

10 December 2014

R.M. Ansett Trust gives \$270,000 for children and youth

The charitable trust established by Sir Reginald Ansett has announced grants for 2014 to the total of \$270,000.

The R.M. Ansett Trust has awarded grants to a range of charities designed to support children and youth in Victoria including Down Syndrome Victoria, Melbourne City Mission and Anglicare Victoria.

The major grant of \$100,000 for MacKillop Family Services will fund a program that supports Aboriginal youth in residential care to form positive connections to their traditional community and identify with their extended family, community and culture.

Micaela Cronin, CEO of MacKillop Family Services, remarked that it is very important for all children to know where they came from, their background and their cultural heritage.

"This is of particular importance for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. The opportunity from the R.M. Ansett Trust will allow MacKillop Family Services, in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA), to pilot a model of 'Connection to Country' which we believe has the potential to become a model of best practice for non-Aboriginal organisations when caring for Aboriginal children."

"Equity Trustees is honoured to oversee the R.M. Ansett Trust," said Tabitha Lovett, General Manager, Philanthropy. "We are very pleased to provide funding for seven projects this year which will assist children and young people across Victoria in a variety of ways."

"We hope that these grants will make a positive difference to the lives of many children and young people. To demonstrate, Anglicare Victoria's 'TEACHaR program' provides practical one-on-one support for children in out-of-home care to improve their educational outcomes. The program works with children in their home or classroom and also provides supports to carers, schools and teachers."

Other grants have been awarded to:

- Melbourne City Mission for youth mentoring.
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services for a pilot project with two playgroups in the Bendigo region for mothers who are newly-arrived migrants and their children.
- Karingal Inc for a program designed to develop leadership and employability skills for disadvantaged youths in the Geelong suburbs of Norlane and Corio.
- Bairnsdale Youth Development Orchestra for a community-initiated music and social development program to give children in Bairnsdale the opportunity to learning to play a musical instrument, sing and be part of an orchestra and choir.
- Down Syndrome Victoria for a classroom-based program that will support the inclusion of children with Down Syndrome in mainstream schools.

Equity Trustees Media Release



Background

Sir Reginald Myles Ansett (1909-1981) was a well-known Australian businessman, aviator and philanthropist who was best known for founding Ansett Airlines. The R.M. Ansett Trust was established through his will with the aim of “assisting children to take their place in life”. The Trust has a grants program and funds social equity scholarships at three independent schools in addition to a student who studies aviation at Swinburne University.

Equity Trustees currently manages more than 450 charitable trusts which will distribute close to \$100 million to charities by the end of 2014. The R.M. Ansett Trust distributes approximately \$1 million annually through grants and scholarships. Equity Trustees is the sole trustee of the R.M. Ansett Trust.

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Carolyn Munckton

Philanthropy Development Manager

Equity Trustees Limited

Websites: www.eqt.com.au or www.ansett-trust.org.au

Phone: (03) 8623 5258

Mobile: 0407 874 393