



## FOUNDATION UPDATE - DECEMBER 2024



### From the Chair

The Foundation has achieved remarkable outcomes this year in enhancing the lives of older Australians, and I am honoured to have been reappointed as Chair for another term at the recent Annual General Meeting.

#### Board changes

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to John Howard, who concluded his term on the Board in November and chose not to seek reappointment. Since 2014, John has brought invaluable expertise to both the Eastern Star Foundation and, previously, the Star Aged Living Board. His extensive experience as a Director and in managing retirement living and aged care facilities has been a great asset to our work.

At the Annual General Meeting, we were pleased to elect Roslyn Black as Deputy Chair and to re-elect Beth Littler as Secretary. We also welcomed two new

members to the Board: Nigel Faull and Kerrie Lanchester. Nigel brings over 20 years of leadership experience in the aged care sector, including a tenure as CEO of Star Aged Living. He is a certified chair and an approved adviser with the Advisory Board Centre, as well as a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Kerrie has more than 30 years of experience in strategic and operational leadership across various sectors, including community aged care. An accomplished Board Director, she possesses a strong understanding of governance and will undoubtedly contribute to the Foundation's continued success.

#### Our philanthropy in the community

This year, we have made significant strides in our granting activities, awarding a total of \$335,000 across five grants—the highest amount we've distributed since transition to become a philanthropic foundation. These grants have supported charities working to improve the lives of elderly individuals, including the World Wellness Group, The Legacy Club of Queensland, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation, and the Motor Neurone Disease Association Queensland.

On the following page, you can read about some of the recent visits we have made to the Motor Neurone Disease Association Queensland and Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation to witness firsthand the

difference our grants are making in the lives of the elderly. Additional stories can be found on our website at [www.easternstarfoundation.org.au](http://www.easternstarfoundation.org.au). I also encourage you to follow us on LinkedIn and like our posts to help spread the word about our philanthropic work.

Applications for this year's grant round close on 15 December 2024, and we eagerly anticipate reviewing the submissions, with announcements to be made in early 2025.

#### Investment portfolio

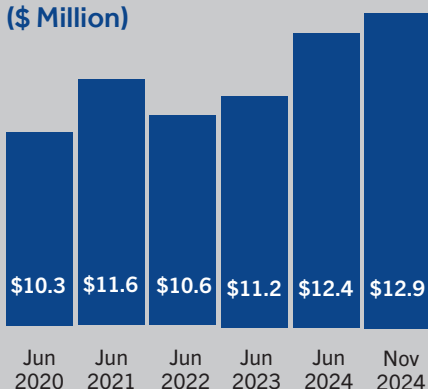
Our conservative investment strategy has enabled our portfolio to withstand market fluctuations over time while ensuring a steady stream of funds for our grants. As of 30 June 2024, the balance of our portfolio stood at \$12.4 million, with the current balance as of 30 November 2024 at \$12.9 million.

On behalf of the Eastern Star Foundation, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Australian Communities Foundation and our independent consultants for their invaluable support this year. Wishing you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas and New Year. We look forward to sharing more updates in 2025 as we continue to empower those working to improve the quality of life for our ageing communities.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Nantes**  
Chair, Eastern Star Foundation

Value of investment portfolio (\$ Million)



## Improving independence for elderly with Motor Neurone Disease



Members of the Eastern Star Foundation Board recently visited the Motor Neurone Disease Association Queensland (MND QLD) facility in Oxley to witness firsthand the positive impact of their \$50,000 grant.

This significant funding supports their Free Equipment for the Over 65s Project, which addresses a critical

gap in equipment hire services for individuals over 65 living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Access to this essential equipment fosters greater independence, enhances communication, and promotes social engagement for those living with the disease.

Eastern Star Foundation Chair

Jonathan Nantes reflected on the visit, emphasising the value of seeing the facility and gaining a deeper understanding of MND and the additional support enabled by the grant.

"The facility was equipped with vital resources like electric wheelchairs, hospital beds, alternating mattresses, recliners, hoists, suction machines, cough assist units, respiratory devices, and communication aids—some of which were funded through our grant," said Mr Nantes.

"It was explained to us that embracing the use of this equipment early significantly enhances the quality of life for individuals as this degenerative disease progresses."

The visit also highlighted the additional services provided by MND QLD, including professional guidance, ongoing support, and training for carers on the proper use of equipment and planning for future needs as the disease advances.

"It was incredibly rewarding to see how this equipment is making a meaningful difference in the lives of older individuals living with MND," Mr Nantes said.

## Helping hearts and paws to connect

Last month, hearts and paws were truly connecting during a visit to the Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation (HPHH) at the RSPCA facility in Wacol. Bupa Care residents, alongside young people who have experienced social isolation, had the opportunity to bond with rescue animals—including dogs, puppies, kittens, ducklings, and even a blue-tongued lizard!

Thanks to a \$65,000 grant from Eastern Star Foundation, HPHH has launched an Intergenerational Ageing Program. This initiative brings together young people and ageing communities across Queensland to deliver rescue animal demonstrations, interactive experiences, and meaningful connections in partnership with aged care facilities.

The program offers a unique opportunity for both generations to engage with their community, restore dignity, and foster hope for a brighter future—all while sharing special moments with rescue animals, who also enjoy some extra time outside their enclosures.

"Speaking with several young participants, it was clear their involvement in this program was greatly enhancing their confidence and self-esteem," said Eastern Star Foundation Secretary Beth Littler. "Our grant has not only benefited older adults but has also bridged the generational gap in a truly impactful way."

She added, "All the rescue animals were incredibly friendly and warmly received

pats and affection. The visit was both a fascinating and rewarding experience for everyone involved."



**The Eastern Star (Australia) Foundation Ltd trading as Eastern Star Foundation ACN 166 950 321 ABN 36 640 477 592**

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