

AGM Board Report 2014

A Note from the Chair

It has been another big year and the Foundation has grown in capacity and activities. Supporting the current eighteen Flexible Learning Centre sites and related services requires growth and proactivity in order to meet a growing need for young people and pedagogic and practice development. We continue to establish a presence within the national community, including governments, peak organisations, the education sector, and key philanthropic persons.

Youth+ Foundation Background

Edmund Rice Education Australia Youth+ Foundation Ltd is responding to the signs of the times by embracing the legacy of compassion, liberation and presence, gifted to us from the founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. This gift allows our work as guests in the lives of the young people and families/carers we serve.

A nation's most valuable resource is its young people. Young people represent our nation's future and embody national prosperity. All young people require equal access to educational achievement that befits their innate ability no matter if they are from urban, rural or remote communities, no matter if they are from low socioeconomic backgrounds, Indigenous, homeless, a refugee, in the juvenile justice system, a young parent or in the care of the state. We will not only be measured by our response to these complex equity issues but will create a future educational landscape that is grounded in equality, justice and liberation.

The Youth+ Foundation Ltd was established to assist in the generation of funds to support EREA Youth+ operations and increasing our ability to provide the correct response to the needs of young people. This includes supporting research, continuing current programs and increasing resources in our Flexible Learning Centres and associated services. 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).

Membership

The Youth+ Foundation has warmly welcomed eight Board Directors in 2015. These Directors bring a broad range of knowledge, experiences, skills and contacts relevant to the Youth+ Foundation core business and values. The Directors graciously give their time to meet quarterly and commit to supporting the generation of sustainable funding to support the young people in the Flexible Learning Centres and services. EREA Youth+ has employed a part time Executive Officer to assist in the writing of grant and tender applications to increase the general funds for the Foundation, support the Board and seek sustainable partnerships.

ACNC

The Youth+ Foundation is required to be a member of the Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and comply with relevant regulations, requirements and reporting. In 2014-15, the Foundation has successfully submitted their Annual Information Statement (AIS) and been endorsed to maintain its charity tax concession status. This administrative function is an ongoing requirement of the ACNC and a key responsibility of the Foundation to maintain.

Grants Approved

The Youth+ Foundation has been successful in obtaining a number of grants for the 2014/2015 year and has provided flexible learning centres across Australia the ability to seek funds to provide support to run programs that assist in the re-engagement of young people. Some of the key grants that have been applied for successfully include:

- Community Gambling Benefit Fund, Queensland – Deception Bay FLC
- Logan City Council, Queensland – Centre Ed FLC
- Real Insurance, Queensland – Noosa FLC

The Youth+ Foundation intends to support Flexible Learning Centre sites further by providing grant writing advice and support where relevant. Additionally, grant writing workshops and training/information sessions will be held.

Beneficiary

In 2014 the Youth+ Foundation was successful in obtaining its first benefactor to establish a beneficiary for flexible learning centres and mobile programs to apply for funds annually. The beneficiary has been established as the Greg Hildebrand Award which is to honour Gregory George Hildebrand (1970-2010). 2015 was the inaugural year that the Youth+ Foundation offered sites to apply for the \$5,000 grant, with the funding announcement being made at the annual Youth+ Whole Staff Days Conference in July. In 2015, the Geraldton Flexible Learning Centre was successful and will be producing a hiphop rap DVD to raise awareness of suicide rates and promote positive mental health for young people in the community. This product can be used as a further promotional tool for the Foundation.

The Greg Hildebrand Award will be run annually, and sites will be able to seek \$5,000 towards their programs/events by the end of Term 1 each year.

Another donation was received by EREA for the operations of the St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre North Melbourne. Some of these funds have been expended on capital items for the centre.

Partnerships

The Youth+ Foundation successfully partnered with the Edmund Rice Foundation for promotional purposes at the 2015 Annual Gala Dinner. Young people's success stories from the St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre North Melbourne will be promoted on the placemats at the dinner, inspiring conversation starters for attendees.

The Youth+ Foundation, through EREA, successfully secured a film and promotional opportunity for a TV commercial. During Term 3, 2015, a film crew and Youth+ Foundation staff will visit Flexible Learning Centre sites around Australia to film young people, staff and their interactions and experiences which will be developed into commercial marketing and promotional material.

Future Direction

The Youth+ Foundation plans to hold an official launch event to increase awareness and media attention on the mission and aims of the Foundation and how it will provide well needed outcomes for disenfranchised and disengaged young people in the Flexible Learning Centres and services. Every year the Youth+ Foundation will increase its targeted marketing and find ways to improve the lives of young people.

The Youth+ Foundation is finalising a three year Strategic Plan by December 2015, which will reflect the broader EREA and EREA Youth+ directions as well as align with the timeframe of EREA Youth+ strategic plan 2016–2019. The Strategic Plan will inform and lead onto a Marketing Strategy which will also direct the promotional and awareness raising element of the Foundation.

Name: Dale Murray
Title: Director, Youth+

Dated this 3 August 2015