



BankSA Foundation 2021.

Helping to brighten the lives of people
experiencing disadvantage in our
local communities.



A message from the Chair.

This year, BankSA Foundation celebrated 80 years of supporting children and communities experiencing disadvantage in South Australia and the Northern Territory. It's a wonderful milestone and one we're incredibly proud of in what has been yet another extremely challenging year.

2021 has been a time of unprecedented social and economic uncertainty impacting people right across Australia. And while restrictions have been necessary to manage the ongoing health risks from COVID-19, the closure of critical mechanisms for referrals to support services, such as workplaces, schools, and other community organisations, has reduced access for those most in need.

Of particular concern has been job security, rising mental health challenges, family financial stress, domestic violence, increased drug and alcohol abuse and students from disadvantaged backgrounds falling significantly behind during prolonged periods of home-schooling, putting them at increased risk of disconnecting from their education.

In addition to our Community Grants, BankSA Foundation offered one-off grants as part of our 80th anniversary celebrations to help charities experiencing significant, ongoing challenges as a result of COVID-19, and recent natural disasters. Our 80-year Grants and Community Grants support small, local organisations to enable them to continue to deliver their critical programs while also transitioning to new ways of working - helping them to expand or

adapt to meet growing demand. We continue to be inspired by their hard work, unrelenting optimism and extraordinary outcomes, and we've been impressed by the speed at which some organisations have been able to implement digital platforms and remote service delivery. This has built organisational capacity and resilience that will endure long into the future.

We were also proud to see our Multi-Year Grant recipient, Operation Flinders Foundation's 8-Day Outback Intervention Program continue to go from strength to strength. Over a three year period, this funding is supporting more South Australian students to build their interpersonal skills, improve their self-esteem, their leadership skills, teamwork, motivation and responsibility - helping them to find purpose and transform their lives.

These past two years really have been extraordinary, and I'm so proud to reflect on the increased support we've provided to our local communities during the very toughest of times.

On behalf of everyone at BankSA Foundation, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support and generosity. For the past 80 years, together, we've been helping to brighten the lives of South Australian and Northern Territorian children and communities who need us most.

We look forward to the next 80 years.

Christine Parker
Chair, BankSA Foundation



A message from the Foundation.

When we began this year, we never could have imagined that it would once again be such a challenging time for so many. As in 2020, those challenges have been magnified for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The social and economic effects of COVID-19 continue to transform how we all live and work, and for many of our charity partners it has been their most difficult year yet. One marked by a further increase in need for their vital support services, unmatched by an increase in funding and resources.

It's during times like these, that the contribution BankSA Foundation makes is more important than ever – providing funding to support our charity partners to deliver their critical programs to help children and communities who are experiencing disadvantage. For their sake, it's imperative that we keep working together to create greater opportunities to help improve the lives of South Australians and Northern Territorians in need. With your support we have granted more than \$1.7 million dollars over the past 5 years and we look forward to continuing to back outstanding local charities.

As always, I've continued to be inspired by their extraordinary hard work and positivity and I'm enormously proud of the impact our combined efforts have had on the communities we've supported during the last 12 months and beyond. I'm also really proud to have been able to support more organisations, helping to build capacity and resilience and fund their ongoing work through our special 80-year grants as we marked 80 years of BankSA Foundation support in our local communities..

Everything we do is made possible through the generous support of BankSA Foundation's many donors, including bank customers and bank employees who donate via payroll giving, and strengthened through deep engagement with our community of stakeholders. We can't thank you enough for your contributions!

Olivia Thomas
Head of BankSA Foundation



About BankSA Foundation.

BankSA Foundation supports small local charities in South Australia and the Northern Territory to create a brighter future for people experiencing disadvantage.

With the help of our generous supporters, over the past five years, we have provided more than \$1.7 million in grants for projects that help people of all ages overcome their challenges and live better lives.

Bank employees began the Foundation in 1941 to support their workmates who were in the Armed Forces during World War II. 80 years on, we are proud to still stand with South Australians and Northern Territorians and serve our communities.

BankSA Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

80-Year Anniversary Grant.

This year, BankSA Foundation celebrated its 80-year anniversary.

To mark the milestone, BankSA Foundation offered one-off grants of up to \$10,000 to help eight worthy local charities support their communities.

These grants couldn't have come at a better time.

Since the COVID-19 crisis and recent natural disasters, the needs of South Australians have never been greater. Yet, many organisations have limited access to government funding to run their life-changing programs.

BankSA Foundation is proud to help build the capacity and resilience of charities, so they can keep supporting the vulnerable people who turn to them.





SPELD SA

Giving the life-changing gift of literacy.

Around one in ten Australians has a learning difficulty such as dyslexia. Without the right support, these children and adults can struggle to read and write and live to their full potential.

SPELD SA has been helping people overcome learning difficulties since 1969. This year, a BankSA Foundation anniversary grant supported their innovative literacy clinics and free workshops and resources – including for families in remote and rural areas.

Together with our generous supporters, we've helped SPELD SA bring the page to life for many more children and adults.

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Australian Lions Hearing Dogs (ALHD)

Bringing four-legged helpers to the hard of hearing.

One in six Australians live with some form of hearing loss, including the challenges of severe or profound deafness.

From their training facility in Verdun, ALHD trains hearing assistance dogs to support people across Australia who are deaf or hard of hearing. These wonderful dogs help their owners work, study, connect to others and live with more independence, safety, and confidence.

With the help of an anniversary grant, ALHD could train more life-changing furry companions for those in need this year.

These wonderful dogs help their owners work, study, connect to others and live with more independence, safety, and confidence.





HeartKids

Supporting young patients during COVID, and beyond.

Congenital heart disease is the most common condition affecting newborns in Australia – and sadly one of the deadliest.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions and border closures made life even harder for children with heart disease and their loved ones this year.

Thankfully, BankSA Foundation's anniversary grant allowed the national charity HeartKids to help more families impacted by congenital heart disease. This included extending their family support services, including to regional areas and for families travelling for lifesaving treatment.

That's helped families make the best decisions about their child's healthcare, kept them connected to their communities, and made life better for Australia's youngest heart patients during COVID-19.

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Encounter Youth

Helping SA's young people stay safe.

Encounter Youth is the largest provider of alcohol and drug education for high school students in South Australia.

Since 1999, they've been equipping young people with strategies to look after themselves and their mates especially during events such as Schoolies Festival at Victor Harbor and late nights in Hindley Street.

Every year, their evidence-based drug and alcohol education program helps teach a new generation of young people how to stay safe. Thanks to a BankSA Foundation anniversary grant, they could deliver their program to rural, regional and remote South Australilan communities.

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Lisa Fahey Foundation

Relief and support for families facing cancer.

Cancer treatment is stressful enough. But for many parents, there's the added worry of how they'll support their children while they're not working.

Someone who knew that well was Lisa Fahey, who was taken from her two children and husband in 2003 after a short battle with cancer. It was her wish that a foundation be formed in her name to bring financial support and kindness to parents facing cancer and hardship.

The Lisa Fahey Foundation has, in the past, provided financial assistance to over 300 families, and the BankSA Foundation anniversary grant will enable the Lisa Fahey Foundation to continue to assist more families – so they can focus on their fight against cancer.

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Flinders Foundation

Stopping childhood hearing loss in its tracks.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the highest levels of ear disease and hearing impairment in the world.

Flinders Foundation is supporting work to tackle this problem in South Australia's remote Ceduna region. Using a new portable testing device they can catch ear disease and hearing loss early – improving long-term outcomes.

The anniversary grant is already changing lives and helping children living in some of our most remote locations.

Using a new portable testing device they can catch ear disease and hearing loss early – improving long-term outcomes.



Dr Jacqueline Stephens - Researcher.



Talk Out Loud

Wellbeing support that's changing young lives.

Most of the young people who contact Talk Out Loud struggle with depression and despair and are disengaged from mainstream education.

Through peer sessions, empowerment camps, and activities such as yoga, meditation, and choir, Talk Out Loud helps them feel more hopeful, confident and connected to others.

With the help of a BankSA Foundation anniversary grant, Talk Out Loud could support the growing number of teenagers who are turning to them since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through peer sessions, empowerment camps, and activities such as yoga, meditation, and choir, Talk Out Loud helps young people feel more hopeful, confident and connected to others.



Youth Opportunities

Keeping young people strong through COVID-19.

Young people today face significant and complex challenges – including the impacts of COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic, the number of young people in Australia reporting serious emotional distress has increased.

Each year, Youth Opportunities helps around 2,000 vulnerable young people across South Australia overcome adversity and build more resilient futures. This year, their work was needed more than ever.

Thanks to a BankSA Foundation anniversary grant, Youth Opportunities reached more schools experiencing disadvantage across South Australia, giving more young people the skills to thrive through a challenging time.

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Multi-Year Grant.

With funding of up to \$150,000 over three years, BankSA Foundation aims to help smaller community organisations make a significant, long-lasting impact on people's lives.

The Multi-Year Grant was created to support local charity organisations to deliver, expand or trial a new project to support people experiencing physical, social, or economic disadvantage in South Australia or the Northern Territory.

The latest recipient of the Multi-Year Grant is Operation Flinders Foundation. Over three years, it will help them to pilot and develop a new Individual Referral Program to support an extension of this work – for the first-time accepting referrals from parents, family, carers, teachers, social and youth workers concerned about an individual's welfare. The funding will support the implementation and increased operational costs of the program as a result of the greater levels of case management required before, during and after.





Operation Flinders Foundation

Building better lives in the wild.

In 1991, teacher Pam Murray-White noticed that her students with behaviour problems often lacked direction, self-esteem, and good role modelling. However, she thought the outdoor training and team culture she'd experienced as an army officer could benefit them.

Her pioneering project grew into Operation Flinders – an eight-day outback intervention that has since helped more than 9,000 young people find purpose and transform their lives.

Over the last 30 years, a school or agency has nominated a team of up to 10 young people to participate in the life-changing wilderness trek.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the \$150,000 Multi-Year Grant, Operation Flinders has now piloted a program for individual youths. It means they can get one-on-one support on their journey and ongoing help to study, work, and build stronger lives afterwards.

This Multi-Year Grant is helping more young people across our community tackle their challenges and reach their full potential.

"Before Operation Flinders, I felt like I wasn't good enough; I was angry and didn't care for myself. Operation Flinders made me feel like I was worthy of success and released passion inside me to help others."

Program recipient.





Backpacks 4 SA Kids

Home comforts when they're needed most.

Escaping domestic violence is never easy or simple. Often, mums and kids must leave in a hurry or in secret. Many are unable to take anything with them and have no option but to rebuild their lives from scratch.

This is when a Home Starter Pack from Backpacks 4 SA Kids can be life-changing.

The packs are given to families fleeing domestic violence, so they'll have some basic items – and some home comforts – when they settle into a new place.

Each pack comes with bedding, pillows, and towels to make sure families are cosy and comfortable. In addition, there are essentials like cleaning supplies and stationery. But what often makes the most significant difference are the kitchen items – the pans, utensils, and crockery, which mean families can enjoy home-cooked meals again. Together, and in safety.

As the inaugural recipient of our Multi-Year Grant, Backpacks 4 SA Kids were able to provide Home Starter Packs to the families who need them most.

Since 2018 those packs have helped hundreds of families get back on their feet after escaping domestic violence.

"When we received the Home Starter Pack, I just cried. My baby had a quilt and gorgeous quilt cover, and so did I. I could cook us meals, and there were cleaning products to help me keep my house clean. All the items that helped make our house a home."

Home Starter Pack recipient and domestic violence survivor.



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Community Grants.

Local organisations are the unsung heroes of our communities. They're often small but mighty and supported by volunteers who work miracles with small budgets and receive little government support.

For the families and children they help, their services are truly essential. This is why BankSA Foundation has a Community Grants program to support grassroots organisations. In 2021, each grant of up to \$50,000 has been life-changing for people experiencing disadvantage in our communities.





Childhood Cancer Association

Helping families through their darkest time.

When the doctor told Chris his six-month-old son Thomas had cancer, he was heartbroken and terrified. For over two years, Thomas endured surgery, chemotherapy and endless tests – and Chris struggled with the constant fear he might lose his little boy.

In that time, Childhood Cancer Association was a light in the darkness. They provided sessions with professional psychologists who understood Chris' heartache and helped give him the strength to go on.

In 2021, a Community Grant of \$44,663 from BankSA Foundation helped fund 245 counselling sessions for other parents like him.

Nothing can take away the pain of watching a child struggle with childhood cancer. But thanks to our supporters, families like Chris' didn't face it alone.

They provided sessions with specialist psychologists who understood Chris' heartache and helped give him the strength to go on.



The Mill

Keeping creativity alive during COVID-19.

The pandemic has been especially hard for South Australia's creatives and artists. When festivals were cancelled, and arts venues closed, many lost their income and their sense of purpose.

The generosity of our partners helped keep artists connected and gave them opportunities to work and create, by providing a Community Grant of \$50,000 for Adelaide's creative hub, The Mill.

The grant helped fund workshops, exhibitions, residencies, and masterclasses. It also helped audiences interact with the arts in new and inspiring ways, to reunite the community and bring people in South Australia back together.

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The Sammy D Foundation

Better choices, brighter futures.

In 2008, the life of 17-year-old Sam Davis was tragically cut short. Sam fell victim to a one-punch attack. Following the devastating loss his parents founded the Sammy D Foundation, with the ultimate aim of providing skills to young people in order to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

The Sammy D Foundation teaches young people in South Australia how to stand up to bullying, say 'no' to violence, and make informed choices around drugs and alcohol.

Through workshops and storytelling, young people are taught how they can keep themselves and their friends safe, and how to make their school and community a better place.

A Community Grant of \$42,448 from BankSA Foundation helped roll the program out to an extra 25 schools in 2021 and positively impacted the lives of hundreds of young people.

"Thank you for the incredible work you do to impact our community positively. The stories will most definitely stay in all our minds. Although extremely heartbreaking, they helped us understand the tragic consequences of bullying and violence for individuals and their families."

Senior Studio Teacher,
PROSPECT NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Habitat for Humanity

A safe, stable place to call home.

There are nearly 200 homeless young people in the Murray Bridge region. Thanks to a Community Grant of \$25,000 from BankSA Foundation, they now have a new way to get their lives back on track.

With your support, Habitat for Humanity (SA) built and renovated four self-contained units, that are now helping young people in the region to escape homelessness.

That's giving young people a secure, comfortable place to stay in the short term. But, while they're there, they can get help finding a more permanent home, reuniting with their family, or getting back into education.

With your support, Habitat for Humanity (SA) could build and renovate four self-contained units especially for young people experiencing homelessness.





Thank You!

Together we're making a difference

BankSA Foundation would like to acknowledge everyone who has helped to create a brighter future for South Australians and Northern Territorians in need.

Just as we are grateful for the amazing things our charity partners achieve every day, we are also grateful to our community and supporters. Everything we do, we do with sincere gratitude for your financial support and your friendship.

Support us

Help us to help our charity partners support communities across South Australia and Northern Territory. 100% of your donations go towards BankSA Foundation's grant programs, and all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.



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