

24 January 2012

Reg Ansett's Trust to help Victorian children

The R.M. Ansett Trust, one of the most substantial perpetual philanthropic trusts in Victoria, has announced grants of \$910,000 in the form of donations and scholarships to charitable causes that help children.

The Trust announced its first distributions in 2010 and was set up earlier with a significant portion of Sir Reginald Ansett's estate. He directed that the income from his Trust is to be devoted to charity in Victoria, with some preference given to charities which will assist "children to take their place in life" and to the Peninsula School and Toorak College.

The R.M. Ansett Trust has a current capital value of over \$36 million and distributes grants annually, largely through discretionary or signature grants. Equity Trustees Limited is the sole trustee and manager of the R.M. Ansett Trust.

In keeping with Sir Reginald's intention, the Trust provides six-year scholarships at the Peninsula School, Toorak College, and the Hamilton & Alexander College; three year scholarships for public school students (years 10-12); and a Bachelor of Aviation scholarship at Swinburne University, as well as the signature and discretionary grants.

The most recent discretionary grants made total \$300,000 and include grants to: Autism Spectrum Australia (helping children in Melbourne with autism to gain the skills to manage their disability); the Household Disaster Relief Fund (supporting women and children escaping domestic violence); the Australian Red Cross's RAY program (providing recreational and academic support to the children of refugees and asylum seekers); and Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care (providing a safe environment for children with drug abuse problems). (See attached list for full details).

The signature grants, also totalling \$300,000, focus on projects which assist children in residential, foster and kinship care to connect with their community.

The largest signature grant of \$100,000 was awarded to St Luke's Anglicare, which provides out-of-home care for children who are unable to live with their families. The grant will be used in a project that will help children, particularly those who are on statutory orders, return to mainstream schooling and complete their education.

In 2012, the Trust will also distribute almost \$300,000 in scholarships and this figure will continue to increase as new scholarships are awarded each year.

Ms Tabitha Lovett, head of philanthropy at Equity Trustees, said that the trustees had identified the need for greater funding to be directed towards projects assisting children in state care and the child protection system.

"In Victoria approximately 5,000 children are living in foster care, statutory kinship care or residential care on any given night. Each year we call for project proposals from the residential care providers in Victoria and are assisted by the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner to review the applications.

EQT Media Release

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“We are delighted that Sir Reginald’s Trust is able to fund projects which improve the support and protection of these vulnerable young Victorians.”

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