



## FOUNDATION UPDATE - DECEMBER 2021



### From the Chairman

As the year draws to a close, I must say how immensely proud I am of the work we are doing to help the aged in our communities to live well, through our 2021 grant recipients.

As a philanthropic foundation our focus is to fund programs and initiatives that help the aged to remain independent, practice choice, participate in their community, have a support network and experience healthy ageing.

#### Our philanthropy in the community

You can read overleaf how our support of Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) is helping their elderly clients to attend monthly meetings and social events in the comfort of a new minivan. Our support of this important AWWQ program will extend over three years, the detail of which you can read on page 2.

Hear and Say, another grant recipient of ours recently launched their revamped website with the intent of connecting older Queenslanders on the journey to better hearing. After 30 years of supporting children and families, Hear and Say has expanded their service to meet the needs of seniors. The new website has a dedicated section with information and resources including videos and case studies for older Queenslanders as well as the facility to make online bookings for hearing tests, hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Similarly, we visited Guide Dogs Queensland for the unveiling of their new community vehicle. With our support, the aged with low or no vision and their guide dogs will be able to have greater access to programs, training and services at Guide Dogs Queensland and in the community. Our grant will also support the vehicle's running costs for the next 12 months.

#### 2021 Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, I was re-elected to the position of Chairman for another year, while John Howard was re-elected as Deputy Chair and Beth Littler was elected as the new Secretary, following the resignation of Carol Carey. We wish to thank Carol for her years of dedicated service which we are very grateful for. We also thank Beth for stepping into the role of Secretary. She has recently been out and about with us to meet some of our grant recipients.

#### Third annual grant round

Our current grant round closed earlier this month. Once we finalise our assessments we will be in a position to announce the recipients of our third annual grant round in March 2022.

#### Administration support

As I mentioned during the AGM, Australian Communities Foundation will be our new administrators and governance support provider in the new year. They will manage our back-of-house administration and company secretarial functions. Indeed, we are very thankful to Hand Heart Pocket for their years of support navigating the complex transition and legal restructure as we exited aged care and transitioned to a philanthropic foundation. Earlier this year Hand Heart Pocket advised us that as a result of their recent staffing restructure, they would no be able to provide the same ongoing support to ESF and guided us through the process of finding another provider. Our board and committee meetings will continue to be held in the board room at the Hand Heart Pocket executive office.

As we look forward to 2022, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

#### Jonathan Nantes

Chairman, Eastern Star Foundation

#### Our vision:

To empower those who enhance the quality of life for our ageing communities.

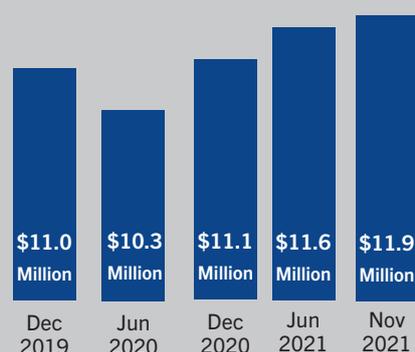
#### Our mission:

We provide financial assistance to help initiatives become a reality for charities who care for our ageing communities, support their independence, and who are committed to helping them live well.

#### Our values:

Dignity • Independence • Hope

#### Value of investment portfolio



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# Personalised transport strengthens war widows' connections to support networks



Photo: Directors of Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) and Eastern Star Foundation (ESF) at the unveiling of the new minivan funded by ESF.

Since 1947, Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) has supported the widows and families of those who fought for our country in the armed forces.

On the eve of the organisation's 75th anniversary next year, AWWQ has renewed its commitment to its Members, to support them to live happy and healthy lives.

One way they'll do this by strengthening their Members connection and friendships with fellow war widows, in recognition of their shared experiences and understanding.

AWWQ State President Jennifer Gregory said the organisation has been gifted a brand new minivan to provide personalised transport for Members to get to meetings and monthly social activities.

"The minivan was gifted to us by Eastern Star Foundation and we have already begun using the vehicle to transport our Members," Mrs Gregory said.

"Having the minivan means we can provide a more enjoyable and personalised service for our Members.

"We know the sacrifices and hardship our Members have had to endure so helping them to stay socially connected in this time in their lives is really important to us."

The minivan was funded by a \$100,000 philanthropic grant from Eastern Star Foundation. The charity was one of five not-for-profits to share in over \$300,000 in funding as part of Eastern Star Foundation's 2021 grant round.

ESF will also provide the first year of multi-year support to help pay for the

fuel and running costs of the minivan as well as the costs of running the annual Sub-branch Taxi Subsidy Program. The organisation will also receive additional recurrent funding of \$50,000 annually for two further years to support these same programs. This support will reduce the program's operating cost pressures and allow their elderly widows to stay socially connected.

Eastern Star Foundation Chairman Jonathan Nantes congratulated AWWQ on the launch of the new vehicle.

"Eastern Star Foundation is proud to partner with AWWQ on this important initiative. We know this vehicle will support the vital work done by this wonderful organisation, to enable their Members to remain independent," Mr Nantes said.

# Helping our aged to live well through Hear and Say and Guide Dogs



Photo: Eastern Star Foundation Directors with Hear and Say Acting CEO Bridget Murray looking over their new website



Photo: Eastern Star Foundation Directors and Guide Dogs CEO Michael Kightley with their new community vehicle