



FOUNDATION UPDATE - JUNE 2021



From the Chairman

The recipients of our second annual grant round were announced back in March and I am delighted to report that the funds are already catalysing the work of the five worthy charities.

Soon Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ), Guide Dogs Queensland and Suncare Community Services will each have a new vehicle to better support their clients to access vital programs and services.

While phase one of the Hear and Say website redevelopment is now underway to make important information and resources more accessible to older Queenslanders with hearing loss. With our support Samford Support Network volunteers have also continued their work with the region's elderly, helping

to enhance their quality of life through greater community participation.

I thank those of you that have taken an interest in the impact of our philanthropic work. You can find out more about two of our current grant recipients overleaf. You might even be inspired to volunteer with one of these organisations and if so I urge you to contact them directly.

The value of our investment portfolio has increased by \$400,000, going from \$11.1 million in February to \$11.5 million in May. It is certainly welcome news that investment markets have improved following a shaky 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next few months the Board will be on the road, visiting our grant

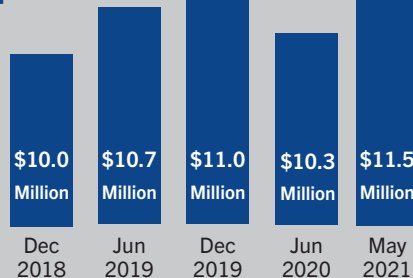
recipients and the people they support to get a firsthand account of the impact of our philanthropy.

One such visit will be to Blackall Range Care Group. The charity received a \$100,000 grant last year, to remodel, repaint and fit-out their Respite Room in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast hinterland. I am looking forward to attending the reopening of the Respite Room in the very near future and am honoured to be unveiling a plaque to mark our support of this initiative, which will help to empower the region's ageing population to live well. I hope to share more with you on this in the next Foundation update.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Nantes

Value of investment portfolio



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2021 Grant recipients

Five charities shared in over \$300,000 as part of Eastern Star Foundation's 2021 grant round. Three of these charities attended the Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Queensland Installation in March, which was followed by a formal grant presentation.



Guide Dogs Queensland General Manager
Community Engagement Jock Beveridge



Samford Support Network Committee
Members Keria Newman and Mercedes
Cameron



Australian War Widows Queensland Board
Directors Jennifer Gregory and Judy Smith

Enabling older Queenslanders with hearing loss to remain socially connected



Later this year we will join **Hear and Say** to launch their redeveloped website, which is being funded by a **\$49,500 grant** from Eastern Star Foundation.

Chief Executive Officer Chris McCarthy provides some insight into the importance of making information about their services more accessible to older Queenslanders with hearing loss, enabling them to seek support sooner and live life to the fullest.

Tell me about Hear and Say

Hear and Say is a world leader in the support of people impacted by hearing loss. For almost 30 years, our purpose has been to work with families, teachers, communities and other health professionals to support children who are born deaf or have progressive hearing loss, so they can reach their full potential in life.

Due to an ever-increasing need, we recently extended our services to include adults, many of whom experience hearing loss in their senior years.

We operate five Hear and Say Centres throughout Queensland together with a telepractice program for rural and remote families. Our centres are located in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Nambour, Toowoomba and Townsville.

Hear and Say supports people with hearing loss through the provision of advanced audiology services, state-of-the-art hearing technology and specialised speech pathology called auditory-verbal therapy. We support thousands of children and adults from newborns to seniors. Our internationally-recognised programs include, 500+ children within our Cochlear Implant program, school hearing screening, research division, WorldWide online professional training program and our adult program. Our Cochlear Implant program also allows one child every fortnight who is profoundly deaf to receive the life-changing *switch on to sound*.

What will the grant be used for?

The generous grant awarded by Eastern Star Foundation is funding the development of a new improved Hear and Say website, specifically to increase access to our services by older Queenslanders. With computer usage in those aged over 60 soaring, Hear and Say has partnered with the Eastern Star Foundation to provide a much-improved internet experience for seniors in our community. The new website will

provide education on hearing loss and also respond to their need to access appointments for essential services including hearing tests, hearing aids and cochlear implants.

What will the grant mean for your organisation?

This grant is a critical investment in significantly boosting the accessibility of Hear and Say's online communications through the professional redevelopment of our website – ultimately helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our ageing communities through social connection, choice and dignity. Hearing loss is often called the invisible disability; in children it impacts social, emotional and academic development affecting their life journey, and for young adults and seniors it has the potential to compromise their ability to interact and to fully participate socially and economically with the community.

What will the grant mean for your clients?

With the benefit of an improved website, we will be able to help older Queenslanders enjoy the precious gift of hearing for their entire lives. Older Australians are more health conscious than ever before and at Hear and Say we are committed to supporting them so they can live their life to the fullest. Our aim is to ensure that no one with hearing loss slips through the gaps.

Bolstering support networks of Samford's elderly with \$12,000 grant



A **\$12,000 grant to Samford Support Network (SSN)** is already helping the local ageing population to remain active within the community. President Barbara Kienast explains.

Tell me about SSN

SSN was established 10 years ago as a community-based volunteer organisation. We provide a range of

services for the elderly in the Samford region, including transport support for medical and social outings, weekly food boxes, well-being and emotional support, handyman and in-home help, as well as our *keeping people in their home* program which includes a free mobile alert pendant system, and coordination of the emergency on-call list.

What will the grant be used for?

This generous grant from the Eastern Star Foundation will support us to maintain the existing mobile alert pendants, offer IT training for the elderly, to allow some members to keep their Mental Health First Aid and CPR training up-to-date, acquire a computer for our office and cover the costs of our COVID safety and cleaning supplies.

What will the grant mean for your organisation?

SSN has been financed only by the local community up to now but with COVID-19 and the impact on businesses, local giving was lower this year. This grant is essential to the SSN to enable us to continue providing services and support.

What will the grant mean for your clients?

Many of our elderly members rely on the SSN volunteers to stay connected to the community which helps to improve their health and wellbeing and their overall quality of life. Maintaining community connections is vital in later life and this grant will enable us to continue to make this possible.