

Optus Community Grants Awarded in 2013 (listed in alphabetical order)

AEIOU Foundation

Project Category: Education

Funded: \$5,734 in Nathan, QLD

The AEIOU Foundation is one of the country's largest providers of high quality full-time and part-time early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. AEIOU Foundation provides early intervention for approximately half of the number of children diagnosed with autism in QLD.

The project is to purchase a high quality Interactive Whiteboard for use at the Gold Coast AEIOU Centre as this will afford the young people at the centre the best opportunity to be stimulated, learn and develop their coping skills. In addition, the whiteboard will be a resource for staff and importantly parents training sessions which are critical to achieving the best results with individual youngsters and families affected by Autism.

AnglicareSA

Project Category: Wellbeing

Funded: \$6,700 in North Adelaide, SA

AnglicareSA is a leading social service provider in South Australia, supporting 40,000 people each year.

The funding will support Anglicare SA's Loss & Grief centre children's specific counselling service aimed at supporting children to understanding and normalising their grief. The programme has identified a need to develop creative and expressive therapies such as art and play therapy to provide a broader range of interventions

Argyle Community Housing

Project Category: Access To Technology

Funded: \$9,860 in Bowral NSW

Argyle Community Housing's main objective is to provide and manage secure, sustainable housing for people on low to moderate incomes who would otherwise struggle to find accommodation and live independently.

Argyle Housing are developing 6 independent one bedroom units with a common area that will provide accommodation to young people who have or are experiencing homelessness. This funding will provide access to technology that will assist the young people to stay connected to their families and studies, seek and search employment/training options.

Bayley House

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$6,100 in Brighton, VIC

Bayley House provides support services and programs to over 175 adults including youth with an intellectual disability. Their aim is to develop skills, offer life-long learning opportunities and increase independence so our clients achieve their potential.

The funding will support special large button phone handsets and internet communication tools will be installed into each of our residential houses enabling residents, particularly those with hearing, visual, or reading difficulties to communicate by phone, Skype and internet more easily with family and friends.

This will help in reducing the risk of social isolation for people with an intellectual disability, increasing their opportunities for independence and personal confidence, enabling people with an intellectual disability to be supported in their day-to-day life using communications technology skills.

BELIEVE FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

Project Category : Education
Funded: \$5,000 in Glen Osmond, SA

The foundation aims to acknowledge unpaid carers by making their lives easier and to ensure that they also care about their own well-being.

The fundign will help to assist Carers, in particular those struggling financially. Many young carers require tutoring as they struggle to attend school because of demands of a caring role for their mother, father etc. Young Carers at higher risk of not completing their education.

Berkeley Vale Neighbourhood Centre Assoc Inc

Project Category : Access To Technology
Funded: \$,2442 in Chittaway Bay, NSW

Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre is situated in Cynthia Street, Bateau Bay, within a large social housing estate.

The Computer Hub is primarily run by 3-4 volunteer tutors who offer lessons for a gold coin donation for beginners and intermediate users.

The Computer Hub averages approximately 150 users per month especially children and young people through a Children's Homework Help Group run twice a week where the children can access educational computer programs. Many of these children do not have internet access or computers at home, or parents/guardians who are able to assist them with computer technology. The funding will upgrade the current computers by purchasing refurbished desktops, monitors and an iPad.

Capital City Local Learning and Employment Network - The North Melbourne African Community School

Project Category : Access To Technology
Funded: \$7,800 in North Melbourne, VIC

The school is based within the public housing estate and provides teaching support for over 20 primary and secondary students on the estate with African backgrounds who are refugees and asylum seekers, including NAPLAN preparation, English and numeracy skills every Sunday.

The funding will support equipment - most crucially technology (laptops/ipads) for recently arrived African students to support their learning. These children and young people in the African Community School have little or no access to technology to aid them. The organisation aims for the local children and young people on the North Melbourne public housing estate to be able to compete equally at primary and secondary school with their peers.

Energy Education Australia Incorporated

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$8,998 in Oaklands Park, SA

Providing opportunities to those students currently in the secondary/adult school system with a "hands on" experience. Our focus is on presenting in a non text book approach subjects that engage, interest and guide the students towards future study, an appreciation of self worth, and positive employment.

Disengaged youth will have the chance to work with a licensed builder in the construction and landscaping of a new home whilst earning units towards a Certificate I or II in Construction and/or Landscaping. Youth will be offered a variety of skills from construction to landscaping with the offer of commencing trade qualifications at no expense to themselves.

Family Access Network

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$9,000 in Box Hill, VIC

Family Access Network provide services related to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with a focus on sole parents and young people who identify as Gay/lesbian/transgender or intersexual.

The project aims to encourage and support young mothers to re enter and complete education. To be able to break the patten they are in and give them more chances of leaving the welfare sector

Family Access Network (FAN) supports around 30 single mothers each year, nearly all of them have not completed year 12 with many of them having completed year 10 or less. The project will assist with buying text books and stationery and computer programs while also assisting the participants to have access to tutors.

Griffith Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$9,204 in Griffith, NSW

PCYC provides sports, recreation and leadership development to children across NSW.

These young people will be engaged through software packages which allow them to create virtual graffiti designs on computers. PCYC can provide a safe environment for young people where they can use technology otherwise not available to them for the creation of legal art. The project will offer an alternative recreational option for young people. They will be able to socialise with their friends and learn computer skills through software packages which support artistic development.

Hello Sunday Morning

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$5,000 in Surry Hills, NSW

Hello Sunday Morning is a movement towards a better drinking culture. HSM provides an online program for any individual to change their relationship with alcohol. Their unique online program is the only of its kind in the world helping individuals change the way they drink.

The funding will support the development of the Hello Sunday Morning Smartphone App. It is difficult for an individual to take a step out of this culture when alcohol is causing significant issues in their lives. Individuals who have identified alcohol problems need support to help them make the changes they desire.

Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE)

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$7,648 in Parramatta, NSW

ICE is a Parramatta CBD-based community arts organisation specialising in digital media. Via digital-focused community engagement programs (encompassing filmmaking, music track production, digital storytelling and animation) they build digital and social capacities among Parramatta's socially isolated migrant/refugee young people, and equip them to better participate in education, employment and community life.

The funding will support the drop-in program in the Parramatta CBD supporting at-risk migrant/refugee youth to produce digital works (short films/music tracks/animations/digital stories) using iPads and other digital equipment provided. With mentoring from ICE staff, participants will go from being passive digital consumers to active digital producers and develop the digital skills needed to capitalize on 21st century education/employment opportunities.

Iramoo Youth Refuge

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$8,800 in Footscray, VIC

Since its founding in 1978, Iramoo has supported disadvantaged young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. As an organisation, Iramoo strives to advocate, support, and accommodate clients in crisis through the primary source of accommodation.

The Optus grant will help provide young vulnerable homeless people with technology to keep them connected with their formal and informal supports networks.

Iramoo's program sees all young people who access the youth refuge be provided with a mobile phone, and phone credit, to enable young people to maintain communication with their support network. Iramoo will also be able to provide Ipad's with a data recharge to young people who are excelling with their studies and, continuing to engage with education, employment or training despite being homeless.

Learning Links

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$5,000 in Penshurst, NSW

Learning Links was established in 1972 to help children with learning disabilities, learning difficulties and developmental delays and their families. They provide early childhood intervention, individualised literacy and numeracy support, speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology services and counselling to help children overcome their difficulties and reach their potential.

Through this project, Learning Links will purchase iPads and applications ("apps") that complement our programs that help children with disabilities and learning support needs. Children will use these devices as part of their programs to learn skills they have difficulty mastering.

Little Heroes Foundation

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$9,927 in North Adelaide, SA

Little Heroes Foundation raises funds for essential equipment and services accessed by thousands of seriously ill children and their families.

The Optus funding will give children with cancer access to iPads to help continue their education during long term treatment and hospital stays. This project will also help children stay connected to their family, friends and the outside world during hospital stays and provide a vital distraction from painful treatments and procedures.

Media Access Australia

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$10,000 in Ultimo, NSW

MAA is devoted to increasing access to media for people with a disability. They promote inclusion by providing information and expertise on the accessibility of mainstream technologies.

The funding will support 'cap that!' a national education campaign that promotes the use of captioned video resources in the classroom. Developed around the Australian Curriculum, it provides lesson plan resources covering Curriculum subjects. Captions on videos are primarily used by the hearing impaired but research has shown that a wide range of students benefit from the literacy aspects the interplay of audio and text offers.

Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tasmania

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$7,200 in Launceston, TAS

The Migrant Resource Centre helps facilitate the effective settlement of migrants and refugees living in the northern regions of Tasmania.

The Tutoring Program is for children aged 13 to 17 years. All youth who attend have arrived in Australia from a refugee background. Many parents of the young people have limited English so are not able to assist with homework. The Tutoring Program facilitates local professionals and students to become mentors assisting students with homework. This project is to upgrade 6 computers for 40 students get help with homework.

Mowanjum Artists Spirit of The wandjina Aboriginal Corporation

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$7,439 in Derby, WA

MASWAC represents the art, and culture of the Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunambal people of northwest Kimberley.

The funding will support the Mowanjum Youth Digital Project which aims to promote and build skills, confidence and self-esteem of young people in the remote Mowanjum Community of WA by acknowledging their existing cultural skills and literacies, and by providing training and resources for them to express and share their knowledge via culturally-appropriate, digital technologies.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$9,507 in North Melbourne, VIC

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) was formed in 1984 to provide services and support to the one in 1000 persons who have a neuromuscular disorder. MDA provides information, advocacy, education, training, respite, day and social programs as well as promoting and funding medical research.

The Optus grant will fund a week long respite camp for children with muscular dystrophy so their parents can receive respite and volunteer tertiary education students can undertake placement training as part of their respective studies.

Northlakes Community Services Incorporated (NCSI)

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$9,693 in Charmhaven, NSW

NCSI is providing practical assistance and a community of support for those in the Wyong area facing difficult circumstances. Services include supporting teen mothers to continue their education, receive mentoring, learn new skills and pursue personal development goals in order to build self-confidence and well-being.

The funding will support the program for young pregnant and parenting girls aged between 13 and 23 that provides relational support and personal development opportunities. It includes weekly one-on-one mentoring, monthly workshops and an opportunity to meet other mums.

Ohana Education Inc.

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$9,162 in Broadbeach, QLD

Arcadia College is a Special Assistance School engaging the Gold Coast's most vulnerable young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling. Arcadia provides an opportunity for young people who are not thriving in a conventional school, to succeed in an environment that supports the unique needs of non- traditional learners.

The funding will provide students with access to internet and other basic communication/technology tools (iPads) for self-regulated and self-directed learning (Project Based Learning). This enables delivery of better alternative educational methods which contribute to the successful outcomes for our youth.

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Project Category : Access To Technology
Funded: \$10,000 in Melbourne, VIC

ONTrac at Peter Mac Victorian Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Service is dedicated to the care of patients aged 15-25. This multidisciplinary team provides direct clinical care, education/training, secondary consultation and a collaborative research program.

The grant will help to develop an app for 15-25 year olds with cancer. This app seeks to provide a “one stop shop” to manage illness impacts, collate age-appropriate information and foster peer connection.

Prison Fellowship Australia NSW/ACT

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$10,000 in Toongabbie, NSW

Since 1981 in NSW, Prison Fellowship volunteers have been there for inmates, ex-inmates, and their families with the goal of successful reintegration back into the community, after prison.

Children of inmates, aged 8-14, are sponsored for a one week camp helping them get through the challenges of parental incarceration and learning how to positively engage with community.

Rockingham PCYC

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$9,596 in Rockingham, WA

WA Police work with PCYC referring young offenders and disengaged youth to their life-changing programs to reengage and prevent crime.

The funding will help provide assistance to underprivileged children introducing them to mentoring, support, guidance and provide role models while exposing them to a range of new skills and technology to ensure they remain engaged in formal education and reduce the risk of offending in the future.

The “Rockingham Joeys” program will offers our young 12 and under years of age, with access to challenging, interactive, educational programs based around intervention that will allow them to develop positive relationships within the community.

Southern Shoalhaven Youth Services Incorporated

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$8,245 in Ulladulla, NSW

The centre provides a range of programs and services for young people, 12 - 24 years, and their parents and carers. They offer a safe place for young people to meet with friends whilst accessing advice and support.

Optus will help with the provision of computers with suitable software and Internet at the Ulladulla Youth Centre. Currently only one computer is available at the Centre and is experiencing issues due to age. Many young in the Southern Shoalhaven have limited access to technology and this can limit their skills in communication, education and life choices. Some young people have access to Internet at school but for those that are not at school, homeless or unemployed this can create barriers to further progression in life.

Stretch-A-Family

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$7,125 in Sydney, NSW

Stretch-A-Family provides foster care and residential care to children aged 0 - 18 who can't live with their families due to child protection concerns.

Children who come into care are most often traumatized and there is a need for therapeutic support and models of care to assist their rehabilitation to be able to grow into a stable, healthy adult. This project will enable us to put our training into practice. To purchase therapeutic tools, such as weighted blankets and other bedroom items, therapy toys, continue specialist psychological support from providers with an already established relationship.

Sunraysia Residential Services Inc.

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$9,948 in Mallee, VIC

SRS provides individualised support for people with disabilities and their families in the Mallee and far South-West NSW. They provide: respite, supported accommodation, independent living skills training, educational programs, recreation and social opportunities to connect and be involved within the community.

The emphasis of Benetook Chooks is to provide training towards employment and meaningful activities for people with disabilities in the Mallee region. People will be able to learn new skills in all aspects of running a farm that are purposeful and meaningful whilst engaging in the community.

The Epilepsy Association of South Australia and The Northern Territory

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$10,000 in Greater Adelaide, SA

The Epilepsy Centre is a professional organisation providing services to people living with epilepsy and improving community awareness and attitudes throughout SA & NT. The Epilepsy Centre is

dedicated to providing high quality information, advice, support, training, counselling and practical assistance and advocacy on behalf of people with epilepsy

This project aims to assist in job-readiness and employment for adolescents with epilepsy. It uses multi-faceted approach to provide adolescent epilepsy sufferers with the relevant and necessary skills to secure work despite their epilepsy and will also seek prospective equal-opportunity employers willing to support these youths.

The Ted Noffs Foundation

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$10,000 in Canberra City, ACT

The Ted Noffs Foundation provide essential services for young people and their families who are experiencing drug and alcohol problems and related trauma..

The idea is to use custom motorcycle building as the initial engagement tool however as the bonding and rapport build with the young people, the time spent working on bikes will be used to open discussions on current issues that the young people face in their day to day lives. These young people who have become disengaged with school are managing 2-3 days at school.

Time for Kids Inc.

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$10,000 in Greater Adelaide, SA

Time for Kids provides services to children and young people with a need for nurture, care, social activities and role models that their birth families are currently not able to provide.

This funding will support a vocationally-based mentoring pilot, matching up to 10 teenagers from the northern area of Adelaide with vocational leaders from the region. These mentoring relationships will model and promote positive vocational aspiration in an area of high inter-generational unemployment and poor educational attainment.

Toogoolawa Schools Limited

Project Category: AccessToTechnology
Funded: \$10,000 in ORMEAU, QLD

Toogoolawa School caters for boys aged 9 to 15 years that can no longer attend mainstream school due to behaviour problems and or learning difficulties. Our main goal at Toogoolawa is to teach the boys enough social and academic skills to survive in the real world.

The funding will support "Technical Learners" who find hands on learning more beneficial than writing or board work. The computers we have at our school are out dated and it would increase learning capability to have some Ipads and laptops for the boys to further engage them in teaching practices.

Top Blokes Foundation

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$10,000 in Illawarra, NSW

The Top Blokes Foundation is a youth-led organisation that tackles the anti-social and risk-taking behaviour of at-risk young men aged 14-24. Through our peer-led volunteer and mentoring programs, young men develop positive decision-making skills, improve their emotional resilience, mental health. become and develop personal qualities of integrity and self-respect.

The grant will help fund an early intervention 10-week peer-mentoring program targeting at-risk 14-17 year old males in high schools. Facilitated by male youth workers aged under 30, the interactive workshops cover: Risk Taking, Peer Pressure, Mental Health, Respectful Relationships, Cyber Bullying and Online Consequences, Alcohol/Drugs, Porn, Anger Management and Leadership.

Twentieth Man Fund Inc.

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$10,000 in Footscray, VIC

Since 1984 20th Man Fund has been providing educational, sporting and counselling programs and services to youth in Melbourne's western suburbs to help link young people to education, training and employment opportunities.

The Back To School Program will be supported by the Optus grant helping young people in financial difficulty to stay in school or attend university. Funds are used to provide text books and stationery.

UCA - Parramatta Mission

Project Category: Access To Technology
Funded: \$8,373 in Parramatta, NSW

Parramatta Mission is a provider of community services, mental health support and social housing in Western Sydney, running over 70 community programs that target the most disadvantaged people in the region.

The funding will equip the residential facilities with computers, printers, software, broadband Internet and accessories. Volunteers from Eli Lily will meet regularly with the disadvantaged young people assisted through these services to offer mentoring and computer skills training.

Western Chances

Project Category: Education
Funded: \$9,900 in St Albans, VIC

Based in Melbourne's western suburbs and operating since 2003, Western Chances provides opportunity programs and ongoing support to talented young people whose financial, social or cultural circumstances prevent them from accessing educational and career opportunities and fulfilling their potential.

The funding supports new laptops for talented but disadvantaged young people who are eligible for support through our successful Scholarship Program. Laptops are an essential learning and communication tool and enable young people to participate fully in education and be connected to our supportive network.

Youth Advocacy Centre Inc

Project Category: Wellbeing
Funded: \$3,000 in Wilston, QLD

Youth Advocacy Centre's (YAC) experienced lawyers and youth/family workers assist almost 500 Brisbane young people annually with legal issues in criminal and child protection law. YAC works directly with young people, seeking to divert them from a path of disadvantage and towards a path where they can actively contribute to society.

The grant will purchase an interactive whiteboard to offer greater access to legal advice for young people in regional Queensland. One of YAC's key objectives is to provide legal information/training to young people and those working with them to enable young people and workers to better understand the law and legal system as it affects them by providing information in an understandable way can assist in preventing young people from becoming involved in the youth justice and broader criminal justice system.