

Media release

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Disadvantaged young Aussies to benefit from Future2 grants

Future2 Foundation trustees have granted \$30,000 to three community projects supported by local financial planners. The 2008 round of Make the Difference! Grants have been awarded to projects supporting:

- Youth leadership development in **north central Victoria** rural communities
- Employment opportunities for socially excluded young people in **Mackay, Queensland**, by helping them gain their driver licences
- Programs to assist young Sudanese refugees adapt to their new lives in **Adelaide**.

“If the funds committed this year work as hard and as effectively as they did for projects supported last year, we will see many disadvantaged young Australians given a chance to build productive lives in the community – a chance that might otherwise have been denied them”, said Corinna Dieters, Future2 trustee and Chair of the Grants & Projects Committee.

Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (\$10,000 grant)

“Amidst drought, economic downturn and global pressures, it is time to develop the leadership in our rural communities”, said Kerry Anderson, executive officer of the LMCLP.

“The 2009 program – the twelfth of its kind – will seek to bring the perspective of two more motivated young people to benefit the communities across the north central region of Victoria. Participants come from many and varied backgrounds and include disadvantaged, migrant, indigenous and disabled members of the community. They will influence, debate and interact with more mature members of the community on issues that are important to youth and might otherwise be neglected”, she added.

It is anticipated that the young people will become a part of an influential regional network that will support them to take on leadership roles. John Daniel, a FPA member and LMCLP board member, was himself a graduate of the program in 1998. Today he contributes to the program’s skills workshops relating to financial management of community organisations, and supported the grant application to Future2.

Nile Youth Group and the Young Sudanese Women’s Network (\$15,000)

“A \$5,000 Future2 grant early in 2008 was instrumental in setting up the successful Nile Youth Group for Sudanese boys aged from 12 to 20. It has helped break down negative community stereotypes of Sudanese youth and given the boys financial and living skills to support their new life”, Jo Wickes, Manager of the Magdalene Centre said.

“Not surprisingly, the girls are looking for a group of their own, to help them access the benefits available in their adopted country while respecting their traditions and cultures. This additional grant will enable us both to develop the original Nile Youth Group – which is regularly attracting 50-60 boys to activities – and build the new girls’ network.”

FPA SA Chapter Chair Kerrin Falconer enthusiastically supported the second grant. “A key to this program is helping the boys to develop links with people and organisations beyond the Sudanese community, to give them a better chance of adapting to the Australian way of life. As financial planners we can help build financial skills in areas such budgeting, saving, and understanding mobile phone and other financial contracts.”

Youth Information and Referral Service (\$5,000 grant)

“In a rural community like Mackay driving skills are crucial to many jobs. Not only that, but a driving licence will help young people gain confidence and independence – especially important to those who are socially excluded and have experienced family breakdown, neglect and a host of other problems”, says Dannielle Wiseman of the Youth Information and Referral Service.

“Future2’s grant will enable us to maintain the learner driver program that was successfully started in 2007 but was in danger of lapsing when initial funding ceased.”

Frances Easton a member of the FPA Mackay Chapter nominated the project for consideration by Future2. Matt Stevens, Chair of the FPA Mackay Chapter endorsed the importance of the project to the wider community and anticipates that it may open up more opportunities for members of the Financial Planning Association in the area to work alongside the community for the benefit of those most in need of support.

For more information about Future2 or to make an online donation, visit www.future2foundation.org.au. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Future2’s first founding donor was AMP.

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For further information:

Susan Grice, FPA / Future2 0418 391934

Future2 exists to support the financially under-privileged and to enable the financial planning profession and associated stakeholders to give back to the community from which they draw their livelihoods. A key factor differentiating Future2 from other foundations is the strong link it seeks to establish with FPA members who will assist with project identification, fundraising and promoting the foundation’s work in the community.