

# YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION LTD

*Annual Report - 2019*



*The Youth Plus Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways of Australia. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the stories, the culture and the hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the Country.*

*We thank the Traditional Owners for sharing your land with us and acknowledge you as the Sovereign owners of this country; and that your Sovereignty has never been ceded.*

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## FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

During the past twelve months, we have striven to focus on the key areas outlined in our Foundation Strategic Plan. I am delighted to report that our journey has been both productive and exciting. As outlined in detail later in this Report, we have enhanced outcomes in:

1. Partnership Development - Hook into Books; *The Music in Me* song writing competition through the Hildebrand Beneficiary amongst others.
2. Raising Funds - \$55,721 raised and passed on to Flexible Learning Centres to benefit young people in education and a further \$35,785.99 to the Living Support Fund
3. Branding – Catch a Flexi Reader; The Travelling Suitcase; Flexi Anthology.

We continue to enhance our position by becoming a ***presence*** in the wider community, thus providing a visible and strategic platform for our fund raising and support activities into the future.

Our positive outcomes are result of 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, Ms 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, our Key Priority Areas being:

1. Indigenous Young People within the EREA Learning Communities;
2. Refugees/asylum seekers to cover general living expenses;
3. Young people who continue to experience continued complexity in their lives.



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.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENT 2019

In the 2019 calendar year, the Youth Plus Foundation focused on strengthening the goals set out in our 3-year strategic plan (2016-2019).

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

### 1. PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

#### HOOK INTO BOOKS

The Youth Plus Foundation's national Campaign '*Hook into Books*' built in momentum in 2019. The strategic direction of *partnerships development* was realised through the recruitment of a National Ambassador and several Campaign Champions. These widely recognised literacy figures contributed their time on a voluntary basis using their public profiles to highlight the work of 'Hook into Books' and donated valuable resources to support the activities of the campaign.

Further, the development of a Supporters partnership with Queensland University Press and the Children's Book Council of Australia (Qld Branch), has provided the campaign with support in several ways, most notably the donation of wide variety of literature and other educational resources.

**National Ambassador** – Ms Samantha Wheeler

**Champion** – Mr Michael Gerard Bauer

**Champion** – Ms Michelle Worthington

**Champion** – Ms Remy Lai

**Champion** – Ms Rebecca Sparrow

**Supporter** – Children’s Book Council of Australia (QLD)

**Supporter** – Queensland University Press

### **HILDEBRAND BENEFICIARY**

For the past 6 years, the Youth Plus Foundation has been working alongside of the Hildebrand Family to provide educational opportunities for young people in Y+ Flexible Learning Centres. Clive and Nita are important members of our community and generously sponsor two annual grant opportunities for Flexible Learning Centres across Australia; the *Greg Hildebrand Award* and the newly introduced ‘*The Music in ME*’ song writing competition.

The *Greg Hildebrand Award* was established to honour the life of Greg Hildebrand, (1970 - 2010) son of Clive and Nita. The Award encourages Flexible Learning Centres to apply for \$5000 each year to support the development and delivery of innovative projects/programs for young people, that can honour the life and passion of Greg Hildebrand. Each year has seen incredible innovation, from suicide prevention and healthy lifestyle/exercise programs to infrastructure investments in the form of an outdoor kitchen for a Flexi community.

In 2019, St Mary’s Flexible Learning Centre in Sydney’s west were the successful recipients of the *Greg Hildebrand Award* for their cycling program - ‘On Ya Bike’. This program equipped the school with 10 mountain bikes for young people to participate, discover and learn about their local community while encouraging engagement in physical activity and the acquisition of new skills. With the support of this grant money, the mountain bikes formed part of larger purchase (funded by the school) of a bike trailer and protective equipment. These purchases of high-quality durable equipment now means that the school will have access to these wonderful assets for many years to come.

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*“Our next plan is to work with a local bike shop to get young people involved in bike maintenance training – build their skill & maintain our bikes in the longer term”*

*Michael Loudoun – Head of Campus*

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2019, also introduced the *Music in ME* song writing competition to Flexible Learning Centres. This competition is an acknowledgement that music is a universal educational engagement tool for young people in Flexi. *The Music in ME* competition was an opportunity for young people to win \$5000 to contribute to their school music department; by writing and recording a song based on a set theme. The theme in 2019 was to write a song that was reflective of their time at Flexi.

*The Music in ME* was a popular competition, with the Youth Plus Foundation receiving many applications. In the end, a duo from Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre in Brisbane were successful, with their composition ‘My Journey’.

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*“When Lucky found out today during our community check-in, he came bounding across the room with a massive smile and hug. Later he told me he had been feeling pretty down and the news picked him right back up again!”*

*Ray Bourne – Music Technology APFLC*

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The Hildebrand Beneficiary Grant Program is well embedded into the annual rhythm of the Youth Plus Foundation and has been a welcomed valued add to the work of our Flexible Learning Community.

Our relationship with the Hildebrand Family is highly valued. We extend our sincere gratitude to them for providing such important opportunities to young people across Australia.

## 2. RAISING FUNDS

Core business of the Youth Plus Foundation is supporting grants and facilitating donations. In the 2019 reporting period these grants, and donations have allowed Flexible Learning Centre's to run projects/programs that assist in the educational re - engagement of young people. The Youth Plus Foundations grant writing, support and advice service is pivotal to the success for these schools.

The Youth Plus Foundation also aims to build the skill sets and capacity of staff at the Flexible Learning Centre's to apply for their own grants, bringing their local level creative and innovative ideas to life.

In 2019, the Youth Plus Foundation passed on \$55,721 to Flexible Learning Centres to benefit young people in education. In addition, we distributed \$10,000 from the Hildebrand Beneficiary Grant Program.

<b>Dept Industry, Innovation &amp; Science</b>	<b>Deception Bay</b>	<b>\$4000</b>	<b>Maker Project – Industrial Arts</b>
<b>Queensland Community Foundation</b>	Rockhampton FLC	\$11,000	ATSI Language Program
<b>CommBank NAIDOC Grants</b>	Rockhampton FLC	\$5000	NADIOC mural & celebration
<b>CSA Grant</b>	Woodstock	\$4816.32	Revegetation at Woodstock
<b>Greenbank RSL Community Grants</b>	Centre Education Program	\$2500	Industrial Arts Program
<b>Catch-a-Flexi Reader Competition</b>	Ipswich FLC	\$1000	Hook into Books
<b>Citigroup Pty Ltd</b>	Xavier FSN	\$5500	South Passage
<b>Private donors</b>	Albert Park FLC	\$1050	Breakfast Program
<b>Local Member</b>	Inala FLC	\$500	Youth Event
<b>School Sporting Grant</b>	St Laurence's FLC	\$1980	Surfing Program

<b>School Sporting Grant</b>	St Laurence's FLC	\$1870	Sports Program
<b>School Sporting Grant</b>	St Laurence's FLC	\$2420	Sports Program
<b>Private Donor</b>	Woodstock	\$150	Equipment purchase
<b>Payroll deduction program</b>	Albert Park FLC	\$1320	Benefit of YP
<b>Sporting Schools Austral</b>	St Laurence's FLC	\$3095	Sporting Programs
<b>Private donors</b>	St Joseph's North Melbourne	\$4020	Christmas Campaign
<b>Private donors</b>	Deception Bay FLC	\$500	Support YP attend a sporting event
<b>RALI Foundation</b>	Youth Plus Foundation	\$5000	Young Writers Workshop – Bowen

## LIVING SUPPORT FUND

The Living Support Fund (LSF) is an advocacy and fundraising campaign; a holistic model of emotional and financial/material support for young asylum-seekers to gain access to tertiary scholarships in Victoria. The LSF provides comprehensive support to these young people, helping ensure that the human potential and social inclusion nurtured by their scholarships is realised.

The LSF is a partnership between the Youth Plus Foundation and HOPE Co-op in Victoria and been in operation since January 2018, having successfully raised approximately \$100,000 for the direct benefit of young people who have transitions flexible learning onto fee-covering University Scholarships. The LSF exists to promote respect, inclusion and equality for young people who have sought asylum in Australia and are pursuing tertiary education.

The LSF is a way in which community members have been able to contribute to the social, economic and educational inclusion of young people seeking Asylum in Australia. The Youth Plus Foundation has provided attractive tax

offsets for donors via its DGR status which has been a strength of the LSF's fundraising capacity.

The Youth Plus Foundation have financial accountability to manage and distribute the donations and funds raised. In 2019, the LSF supported 6 young people engaged in tertiary study with a fortnightly living support payment, a pre-paid annual MYKI transport card and emergency relief, a total of \$35,785.99.

2019, unfortunately, was a slower year for fundraising for the LSF. Government policy was not in our favour and many funding rounds stipulated ineligibility for projects supporting non-citizens. In 2019, the LSF raised \$32,180, a shortfall of \$3605.99. This shortfall was topped up from accumulated LSF savings.

<b>Australian Communities Foundation</b>	\$6,000	Annual MYKI card purchases
<b>Catholic Church Insurance</b>	\$10,000	Living Support payments
<b>Private donors</b>	\$16,180	Living Support payments

Sustainability of the LSF is a major concern moving forward for the Youth Plus Foundation, and therefore will be a significant consideration in the new strategic direction for 2020-25.

### 3. BRANDING

The Youth Plus Foundations National Campaign 'Hook into Books' broadened its scope of activities conducted, secured increased support from Ambassadors and Champions that has seen a lift in our public profile. The branding of 'Hook into Books' has been a positive move for our work and has drawn encouraging attention in our Flexible Learning Communities and more broadly via our online channels.

#### Activities of the campaign 2019

- *Catch-a-flexi-reader* - an online photo sharing competition operating across Flexible Learning Centres. Students are encouraged to 'catch' someone reading at home, in the community or at school and take artistic, unidentified photos to be shared across the Youth Plus Foundation's socials.
- *The Traveling Suitcase* – A stocked Suitcase that travels across the Flexible Learning Centres containing a range of YA resources - books, magazines and audiobooks during the campaign.

- *Choose Your Own Adventure Young Writers Workshops* - Flexible Learning Centres may engage in a series of writing workshops, facilitated by Queensland Author, Samantha Wheeler. The workshops engage young people in meaningful literacy-based activities and aim to build on young people's literacy levels and produce age/developmentally appropriate material that can be shared across the Flexible Learning Centre Network
- *Shut-up and read!* A quiet reading hour with Flexible Learning Centres held during the campaign to highlight the importance of prioritising reading as a life-long skill. This is held in conjunction with the Australian Reading Hour.
- *For reading 'Out- Loud'* online storytelling event encouraging people to share their favourite reads on Facebook.
- *Flexi Anthology* – a writing and illustrating opportunity for all young people of flexi
- A range of information about programs, services and resources will be distributed via the Youth Plus Foundation socials to cater for all people at all stages of their learning journey
- Cross-promotion and linkage with libraries and book shops as localised literacy support

## MEMBERSHIP

In 2019, Ms. Jacqueline Ryan rejoined the Youth Plus Foundation Board. This was a blessing as Jacqueline brings with her passion, experience and expertise in board governance. Jacqueline's return has supported the stability of the organisation as we finalised our 3-year strategic plan cycle (2016-2019).

As another year goes by, the Youth Plus Foundation acknowledges the important role that our Board Directors play in the operation of the Company to progress its goals. Building and growing the Youth Plus Foundation relies 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 is instrumental in continuing our goal of advocating for educational equity, for the many young people who have been disenfranchised from mainstream education systems.

## AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES & NON-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION

The Youth Plus Foundation is compliant to the Australian Charities and Non-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Part of this accountability requires meeting ACNC governance standards. The Governance Standards are a set of core, minimum standards that deal with how charities are run (including their processes, activities and relationships) – their governance. They help charities remain trusted by the

public and continue to do their charitable work. Because the Governance Standards are a set of high-level principles, not precise rules, your charity must decide how it will comply with them.

For the Youth Plus Foundation our focus is:

- Keeping accurate records
- Reporting annually
- Maintaining our charity status

The Youth Plus Foundation reports annually as part of the Edmund Rice Education Australia ACNC Group.

The Youth Plus Foundation also sought out a ‘governance health check’ through our lawyers in 2019. We now have a framework that will guide our processes to ensure that our organisation is in ‘healthy’ governance condition.

The Youth Plus Foundation continues to maintain its Registered Charity Tick. The Tick is recognition from the ACNC that gives reassurance to the public that the Charity is transparent and accountable and listed on the ACNC Charity Register.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Youth Plus Foundation will prioritise a new strategic planning process in 2020. Some key areas identified within the Organisational Business Plan will directed our work for the next 5 years.

Focus Area	Action Plan
<b>Partnership Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate and EREA Stakeholder Engagement Strategy</li> <li>• Expand participation of potential sponsors</li> <li>• Develop Sponsorship Package for corporate sponsorships</li> <li>• Build relationships with EREA school leaders by attendance at the School Leaders Conference, or related education industry seminars</li> <li>• Identify possible partnerships with other Foundations to help expand reach</li> </ul>

<b>Branding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop action plan for more engagement with existing sponsor/ambassador Bernie Geary to improve profile of the Youth+ Foundation</li> <li>• Youth+ Foundation Campaign development – social justice links in EREA schools and engagement with young people of Flexible Learning Centres to contribute</li> <li>• Explore a new brand name for the Youth+ Foundation to help distinguish itself in the marketplace</li> <li>• Explore possible opportunities to develop relationships with the alumni of EREA</li> </ul>
<b>Fund Raising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop promotional program to increase regular donors</li> <li>• Develop the corporate sponsorship source of funding once a sponsorship package has been developed</li> <li>• Finalise the Governance protocols within the Youth+ Foundation to facilitate the asset donation expected from Mt Atkinson Holdings</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<p>Establish a strong governance model which will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular <b>board meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>financial reporting</b> on a regular basis</li> <li>• formalising <b>strategic and business planning process</b> on an annual basis</li> <li>• developing <b>risk management policy, framework and register</b></li> <li>• developing an <b>asset/investment management policy</b> for the Youth+ Foundation to accommodate both liquid and freehold assets</li> <li>• developing and formalising an appropriate <b>delegations' policy</b></li> <li>• Developing and formalising an appropriate <b>Crisis Management Policy</b></li> <li>• establishing and documenting protocols around <b>stakeholder engagement</b></li> <li>• establishing and documenting protocols around <b>general communications</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approval of <b>Privacy Policy</b></li> <li>• Adoption of <b>EREA Conflict of Interest Policy</b></li> <li>• Adoption of <b>EREA Whistleblower Policy</b></li> </ul>
<b>Financial/Asset Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execute a strategy for management of the assets of the Youth+ Foundation as outlined in the Asset/Investment Management Policy</li> <li>• Generate returns in line with expectations set in that policy</li> <li>• Facilitate grants distributions as agreed/approved by the board</li> </ul>

The Youth Plus Foundation is proud of its achievements in 2019. As with each year, in 2020 we will strive to exceed our goals and expectations of the work with conduct alongside of young people who have difficulty engaging with education, who continue to experience complexities in their lives.