

CONNECTION

December 2019



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Foreword

Welcome to the Grant Thornton Foundation Report for 2019. Our report highlights the social impact being delivered across our communities by our charity partners. Our partners work with young people that are experiencing social and economic exclusion. They focus on igniting the potential in their young people, giving them the opportunity to participate in sport, personal development, vocational training, social enterprise, providing exposure to educational horizons beyond their expectations, and to live as independently as their potential allows them.

We all seek meaning in our life, our work, and our existence.

For the Grant Thornton community, supporting this work through financial contributions, our volunteering and pro-bono efforts brings a broader context to the workplace. When we participate in and contribute to a social purpose we invariably feel good about ourselves and the people that we directly and indirectly connect with. Our community is at its best when we all work towards equality and mutual benefit.

So to that end, our Foundation, in a modest way, is the conduit to a shared value in which we can measure a social profit that we can be proud of. The very real stories of athletes competing in Special Olympics, of young indigenous people discovering their own leadership capability through The Streets Movement, of young people at risk of homelessness being guided and encouraged to take control of their circumstances through Whitelion, and of people living with disabilities being able to live independently, are all part of that measure of social profit.

Our Foundation is a modest but effective part of the bus route to sustainability for us all. Please enjoy the following stories.



John Picot
Chair – Grant Thornton
Foundation

AU\$172.4k

generated by
Grant Thornton Foundation

\$132.8k

distributed to partners
and charities

\$85.8k

Grant Thornton Australia
payroll-giving for FY19

\$75k

Grant Thornton Australia
donation

\$11.6k

other donations

22%

of Grant Thornton people donated to
the Foundation in FY19

892

pro-bono hours donated by Grant
Thornton people in FY19

11

community partners received funding
in FY19 from the Foundation

THE BUSINESS WORLD HAS WOKEN UP



As an organisation, Grant Thornton has a real opportunity to support and influence the communities we operate in. It's an opportunity that we embrace wholeheartedly – through the Grant Thornton Foundation, but also through the individual commitment of our people who offer in-kind or pro-bono support to organisations through accounting or auditing services, time and commitment on Boards and as mentors, volunteering, fund-raising and advocacy.

Over time we have developed a leading reputation in the Not-for-Profit sector. We have led the development of tools to help Not-for-Profits to better understand their organisation and focus their efforts. Sustainable change and supporting communities and Not-for-Profit organisations to grow and thrive is a cornerstone of what we do.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals helps to consolidate the global challenges in front of us – and provide a focus for organisations to divert their efforts to creating real and sustainable change. Globally this is something Grant Thornton is addressing – and working with member firms on the role we can play as a good global citizen.

"We in the private sector have a responsibility and are expected to be part of solutions to change or save the world. And it's not any longer just about doing good. It's about being competitive. And to be competitive is not just about shareholders. It's about stakeholders."

Peter Bodin, CEO of Grant Thornton International

In Australia, the focus of Grant Thornton Foundation's strategy to 2021 – with our focus on young people at risk of homelessness and mental health issues – allows us to provide meaningful and tangible support to the community with clear impact.



**FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW**

THE STREETS MOVEMENT WAS BORNE OUT OF THE IDEA THAT EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER THAT CAN BENEFIT AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY.

In Jesse Martin's case, he was able to offer something that he and his friends were given as young people growing up in Cairns: a safe space and boxing lessons. This may not seem like much, but for a community with high rates of youth disenfranchisement and few opportunities for community engagement, it was a start. And it quickly became so much more.

In 2010 Jesse set up a community centre in Bentley Park, using his own funds and sleeping in the boxing ring to help pay the bills for the first two years. Over time, more young people started accessing not only the boxing classes but a growing number of programs available at the centre.

Jesse was able to secure support from local businesses, including our local office in Cairns, to continue to grow the centre and expand into other ways to give back to the community and provide opportunities for young Indigenous youth to find and take advantage of new pathways. This was the start of The Street's Movement as we know it today.

We have since expanded our involvement with The Streets Movement from our local base in Cairns, and the organisation is now a national partner for The Grant Thornton Foundation.

We are very proud of our involvement in The Streets Movement and their progressive approach to community engagement and empowerment.

COMMUNITY CENTRES AND THE NEXUS INITIATIVE

"Our ethos is to provide a hand-up to community members, not a hand out,"

Jesse Martin, Founder of The Street's Movement

The Nexus Initiative has its roots in community outreach and has been a cornerstone of The Streets Movement since its inception with the community centre in Bentley Park. It has since grown to be the home for many other community programs and expanded into a second premises in the city, the Nexus Centre.

The Nexus Centre – operating under the Nexus Initiative – was designed to provide local grassroots community groups and entities a space to operate from and deliver their service. The idea behind the initiative was that the community groups, once at a certain scale, would be able to take over the space – freeing the Nexus Initiative to invest in additional spaces in areas of need.

The Pryce Centre for Performing Arts – started by local Indigenous woman Rita Pryce promoting the arts and culture – will be taking over the lease of the Nexus Centre in 2020 and will develop a dance studio and cultural centre in line with their growth strategy.

The Nexus Initiative will be expanding into Melbourne and Western Sydney in 2020.

MULUMULUNG INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

"Mulumulung is Eora language, my mob's word for the Pleiades constellation which has helped guide explorers into the unknown for centuries,"

Jesse Martin, Founder of The Street's Movement

The Mulumulung Experience is a cross cultural and educational experience for young Indigenous change makers from regional and remote areas of Australia.

The first three Mulumulung tours – each comprising of five students – have visited Cambridge University and Oxford University.

Many of the students that have gone through the Mulumulung International Experience have gone on to University or to start up their own initiatives aimed at empowering Indigenous communities. The success of the tour has seen a significant increase in the number of people applying to be part of the program going forward. The calibre of the students – who both provide a written submission and participate in an interview – has been phenomenal.

In future, there will be opportunities to travel to Berkeley and Stanford Universities, the L.A. Film School, NASA, United Nations, Nanyang University and Beijing University of Science and Technology.

During our time supporting The Streets Movement, we have been pleased to offer financial advice as well as making introductions within our network to likeminded organisations to support The Streets Movement deliver on the wonderful work they do within the community.

In addition to providing funding towards the Mulumulung International Experience, with a fourth tour scheduled for February 2020, Grant Thornton Foundation will also be supporting The Streets Movement on their expansion of the Nexus Initiative into Western Sydney and Melbourne.

The Streets Movement has already supported so many young people and community organisations to flourish. We're sure they will have the same impact on the future communities they work with.



For more information on The Streets Movement, visit their website: www.thestreetsmovement.org





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCLUSION AND HELPING TO DISSOLVE BARRIERS

Started in 1968, Special Olympics is a world-wide movement and the largest sporting organisation for people with intellectual disabilities.

The organisation uses sport to open the hearts and minds of people and to change perceptions about people with intellectual disabilities.

Over the course of the year Special Olympics provides weekly training across a variety of different sports, monthly games, quarterly competitions and annual national competitions in addition to sending athletes to compete at World Games every four years.

As a Not-for-Profit organisation, they are reliant on corporate sponsorships, donations and volunteers to continue the work they do. Not only does the Special Olympics program provide sporting opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities – it provides a network of support and friendship for a community that has traditionally been marginalised and isolated.

Our Perth office has been involved with Special Olympics for many years – both as a corporate sponsor and as volunteers at various events.

In 2018 we welcomed Special Olympics as a national partner of The Grant Thornton Foundation and in 2019 we hosted our very first Mini Olympics in our Sydney office. Eighteen athletes competed against 40 accountants, auditors and advisors across various indoor disciplines including golf, soccer, cricket and bowling. It was an opportunity to learn more about each other while bonding over the great social barrier-breaker that is sport.

There will be more Mini Olympics hosted by our offices across Australia. Our support is as much about creating opportunities for inclusion as much as it is about helping to fund their programs.

almost
711,000

Australians have an intellectual disability

1976

Special Olympics launches in Australia

1983

the first Team Australia competes at the International Special Olympics Summer Games

105

Australian athletes competed at the World Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019

\$7.5k

per athlete to participate in the World Games



WE OFTEN DON'T RECOGNISE THE VALUE IN AN HOUR

CAIT MCGOWAN

I was introduced to Special Olympics 22 years ago in Boise, Idaho while still in school. I partnered up with a fellow classmate and joined the Buddy Program, participating side-by-side with Erica in an upcoming sporting competition. It was my first experience of a Special Olympics event and I was amazed by how completely inclusive the organisation is – regardless of ability or disability.

When I moved to Perth five and a half years ago, one of the first things I did was reach out to my local Special Olympics branch to get involved. From that day, I have become more and more involved in the organisations in many different ways, from providing grass-roots competition to organising State events to being a part of Team Australia at World Games 2019. One of my favourite moments – and there are many small moments that make Special Olympics rewarding – was during my time at the World Games held in Abu Dhabi this year.

One of the athletes that travelled with us is autistic and non-verbal due to anxiety. This young woman is incredibly shy. But once at the Games, and surrounded by the energy and comradery that is so endearing to Special Olympics, she came out of her shell and could not stop talking and telling jokes. I remember her photobombing not just the Australian athletes, but the athletes of many other countries as well. It was an absolute joy for her parents, and for the rest of Team Australia to see this young woman at her happiest and best.

Coming from the US program, I see so much scope and potential for Special Olympics to grow in Australia. What we sometimes don't realise is the value of an hour, something so mundane to most of us. This one hour – whether spent handing out water at a sporting competition, organising donations for fundraising events, assisting in general bookkeeping or providing grass-roots support at weekly training – can mean the world to these athletes who would otherwise have no interaction with people outside of the organisation. More than that, this hour is greeted by people who are genuinely happy and excited to have you there. So, what if you don't have an hour to spare? A small monthly donation can help to provide sporting equipment and venue hire to keep programs running throughout the year. Again, this small donation may seem so minor but when multiplied by many people over the course of the year can be the difference in keeping the program running.

I would encourage anyone to participate and support in any way they can. Every little bit helps and every hour is precious.

DID YOU KNOW?

SO MUCH MORE THAN SPORT

The Special Olympics World Games 2019 hosted in Abu Dhabi saw athletes from 190 different countries – some which have very high rates of poverty and poor accessibility to health services. In addition to competition amongst their peers, athletes also benefit from the Healthy Athletes program where athletes receive essential check-ups to screen for unmet health needs. This may be the first time an athlete has seen a doctor, optometrist, hearing specialist or podiatrist in their lives. They receive treatment on the spot. One athlete, a 31 year old soccer player from Senegal, received hearing aids while at the games – allowing him to hear for the very first time.



ALWAYS READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

Sandy Freeman was introduced to Special Olympics over 12 years ago by her swimming coach as way to boost her confidence to compete. It was a pivotal moment for Sandy and now at 23, Sandy has represented Special Olympics Australia at three World Games.

2011
ATHENS

Sandy was the youngest member of Team Australia – winning two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

2015
LOS ANGELES

Broke two World Records and took home two Gold and one Bronze Medals. Michael Phelps, the world's most successful swimmer, presented Sandy with some of her medals and was a major highlight of her competition.

2019
ABU DHABI

The only female selected to represent Australia at the Open Water Swim Team and was very proud to win the Gold Medal for Australia. Sandy also won Bronze in the 800m race and Silver with her Relay team.

Ready to take on the world, Sandy will be competing in mainstream Open Water events, including Australia's most iconic ocean swim – the Bondi to Bronte – in December.

IN THE COMMUNITY



ST VINCENT DE-PAUL – DRESSED BY VINNIES

St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) in Australia has more than 60,000 members and volunteers. As an organisation they assist people in need and combat social injustice across Australia. In October, Vinnies shops hosted the inaugural Dressed by Vinnies Day. The national event encouraged businesses, organisations, schools and all Australians who love a fashionable bargain to visit their local Vinnies shop, find something they love, and wear it on the day.

The theme of the day was 'Wear it and share it!' and was supported by a number of corporate supporters including Grant Thornton who hosted their own Dressed by Vinnies Day at their offices on 19 October 2019.



WHITELION

Founded in 1999, Whitelion provides a pro-social adjunct to professional services supporting at risk young people. The aim is to give young people hope, encouragement and positive experiences that would support their engagement with services and focus on developing their connection to community beyond their diagnosis, history and service involvement.

Whitelion provides vocational pathways support, outreach and case management, mentoring and prevention in schools. More than 82% of each dollar investment in Whitelion goes directly to service delivery. In addition, Whitelion provides training and employment to young people in their social enterprises, Wheelly Good Coffee, Fruit2Work, If It Wasn't For This Coffee, and P.A.W.S Fulfilment.

The Grant Thornton Foundation has been involved with Whitelion for many years in Melbourne and Sydney as sponsors, volunteers and participants in the annual Whitelion Bailout. This year 6 Grant Thornton people participated in the Bailout at the Old Melbourne Gaol Watch House, raising over \$5k.

We will be continuing to support Whitelion as they expand their CBD Outreach into Sydney. With one in ten Australians experiencing homelessness sometime in their lives, CBD Outreach provides a variety of services to street frequenting young people.



This year 6 Grant Thornton people participated in the Bailout at the Old Melbourne Gaol Watch House, raising over \$5k.



BRISBANE YOUTH SERVICE – DAGGY JUMPER DAY

Brisbane Youth Service (BYS) support homeless and disadvantaged young people (aged 12-25 years) and their children, to secure and maintain housing. They provide emergency support and a range of services to assist young people to address physical and mental health issues, establish successful relationships and support networks and access pathways to education and long term employment.

BYS launched Daggy Jumper Day in 2013 as a fun, quirky campaign to raise awareness of youth homelessness and all-important funds to house and support young people during winter. Since its inception, the campaign has involved hundreds of participants and raised over \$100,000.

The Grant Thornton Foundation has supported Daggy Jumper Day for the last three years raising over \$3,000 and in the process learning more about the need to provide homes to young people sleeping rough in Brisbane.



YOUNGCARE

The Grant Thornton Foundation has supported Youngcare for the past four years through the Brisbane Office and have recently decided to support Youngcare as a National Foundation partner. Youngcare is a not-for-profit organisation creating choice and independence for people (aged 18 – 65) with high care needs by providing fully accessible and age-appropriate living spaces, grants for equipment and home modifications and support through a national phone line.

Between 2005 and 2018 Youngcare has supported 862 young people to exit or avoid being placed in aged care through Youngcare grants. They have built 4 residences which 47 young people with high care needs call home. Through their grants program, Youngcare supports people to stay in their homes where they can be cared for and supported by their families.

During 2018 the Grant Thornton Foundation provided \$10,000 to the "At Home Care Grants" and also arranged hampers to assist various families in need.



MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Chairperson



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BHAVESH NARSEY



MATT BELL



ALISON SHERIDAN



CATHERINE DEVIETTI



STEVE WESTAWAY
(Foundation Company Secretary)

Thank you to retired Directors: Margaret Hoffman, Sheenagh Edwards and Patrick Warr. Also thank you to Neha Mittal, Therese Raft and our local social responsibility committees for your support over 2019.



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN FY19

The Streets Movement Organisation
Brisbane Youth Service
St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland
World Vision Australia
Kids are Kids! Therapy And Education Centre Inc.
Make a Difference Foundation

Whitelion Youth Agency
Special Olympics Australia
Movember Foundation
Women's Legal Service QLD
Youngcare Ltd

ABOUT GRANT THORNTON FOUNDATION

Grant Thornton Australia is a leading business adviser that helps dynamic organisations to unlock their potential for growth. More than 1,100 people work in offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. They launched The Grant Thornton Foundation in 2014 to build a coordinated approach to charitable giving across Australia which will help unlock the potential for growth in communities. The Grant Thornton Foundation delivers a tangible benefit to community partners by helping their charity partners grow. The Foundation is driven by participation, volunteering and mentoring.

www.grantthornton.com.au/about-us/gt-foundation/

Contact

John Picot
Chair – Grant Thornton Foundation
T +61 2 8297 2426
E john.picot@au.gt.com

Offices

Adelaide

Grant Thornton House
Level 3, 170 Frome Street
Adelaide SA 5000
T +61 8 8372 6666
E info.sa@au.gt.com

Brisbane

Level 18, 145 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
T +61 7 3222 0200
E info.qld@au.gt.com

Cairns

Cairns Corporate Tower
Level 13, 15 Lake Street
Cairns QLD 4870
T +61 7 4046 8888
E info.cairns@au.gt.com

Melbourne

Collins Square
Tower 5, 727 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 8320 2222
E info.vic@au.gt.com

Perth

Central Park, Level 43,
152-158 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
T +61 8 9480 2000
E info.wa@au.gt.com

Sydney

Level 17, 383 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000
T +61 2 8297 2400
E info.nsw@au.gt.com



[granthornton.com.au](https://www.granthornton.com.au)

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