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| Investing in Women Grassroots Grant Program |
| Successful applicants |
| OFFICIAL |

| **Organisation** | **Project description** | **Amount (excl. GST)** | **Location**  |
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| The Portsea Camp | The Happy Vibes Mentor program and three-day adventure camps will support 100 girls aged 8-12 and 13-17. These programs will be held during Women's Health Week in September 2023, focusing on empowering young women by building self-esteem, breaking down barriers related to body image and self-worth, and encouraging them to define success based on their own passions and purpose. The mentor relationships aim to help girls "Be their own kind of Beautiful." This initiative extends the camp's existing work in promoting well-being through nature. After attending the camps, girls seeking ongoing support will be matched with inspirational female mentors for 12 months. They will set goals and receive mentored support throughout the year. Statistics reveal that 38% of teenage girls have diagnosed anxiety disorders compared to 26% of boys. Mood disorders are more prevalent among girls, and 46% of girls worry about their body image compared to 25% of boys. Additionally, 80% of Australian women are dissatisfied with their bodies to some extent. While 73% of girls participate in organised sports at least once a year, regular participation drops to 21%. Women tend to engage in lower-intensity activities like walking or gym workouts, resulting in reduced health benefits and disease reduction by up to 25% compared to men. Gender disparities persist, with a national gender pay gap of 13.3%, underrepresentation of women on boards and in executive positions. Through the Happy Vibes Mentor program and adventure camps, efforts are made to empower and uplift young girls, addressing their unique challenges and promoting their wellbeing and success. | $10,000.00 | Mornington Peninsula |
| Africare Community Services Inc. | TechVantage is a six-month project empowering migrant African women in Victoria to achieve their goals. It offers digital literacy training, including computer skills, internet usage, social media, and online safety. Workshops and community events address barriers to labour market participation, covering resume writing, job search, interviews, and entrepreneurship. The project aims to equip women with the skills and knowledge needed for job market success and entrepreneurship, increasing their economic participation and access to opportunities. | $9,200.00 | Wodonga |
| Bakhtar Cultural & Publishing Association Inc | Bakhtar will host fortnightly workshops for CALD Afghan women, focusing on their rights, career progression, computer literacy, and cultural integration in Australia. These sensitive workshops aim to address issues such as domestic violence and workplace harassment. We prioritise creating a safe space for vulnerable women to share their experiences. Our partnerships with organisations like White Ribbon, Victoria Police, PRD Legal, and AMES enable us to provide culturally appropriate advice and work placements. With guest speakers from the legal and recruitment sectors, we aim to empower and protect Afghan women in their new home. | $10,000.00 | Casey |
| Bruh Tesfa Ethiopian Youth and Parents Association | The project aims to improve digital literacy among disadvantaged women in the Tigray community, enabling them to fully participate in community life and access important information. Funding is sought to provide digital technology training to 40 families, including the purchase of equipment and materials. The project will facilitate participation in updates, information sessions, and messaging platforms, as well as provide community updates in their languages. Expenses include laptops, a data projector, a printer, incentives for youth trainers, and costs for information sessions. | $7,150.00 | Maribyrnong |
| Women's Empowerment and Leadership Community Incorporation | The SHE Initiative, planned by our association, aims to enhance community connection, social inclusion, and resilience among women in the City of Casey. The initiative consists of two programs: StudioC and SHE Seminars. StudioC offers therapeutic art workshops for women with disabilities, while SHE Seminars provides knowledge and skills development sessions to empower women in their wellbeing, family life, and social life. The programs are designed to create a safe and supportive space for women of all abilities and backgrounds to connect and learn. We prioritise inclusivity by providing accessible venues, accommodating diverse needs, and collecting feedback from participants for continuous improvement. | $10,000.00 | Casey |
| House of Persia Community and Cultural Centre | This project aims to enhance the mental health and physical wellbeing of senior Iranian women in the community. It builds on previous initiatives by House of Persia and focuses on upskilling these women in essential life skills. The project includes meditation, yoga, digital technology training, and art/culture appreciation. Through tailored information sessions and excursions to cultural sites, senior Iranian women will be empowered to engage with the broader community, building confidence and overcoming psychological barriers to social engagement. | $8,000.00 | Manningham |
| THE BOITE (VIC) INC | "Bold and Brilliant: Contemporary Indian Women Musicians Celebrating Heritage and Experimentation," aims to showcase the talents of six female Indian musicians at the Abbotsford Convent in the City of Yarra. These musicians face discrimination and barriers in the music industry, and we seek to challenge stereotypes and create more opportunities for their voices to be heard. By supporting them, we celebrate the diversity and creativity of Indian music and culture and foster cross-cultural collaboration. The event also serves as inspiration for aspiring musicians, particularly young women and girls. Additionally, we address the lack of opportunities and social cohesion between Indians and Australians. With our experience in staging large-scale events, we aim to attract a diverse audience, including women, and promote intercultural engagement and appreciation. | $10,000.00 | Yarra |
| Space2b Social Design | Up and Away is a project that aims to empower vulnerable CALD migrant women by offering work and training opportunities, supporting their entrepreneurial initiatives, and fostering connections and community building between CALD individuals and locals. The project recognises the challenges faced by newly arrived migrant women, such as unemployment and language and cultural barriers, and seeks to invest in their early settlement stages to promote independence and participation. Up and Away is guided by principles of independence, collaboration, and self-reliance. | $10,000.00 | Port Phillip |
| Multicultural Association of Community Empowerment | The Women's Network in the City of Melton aims to address gender inequality among Indian women by focusing on economic empowerment, education, social connection, and wellbeing. The project will support women-led businesses and entrepreneurs through workshops, business coaching, and education and training support. | $10,000.00 | Melton |
| Bonnie Doon Football and Netball Club Inc | This proposal aims to implement The 3Ls Project: Learning, Leadership, Lifestyle, an accredited professional development and mentoring plan. The project focuses on empowering women of all backgrounds to improve their skills and become leaders through netball. Participants will receive training to become team captains, coaches, umpires, and join the management committee of the Bonnie Doon Football Netball Club Inc. The program also promotes learning in management and governance, encourages women's involvement in traditionally male-dominated roles, and supports improved health, volunteering, and social connections. The online modules cater to the rural community's accessibility challenges. | $7,630.00 | Mansfield |
| Women in North Richmond Inc | This project involves engaging an experienced Event Coordinator and six local girls to organise the Festival of Women-Youth in Sport event on the North Richmond Housing Estate. The girls will receive training in event planning, sustainability stewardship, coordination, and marketing. The aim is to include three girls from the Melbourne Indigenous Transition Program (MITS) and three from the Richmond Youth Hub. The mentoring program consists of 20 sessions led by coordinators, with a paid coordinator overseeing the program until the event in March 2024. The project aligns with various pillars, including cultural change, health and wellbeing, respect, upskilling, mentoring, community participation, and inclusion. The event will celebrate the diversity and intersectionality of women, youth, and non-binary individuals of all ages. | $9,800.00 | Yarra |
| Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network Inc. (RIMERN) | Homewares for Her Secure Home supports vulnerable women in the Melbourne metropolitan area who have experienced various hardships. The project aims to help these women turn their affordable rentals into secure and comfortable homes by providing them with necessary household items. It promotes safety, respect, and cultural change by allowing women to choose their homewares and furnishing their homes to their taste. The project specifically assists indigenous clients, homeless individuals referred by organizations like Launch Housing and Melbourne City Mission, and refugee women referred by associations such as the Somali Women's Development Association. Additionally, the project offers volunteering opportunities for local women with Mutual Obligation Requirements, providing a supportive and inclusive workplace that enhances skills and employment prospects. | $10,000.00 | Moreland |
| Fijian Community Association Victoria Incorporation | The project is a one-day event in September aimed at women and those who identify as women aged 12 and over. It celebrates and supports Fijian and other Pasifika women in the community. The event features a high tea with a panel of successful Pasifika women in male-dominated roles, showcases Pasifika women-led businesses, and includes a fashion show promoting positive body image. Female entrepreneurs and businesswomen can advertise and sell their products at the event. Workshops will be available, including talks by Pasifika medical professionals on women's health issues specific to the Pasifika community. | $10,000.00 | Monash |
| East African Women's Foundation | The East African Women's Foundation is a grassroots organisation supporting Somali women and their families in Victoria. Our focus is on improving women's health, economic prospects, and overall well-being, as well as promoting leadership and agency. We have established the Ilays Community Heritage Centre, a community hub in Braybrook, offering support, health activities, mentoring, and training opportunities. To launch Ilays and highlight the accomplishments of Somali women in Victoria, we will organise an event that provides a platform for sharing their journeys with both Somali and non-Somali communities. The event aims to inspire Somali women, expand their aspirations, and celebrate achievements in various fields. By challenging self-limiting beliefs, we hope to encourage diverse goals and foster community support for women and girls in all aspects of life. | $10,000.00 | Maribyrnong |
| Nepalese Neighbourhood Community Incorporated | Our project aims to empower women and girls in our community by addressing gender disparities and promoting leadership. We will provide resources, training, and opportunities to improve their skills and livelihoods. Activities will include awareness sessions, workshops, and mentoring sessions to foster empowerment and community development. Participants will have the chance to share experiences and build a supportive network. | $10,000.00 | Whittlesea |
| Bhutanese Community in Australia Inc | The "Let Women Rise" project empowers Bhutanese women to overcome gender inequality and discrimination by taking on leadership roles and participating in community activities. It aims to support their progression into decision-making positions, reduce discrimination and violence, and raise awareness of women's rights. The project consists of two categories: a Women Empowerment Forum providing training and skill development, and an Awareness Program addressing discrimination and family violence. Partnerships with community organisations and support networks will aid in project implementation. The project addresses the unique challenges faced by Bhutanese women in Australia, including cultural barriers and lack of access to services. | $10,000.00 | Moreland |
| Karuna Compassion in Action | Our refugee women's empowerment project collaborates with local community organisations and healthcare providers to create a safe and nurturing environment for women. We aim to boost their confidence, explore their identities, and improve their overall well-being through education, social welfare, and health initiatives. Our bilingual volunteers will facilitate workshops and training sessions, providing translated resources and information. We also offer a community space and transportation for easy access. Our project focuses on reducing barriers to employment, community engagement, and social services, empowering women to develop life skills, access education and healthcare, and participate in community activities. | $9,045.00 | Wyndham |
| Tyntyndyer Homestead Inc | The Tyntyndyer Homestead Inc Traditional Owners Board, an all-women's board, manages the Tyntyndyer Homestead site of cultural and historic significance. They seek support for reintroducing cultural digging stick farming to preserve culture and revitalise the site. This project aims to strengthen women's cultural knowledge and wellbeing, drawing inspiration from the successful 'Yam Paddock Project' led by La Trobe University and Dja Dja Wurrung. The project has proven to improve mental health, build confidence, strengthen relationships, and facilitate intergenerational teaching among participants. | $9,278.00 | Swan Hill |
| SisterWorks Incorporated | SisterWorks empowers migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker women through skills training and work opportunities. The Mobile Hub initiative extends their services to areas with limited access. The project aims to establish a Mobile Hub in Wodonga, offering advanced sewing classes and small business training to enhance economic self-sufficiency. With 90% of Sisters currently unemployed and 80% aged 22-50, providing a space for skill development and confidence-building is crucial to positively impact their lives. | $10,000.00 | Wodonga |
| Australian Chaldean Family Welfare | Our project aims to create a supportive environment for young women by engaging them in teen-friendly activities such as sports, music, and art. Through these activities, we will provide information and education on financial literacy, addressing their specific concerns and knowledge gaps. In our community, women are often expected to rely on men for financial management, but we want to empower women to achieve financial independence. Additionally, our project aims to address other challenges faced by young women, including limited social connections, low resilience, educational barriers, job access issues, and high levels of anxiety. By focusing on financial literacy, we will tackle these issues in a coordinated and comprehensive manner to help young women become fully contributing members of society. | $4,995.00 | Hume |
| Housing for the Aged Action Group | We will work with a group of older women from diverse backgrounds (cis-gendered, transgendered, gender diverse, non-binary and intersex, culturally and linguistically diverse, lesbian and bisexual women) to develop a series of digital stories about their experiences of housing stress and homelessness. Through the creation and sharing of these stories, HAAG would strengthen the capacity and skills of the people involved; increase HAAG?s involvement with diverse communities (eg LGBTIQA+, CALD); and assist older women at risk of homelessness to access support before they reach a crisis point. The digital stories will then be used to help change community understanding of older women’s experiences of housing stress and homelessness. | $10,000.00 | Melbourne |
| Women's Health Loddon Mallee | Good sexual and reproductive health is important for women’s general health and wellbeing. Sexual and reproductive health is not only about physical wellbeing - it includes the right to healthy and respectful relationships, health services that are inclusive, safe, and appropriate, access to accurate information, effective and affordable methods of contraception and access to timely support and services in relation to unintended pregnancy. Migrant and refugee women are well placed to improve their sexual and reproductive health through preventative health education. Accessing culturally and linguistically appropriate sexual and reproductive health messages in language can empower individuals to make informed decisions about their own bodies and relationships. Accurate and comprehensive information provided through easily accessible platforms enables individuals to understand their bodies and rights, make choices that align with their values, and establish healthy boundaries. This can lead to reduced instances of unintended pregnancies, STIs, and sexual violence. Furthermore, electronic mediums have the potential to reach a wide audience, including but not limited to young people, who are particularly vulnerable to misinformation and risky behaviours. By using language that is accessible, culturally appropriate, non-judgmental, and inclusive, the media can educate and guide people towards responsible sexual and reproductive health practices. This can have a lasting impact on their lives, helping them navigate relationships, prevent health risks, and promote positive attitudes towards sexuality. By promoting accurate health information, breaking down barriers, and empowering individuals, the resources in language can contribute to a society that values and prioritises sexual and reproductive wellbeing. | $10,000.00 | Greater Bendigo |
| Manna Gum Community House Inc | Women with young children and other women who have previously attended an education Hub funded by Adult Community Further Education (ACFE) have expressed an interest to continue meeting once a week to engage in activities together that promote good health and wellbeing. Now that the ACFE funded program has concluded, we would like to sustain the strong engagement these marginalised women have as a group and support their health and wellbeing. The group would continue to meet once a week and engage in activities such as yoga, dance and meditation to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing. Toora is a small rural town in South Gippsland that services people living both in the town and surrounding farms. Lack of access to public transport, internet, children’s services such as playgroups or childcare and family friendly fitness activities exacerbate feelings of isolation for women with young children living in small remote towns. The women have identified the benefits of socially engaging in activities to promote health and wellbeing. They wish to be able to meet with their children who can either play together, or participate when appropriate. In response, Manna Gum Community House has co-designed a new program that aims to engage the women in the activities they have chosen. Manna Gum Community House will provide two staff members to organise the group, supervise the pre-schoolers and will fund the catering. This Grass Roots grant will enable funding for specialised facilitators to run a 24-week health and wellbeing program. Toora Primary School will provide access to their recreation stadium for the sessions. | $2,950.00 | South Gippsland |
| ClimbingQTs | PROJECT TITLE: Womens' Outdoor Wellness Project ABOUT US: ClimbingQTs is an LGBTIQ+ friendly social climbing club and advocacy group, founded in 2018. We host social indoor climbing events for all abilities, guided outdoor trips, multi-day adventures, climbing clinics and education workshops for LGBTQ+ folk and allies alike. At the heart of ClimbingQTs values is creating an inclusive, diverse and empowering environment where LGBTIQ+ folk can be their true selves, learn new skills, participate in active social sport and connect with the outdoors. Find out more: https://www.climbingqts.com/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/climbingqts/ Past projects: https://www.climbingqts.com/news THE PROJECT: ClimbingQTs recognised that cisgender and disproportionately, transgender women are an underrepresented gender identity in the outdoors community. Tackling this issue, this project aims to create a space for women to find a sense of belonging in nature-based activities, in the outdoors and in active spaces. This project will begin production in October 2023. Delivery of the one week program will take place in the month of February 2024. According to the most recent Natimuk Town Profile (report written by the West Wimmera Health Service) over 50% of women are statistically ‘overweight’ and 36.1% of female adults are living with anxiety or depression. The profile highlighted the areas most in need of improvement for Horsham Rural City Council to be: increased education on gender equality and more mental health services. Findings reported the priorities for Natimuk to be: active living and social connection. Responding to these priorities, ClimbingQTs will curate a one-week program of events, workshops and activities taking place in the rural Victorian town of Natimuk delivered entirely by and for women, focusing on the outdoors, connecting with nature and physical activity. DEFINITION: Our definition of women includes trans and gender diverse and cisgender women. This project welcomes and celebrates the contribution of women and anyone who, like us, is committed to challenging the cis-tem and going beyond the binary. INCLUSION: ClimbingQTs will provide one free 2-hour LGBTIQ+ Ally Training session valued at $900 to all facilitators, speakers, mentors and guides involved in the project to ensure an all inclusive experience for attendees. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: In acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners where this project will be delivered, the five Aboriginal clans; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jadawadjali and Jaadwa peoples, a donation of $1,000 will be made to Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative at the expense of the applicant (ClimbingQTs). Goolum Goolum has been notified of the project and is currently in discussion with Riley Edwards to ensure a reconciliation led approach is prioritised to deliver the project. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: support women to achieve good physical and mental health This project will employ three strategies to encourage and support women to participate in this project and meet the primary objective: 1. Providing peer-mentoring, role model and leadership opportunities. 2. Creating safe and inclusive spaces for all women. 3. Providing ‘stepping stones’ into outdoors, nature-based and active spaces. All activities are either currently being delivered or have previously been delivered in Natimuk. The intention of this project is to curate existing activities into a program and environment that is safe and inclusive, with a particular focus on women with intersectional identities such as LGBTQ+ women, women of colour, mothers, parents and guardians and women living with disability. Rather than introducing new activities, by curating existing activities this project will ensure participating women will have the opportunity to continue engagement in an activity they enjoyed or tried for the first time and are interested in further exploring. For example, if an attendee enjoys the aerial silks class they will be able to continue attending classes with Bec Hopkins at ArapilesFlow Movement Studio; or if an attendee enjoys learning circus tricks, they may consider joining Wobbly Spoon’s weekly circus jam sessions in Natimuk. This approach to program curation will better support the primary objective by providing women with ongoing opportunities for participation once this project has been delivered for long-term positive mental and physical health and wellbeing outcomes. Curated into the program is also a welcome and closing event as well as reflection sessions hosted at the Natimuk Cafe. Free time in the schedule will intentionally be allocated to allow for participants to connect, network and share as well as explore Dyuritte (Mount Arapiles) located in Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park (10 minutes drive from Natimuk) in their own time. | $10,000.00 | Horsham |
| Carringbush Adult Education | Women Behind the Wheel (WBTW) is a driver education program that empowers marginalised CALD women to obtain their driver's license, enhancing their independence and opportunities. The six-part program includes language, literacy, and numeracy sessions, along with individual education sessions from Victoria Police, Victoria Legal Aid, and the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Financial Counselling Team. Child-minding and interpreters are available for support. Participating women receive vouchers for five funded driving lessons to overcome financial barriers, with culturally appropriate instructors delivering lessons in community languages. | $9,000.00 | Yarra |
| STEM SISTERS | Women are underrepresented in Australia's STEM workforce, with only 16% overall and 56% of STEM-qualified women being born outside the country. School-level participation in STEM is low, with boys outnumbering girls in physics and mathematics. To address this, a project called "The Future Me" aims to encourage diverse and multicultural children, particularly girls, to pursue STEM subjects. It introduces them to diverse STEM career opportunities through a comic book series, STEM workshops, and a Soapbox Science event where remarkable women share their stories and provide inspiration and advice. This project aims to expand the definition and image of scientists, promote diversity in STEM, and reinforce girls' STEM identity from an early age. | $10,000.00 | Melbourne |
| Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc | Koach aims to empower girls in the religious Jewish community (Adass and Chabad) through workshops focused on health and wellbeing. Topics, such as body positivity, stress management, and relationship skills, will be determined in consultation with the target audience. | $7,000.00 | Port Phillip |
| Anchor Community Care Ltd | The Heart Through Art Project aims to support creative expression and foster a sense of safety and connection among young people overcoming homelessness at the Lilydale Foyer Program. Female and non-binary artists will conduct workshops exploring the impact of gender stereotypes and envisioning future communities. The project includes workshops on Wurundjeri culture, creative art therapy sessions facilitated by a female identifying arts therapist, and photography sessions documenting gendered experiences. The project will conclude with a community exhibition to showcase the participants' work and promote civic participation. | $10,000.00 | Yarra Ranges |
| Ngwala Willumbong | Ngwala's Women's Gathering Day event is a significant initiative that promotes the health, wellbeing, and empowerment of Aboriginal women. It provides a culturally safe space for Aboriginal women to come together, share stories, and address issues related to their health and empowerment. The event features workshops, discussions, and activities to promote healing, reduce social isolation, and improve mental health outcomes. It will include guest speakers, cultural workshops, and stalls from health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to support women's health and wellbeing needs. Ngwala ensures cultural safety and trauma-informed care, and provides transportation for attendees. The event concludes with a closing ceremony, leaving participants inspired and connected. | $10,000.00 | Darebin |
| Women's Health Victoria Inc | 'In My Prime' addresses barriers faced by older women by providing tailored health and wellbeing information and promoting positive role models. Older women represent a growing demographic, yet their needs are often overlooked in public life and healthcare. The project aims to meet the demand for high-quality information and realistic images that reflect the diversity and normal changes associated with aging. The initiative includes an online resource featuring diverse older women and relevant health information. The grant will fund a public exhibition of nude photographs taken by Ponch Hawkes, showcasing the beauty and strength of women over 50. | $10,000.00 | Melbourne |
| Whittlesea Community Connections | Sing for Health is a collaboration between Women's Health in the North (WHIN) and Mernda Community House. It aims to enhance women's well-being and knowledge of significant health issues through health information sessions and the formation of an inclusive community singing group. The program addresses gender bias in the health system and supports women in advocating for their own health. The sessions will include presentations from WHIN and other health providers, and will conclude with group singing led by a choir instructor to promote well-being and solidarity among the participants. | $10,000.00 | Whittlesea |
| Gippsland Women's Health | Gippsland Women's Health (GWH) and Gippsland sub-regional Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) committees are partnering to support a pop-up photo event called "Big Picture" facilitated by PollyannaR. The event, themed "Respect is...," is part of the Let's Chat campaign, Gippsland's response to the 16 Days of Activism. The project aims to connect the community to the theme of respect through photography. The "Big Picture" events will take place in five Gippsland Local Government Areas (LGAs) from November 25 to December 10. The initiative is aligned with Let's Chat, a community-based campaign focused on the prevention of violence against women through conversations and real change. | $7,000.00 | Wellington |
| Regional Runways Incorporated | Regional Runways aims to promote community health and engagement through art-focused workshops, specifically targeting marginalised women in Geelong, including refugees and migrant communities. These workshops, such as painting or embroidery, aim to improve mental health and foster a sense of belonging. Additionally, Regional Runways recognises the need for financial literacy among young women and plans to provide workshops that instill money management skills and build financial confidence. By combining these efforts, Regional Runways seeks to create an inclusive community where women and girls from diverse backgrounds feel supported, empowered, and capable of achieving financial independence. | $10,000.00 | Greater Geelong |
| Council of Single Mothers and their Children | Single mother families are struggling to secure affordable, appropriate and secure housing in the current rental and homeowners market. With historically low vacancy rates for rental properties, a severe lack of public housing and significant financial barriers to home ownership, single mother families are facing a critical and burgeoning housing crisis. As single income families affected by gender inequity such as lower wages, disproportionate unpaid care responsibilities and negative societal attitudes to single mothers, the situation is compounded by intersecting issues. More and more women are facing realities such as living with their children in cars and tents, which is an entirely unacceptable outcome for these families. Innovative thinking and practical solutions are urgently needed to assist single mothers to navigate the current market, as longer term solutions funded and delivered by governments and private and public sector partners will take some years to start to be delivered, and a shortfall in housing stock will remain for foreseeable future. This project will deliver a 'Single Mothers Survive and Thrive Guide' on housing through a number of consultative processes. Two forums will be held to develop innovative responses to the critical reality facing single mothers today. One will focus on renting, and will be delivered with Tenants Victoria. It will consider current solutions, such as sharing houses with other single mothers and moving to regional areas, and their pitfalls, barriers such as discrimination by real estate agents, and seek new solutions. The second forum will consider home ownership, and we will work with Ys Housing to consider such responses as shared equity, and the barriers that remain even when such options exist (such as saving a deposit of any size and securing finance). Responses from the forums collated with research and supportive material to develop a Single Mothers' Survive and Thrive Guide on housing, which we hope to be the first in a series. The guide will be available in digital format, to be distributed to single mothers, initially through our 5200 members and our networks such as the Women's Housing Alliance, and also to relevant partners such as the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. Key learnings will also be incorporated into our existing Self Advocacy Toolkit. | $7,750.00 | Melbourne |
| Juno | Powering Future Choices is a peer education project providing information and support to women and non-binary individuals at risk of housing or financial crisis. The workshops address homelessness among older women and educate attendees on housing, money, family violence, and wellbeing. The project, led by five women with lived experience, has successfully delivered over 35 workshops to 200+ participants. This grant would fund 10 additional workshops, both in-person and online, reaching an estimated 100 attendees and enabling the peer educators to continue their work in paid positions. | $10,000.00 | Darebin |
| South East Community Links | Better for Everyone is a community-driven program focused on empowering isolated and at-risk Burmese Muslim women. The program uses a train-the-trainer model, where women receive training on key topics like healthy relationships, gender equality, and women's health. They are then supported to deliver similar workshops within their own families and communities, addressing gaps and improving outcomes. The program also aims to educate women on family violence prevention and involve men in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Additionally, INSPIRED BY YOU mentors will share their professional experiences to inspire and guide Burmese women and children. The collaboration between SECL and WHISE aims to foster gender equality and prevent family violence in culturally diverse communities. The project is expected to impact over 200 women, as well as 200 children and families, with pre and post-activity workshops conducted to measure the project's impact and changes. | $10,000.00 | Greater Dandenong |
| Regional Victorians of Colour Inc. | The Women of Colour Gather, Connect, Belong project aims to support women of colour in five regional/rural areas by improving mental health, reducing social isolation, and promoting gender equality. The project will engage newly arrived community members from various cultural backgrounds through self-care activities and conversations challenging gender stereotypes. Co-designed with women leaders, the project will host four smaller gatherings to foster connections and a larger community event to celebrate women's stories and achievements. The targeted LGAs include Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander Shire, Loddon Shire Councils, Swan Hill Rural City Council, and City of Greater Bendigo. | $9,360.00 | Greater Bendigo |
| Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly | The Active Girls Brunch invites female Year 8 students from 14 schools in our catchment area for a morning of interactive stations and keynote speakers. The event aims to encourage girls to stay active by showcasing local sports opportunities. Local athletes from various sports will run interactive stations for students to try in a safe environment. The students will also enjoy brunch while listening to a keynote speaker share their sport experiences. | $5,000.00 |  |
| Her Connection | The Her Connection events, known as 'Her Run,' are a series of running and walking activities aimed at providing health benefits and fostering meaningful relationships among young African mums/women. The program aims to address the challenges they face in balancing social, physical, and mental health. Fortnightly group runs or walks will be organised, accommodating diverse abilities and fitness levels. Each session will include a 30-minute 'Her Run' event followed by a casual coffee with special guests discussing various topics aligned with the Australian Yearly Health Calendar. The program runs from July 2023 to March 2024, concluding with an International Women's Day event to celebrate women's achievements and advocate for positive change. | $10,000.00 | Maribyrnong |
| WINE (Women In North East) Network Incorporated | 'Everything Girls Need to Know About Money' is a partnership project aimed at empowering and educating young women in the North East region of Victoria about financial literacy. The project is a collaboration between the Women In North East (WINE) Network and Annette Rose, a financial literacy expert. Targeted programs will be held in three local government areas, offering both in-person and online options. The project promotes inclusivity and cultural diversity, with a focus on reaching Aboriginal women. The program will be marketed through various channels, including the WINE Network's digital platforms and partner networks. Participant feedback will be collected to evaluate the program's impact. 'Everything Girls Need to Know About Money' provides a supportive environment for young women to build financial confidence, improve their overall well-being, and secure their economic futures. | $10,000.00 | Mansfield |
| Engage Pasefika Inc | The Pasefika Women's Health Equity Project aims to empower and support intergenerational women from the Pacific Island diaspora. The project provides culturally sensitive health literacy workshops and collaborates with community health stakeholders to create meaningful and safe spaces for Pacific Island women. By centering their voices, the project seeks to challenge negative gender norms, promote equitable health access, and align with the UN sustainable development goal of achieving gender equality. Ultimately, the project aims to enhance Pacific Island women's confidence, knowledge, and ability to access services for better health outcomes for themselves, their families, and their communities. | $10,000.00 | Hume |
| Not One More Niki, Inc. | "Pathways to Prosperity" is a digital-led mentoring program designed to empower culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women who are survivors of domestic violence. The program aims to support their journey to reclaiming their lives and reintegrating into the workforce. By providing tailored support, virtual mentoring, interactive workshops, and online resources, the program equips participants with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to thrive professionally. Mentors from diverse backgrounds offer personalised guidance and career insights, focusing on employability skills and cultural sensitivity. Participants also gain access to a digital platform for resources and peer connections. The program aims to overcome systemic barriers, celebrate cultural strengths, and facilitate successful employment transitions for CALD women, promoting gender equality, cultural diversity, and economic inclusion. | $10,000.00 | Kingston (Vic.) |
| LINE Wangaratta | LINE Wangaratta will organize a series of workshops for LGBTQIA+ women in north-east Victoria over a period of 6 months. The workshops will focus on various topics such as leadership, NFP governance, and facilitation skills, aiming to enhance knowledge, skills, connections, resilience, and confidence within a culturally safe and inclusive environment. The term 'women' in this project includes cis women, trans women, gender diverse individuals, and those with lived experience as women. | $10,000.00 | Wangaratta |
| Different Journeys | Different Journeys provides social inclusion and support for autistic people and their families and carers, largely through our peer support services and our inclusive program of events and activities all over Victoria. Through our lived experience and community feedback, we understand that autistic women, girls and gender-diverse people face a range of unique barriers. Diagnosis of autism in women is often late in life, resulting in systemic, life-long disadvantage to autistic women in employment, education, their personal and social lives. Many women fill caring roles, which impacts their ability to pursue their own goals and needs. These barriers also prevent women from engaging with Different Journeys' existing services, which are often male or child-dominated spaces due to the prevalence of male and child diagnosis compared to women. Our project will open the door for autistic women to access long term support through Different Journeys. Our project will provide holistic empowerment and accessibility for women by focusing on women's needs, wishes and leadership to design, carry out and evaluate our women's events. We will create a women's group for the project, focusing on women who are autistic or disabled, carers, LGBTQIA+, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or culturally diverse. Many of the women in our community have internalised views about what they "can't" do and which spaces they cannot access. Many have never held employment or viewed themselves as capable leaders. We will provide our women's group with training and peer support on gender and respect, their rights, wellbeing and safety, leadership, events management, stakeholder engagement, marketing and other skills to build their confidence and capability. Using these new skills, together our consultation group will plan & design our women's events, choose and establish our partners, build our marketing resources and plan for the events, and explore sustainable financing options. Our women's group will hold 2-3 events for autistic women, by autistic women, including post-event procedures, feedback and evaluation. These events will focus on peer support and creating a safe and empowering space for all women. We hope to provide a new way for autistic women who are not carers to enter the Different Journeys community as they first begin to explore their diagnosis, which will allow us to support them throughout their lives and their individual journeys. Finally, together we will use our learnings to establish a recurring, sustainable program of dedicated Different Journeys events and training to empower autistic women now and into the future. | $5,000.00 | Maroondah |

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