;

We have spent the past year enhancing our position by becoming a presence in the wider community and this will provide the platform for our fund raising and support activities into the future

The year ahead is our “Year of Action” as we launch our Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of Board Member, Brother Bob Wallace, Mr Wally Lewis has agreed to launch it at a function later this year. We are grateful to the outstanding contribution Brother Bob has made to the growth of the Foundation. We wish him well in his new role in Sydney.

I am grateful for the energy and wisdom all Board Members bring to our discussions and considerations. Equally, we are blessed with the outstanding support we receive from our Executive Officer, Megan Hall.

I invite all members of the wider community to join us in our endeavours this year as we continue to fulfil our mission.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Hanly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daryl Hanly OAM

## **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION BACKGROUND**

### **OUR VISION**

Is to enable all young people from diverse and complex backgrounds to have equal access to educational opportunities.

### **OUR MISSION**

The Youth Plus Foundation exists to support the broader interests of the community. It does this by providing a quality and innovative education for young people from diverse and complex backgrounds. Youth Plus Foundation fundraising activities facilitate the improvement and development of the resources and operations of Youth Plus Flexible Learning Centres nationally.

The Foundation has been endorsed under the Australian Taxation Office Deductible Gift Recipient and registered as a charity with a purpose that is the advancement of education and other purposes beneficial to the community with the Australian Charities and Not - for - profits Commission (ABN 29 161 485 178). The Youth Plus Foundation has also received its charitable tick as an Approved Charity with the ACNC.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

2016 has been a productive year for the Youth Plus Foundation Board. Maintaining full membership has provided the consistency necessary to ensure that our Strategic Plan was finalised and ratified. Our Strategic Plan, including the Foundation's Vision is central to our work, reflecting our values and beliefs.

The Foundation Strategic Plan focuses on 4 key areas:

4. Partnership Development;
5. Raising Funds;
6. Branding;
7. Governance.

Additionally, the Board of Management has guided the production of a number of marketing materials and has released the Youth Plus Foundation film as part of the Foundation's broader branding and fundraising strategy.

The Youth Plus Foundation is eternally grateful to our Board Directors for giving so graciously of their time to progress the goals of the Foundation. Building and growing the Foundation has relied on the commitment, knowledge and connection of the Directors to continue to assist in the generation of funding to support young people in the Flexible Learning Centre's across the country. Additionally, the Board

has been instrumental in raising the awareness of young people who have been disenfranchised from mainstream education systems.

## **AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES & NON-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION**

The compliance mechanisms of the Youth Plus Foundation sits within our membership with the Australian Charities and Non-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Part of this accountability requires annual reporting.

In 2016, the Youth Plus Foundation handed the administrative reporting responsibilities over to Edmund Rice Education Australia, Stewardship and Resources to complete as part of their broader reporting requirements.

Accordingly, the Youth Plus Foundation will submit its Annual Information Statement (AIS) for 2016 directly and envisions further endorsement to maintain its Charity tax concession status.

Additionally, in 2016 the Youth Plus Foundations was endorsed as an approved registered charity with the ACNC and has received it's tick of approval. This process aims to give reassurance to the public that the Youth Plus Foundation is transparent and accountable by highlighting it's presence on the ACNC Charity Register. It is hoped that this process will have a positive effect on public trust and confidence in the charity sector and the Youth Plus Foundation.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Youth Plus Foundation has been successful in supporting a number of grants in the 2016 reporting period which have provided Flexible Learning Centre's across Australia with the ability to run projects/programs that assist in the re - engagement of young people. Some of the key grants that have been applied for successfully include:

Flexible Learning Centre	Grant Source	Grant details	Amount
All FLCs	Sunnybank Community & Sports Club	COMPASS Testing License	\$10,000
Deception Bay	Morton Bay Regional Council	Harmony Day	\$1500
Deception Bay	Gambling Community Benefit Fund	Upgrade - kitchen	\$11,000
St Joseph's North Melbourne	Youth Affairs Council Victoria	HEY Grants - mental health & wellbeing	\$5880
St Joseph's North Melbourne	Office of Multicultural and Citizenship (Premier & Cabinet)	Community Harmony Grant	\$130,000 (per year - 2 years)
St Joseph's North Melbourne	Office of Multicultural and Citizenship (Premier & Cabinet)	Asylum Seeker Pathway Project	\$40,000
St Joseph's North Melbourne	RACV	Making Of Mothers program	\$20,000
St Joseph's North Melbourne	City of Melbourne	Use of Community Halls Scheme	\$2958
FAME	Bernardo's Children's Foundation	Mental Health Matters	\$4750
FAME	City of Onkaparinga	InFAMEus Café	\$2620
FAME	Community Benefit Fund SA	Music Lab	\$32,270
Centre Education	Sunnybank Community & Sports Club	Partnership grant	\$34,300
Woodstock in collaboration with Griffith University	Logan City Council Envirogrant	Connecting Landscapes	\$5,000
St Joseph's Alice Springs	McInnes Wilson Lawyers	Falcons Footy Club - Kanga Cup	\$2,000
St Joseph's Alice Springs	St Patricks - Strathfield	Immersion Program	\$5,000
St Joseph's Alice Springs	St Patricks - Strathfield P & C Association	Immersion and other projects	\$13,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320,278</b>

Grant writing, support and advice is a key function of the Foundation for Flexible Learning Centre's to access. These localised support mechanisms and responses from the Foundation to the Flexible Learning Centers will ensure that the direct needs of young people are being addressed. The Foundation also aims to provide support to build the skill sets and capacity of staff at the Flexible Learning Centre's to bring their creative and innovative programs and projects to life.

In 2017, the Youth Plus Foundation will roll out a series of grant seeking workshops of the benefit of Youth Plus Networks and FLCs in order to further build the capacity and broaden the ability to obtain further funding.

### **HILDEBRAND BENEFICIARY**

The Hildebrand Beneficiary, sponsors of the Youth+ Greg Hildebrand Award continues to be an integral process on the Youth Plus Foundation calendar each year. The Award, established to honour the life of Greg Hildebrand (1970 - 2010) encourages Flexible Learning Centres to apply for \$5000 each year to support the development and delivery of innovative projects/programs that honours the life and passion of Greg Hildebrand for the direct benefit of young people.

In 2016, St Joseph's Alice Springs Flexible Learning Centre were the successful recipients of the Award. The project was titled - WoW (Walk of Awareness) and included a series of events/activities focussed on Youth Suicide Prevention and Awareness in Alice Springs. The project spanned across classroom based activities centred around R U OK Day and school wellbeing objectives, an overnight Youth Forum, a whole school healing and celebratory Smoking Ceremony and church service and a whole school Walk of Awareness (WoW) through the streets of Alice Springs wearing colourful tutu's and wigs - distributing information from lifeline, Beyond Blue and R U OK. Bringing some colour to a very sombre topic.

A final piece of the project will include the development of a documentary to mark these events. The facilitators remarked that they were happily surprised and impressed by young people's engagement and willingness to participate in the project. It is anticipated that the Forum will be repeated in 2017 with the original participants to become Ambassadors. Clive and Nita Hildebrand also visited the Alice Springs for the Award announcement and had the opportunity to meet staff and young people and experience all that Flexible Learning is.

This important series of events and activities are now documented within the FLC and can be now incorporated into the yearly rhythm of the school with the capacity to be shared across FLCs into the future.



The relationship between the Hildebrand Family and the Foundation is highly valued. We extend our sincere thanks to the Hildebrand Family for providing such an important opportunity to our FLCs across Australia.

## **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

2016 has seen the Foundation explore ideas for a National Campaign to sit alongside of its core work. The fact is that many of the young people who access Flexible Learning options have not been provided with opportunities to develop literacy skills and understanding of the benefits of and interest in reading. The Campaign tentatively titled 'Hook into Books' aims to highlight that not everyone is created equal and encourages the public to promote equitable access and positive educational outcomes for all young people.

It is envisioned that this campaign will deliver a number of outcomes including raising awareness and raising funds to support literacy activities in FLCs and broader flexible learning contexts.

2017 will see partnership development with invitations to be distributed to Champions of the Campaign, with a view to launch in National Numeracy and Literacy Week, September 2017.

## **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Momentum in 2016 has been slow in terms of establishing Ambassador Partnerships for the Foundation. This work will be a priority in 2017.

## **BRAND AWARENESS**

The Foundation has implemented a multi-pronged approach to raising the awareness of the Youth Plus brand.

Our social media platform has grown in strength over the course of 2016 and opportunities such as holding a stall at the 'Doing Schools Differently' Conference has assisted to get the Foundation brand 'out there' developing both traction and connection.

The Youth Plus Foundation website is also completed live and comprehensive.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

The 3 year strategic direction of the Foundation set out by the Board of Management provides scope for increasing partnerships, raising funds and establishing some points of difference that will ensure that the Foundation stands out amongst its competitors.

### Of importance

- Youth Plus Foundation Launch
- Embed 'Hook into Books' National Campaign into the core business of Foundation
- Broaden the scope and implement a National Ambassador Program
- Development of Grant Writing Workshop Series for Flexible Learning Networks
- Develop Donor Privacy Policy
- Reconciliation Action Plan for Foundation

Ultimately, promoting equal access to education that meets the needs of young people and sustainability is the vision of the Foundation. Long-term the Foundation will increase its targeted marketing and continue to find and develop ways to improve the lives of young people.