

connect



4 Ganbina
Regional Job Pathways for Indigenous Young People

9 WEstjustice
Restoring Financial Safety and Rebuilding Lives

12 Vital Conversations with Older Women
Giving Older Women in Melbourne a Voice

**INSPIRING
PHILANTHROPY**

"We need to become better as a society at including and valuing the views of older women. Their expertise and knowledge is incredibly valuable for policy development and planning for a more inclusive, age-friendly city." — Dr Catherine Brown

Inspiring Philanthropy Events

CONTENTS

- 2** Inspiring Philanthropy Events
- 3** Philanthropy Supporting New Ideas
- 4** Education & Employment
- 5** Environment & Sustainability
- 7** Healthy & Resilient Communities
- 8** Homelessness & Affordable Housing
- 10** Spotlight on Inspiring Donors
- 11** Inspiring Philanthropy
- 12** Vital Conversations

CONTACT US

Phone: (03) 9633 0033
Mail: GPO Box 1851
 Melbourne 3001
Address: Level 15,
 1 Collins Street,
 Melbourne 3000
Email: info@lmcf.org.au

CONNECT

Visit our website
lmcf.org.au

Subscribe to e-Connect
lmcf.org.au/subscribe

Find us on Facebook
[/lordmayorscharitablefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/lordmayorscharitablefoundation)

Find us on YouTube
[/lmcfvideo](https://www.youtube.com/lmcfvideo)

Follow us on Twitter
[@MelbourneLMCF](https://twitter.com/MelbourneLMCF)

Read our blog
lmcf.org.au/blog

Make a donation
 (03) 9633 0033 or lmcf.org.au/donate

Cover:

Vital Conversations: Dr Susan Feldman and Dr Harriet Radermacher

ABN 63 635 798 473

Throughout 2018 Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation celebrated its 95th anniversary with a series of special events.

The final anniversary event, *Inspiring Philanthropy Celebration*, with guest speaker Carmel Guerra OAM, Chief Executive Officer at the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY), was celebrated at the Melbourne Town Hall. Guests represented the not-for-profit and philanthropic sectors as well as the Foundation's donors, supporters and grant partners.

Each year the Foundation invites a high profile speaker to deliver an oration to inspire and inform Melbourne's community about exciting projects and programs undertaken by the philanthropic and not-for-profit-sectors.

Carmel shared her engaging and heart-warming personal story about her journey from youth worker to Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CMY. Carmel encouraged Melbourne to be a welcoming and inclusive city for young people from newly arrived and migrant communities and encouraged guests to continue their support of the work undertaken by the Foundation in education and employment.

To watch Carmel's speech, visit:
lmcf.org.au/IPC-2018



Dr Catherine Brown with Carmel Guerra OAM, Chief Executive Officer at Centre for Multicultural Youth and Andrew Baxter, the Foundation's Chair at *Inspiring Philanthropy Celebration 2018*.



Guest Speaker Samantha Mostyn at Collier Charitable Fund Celebration, 2019

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation was delighted to celebrate with Collier Charitable Fund their remarkable milestone of providing \$102 million in grants to charities and not-for-profit organisations.

The Collier Charitable Fund was set up in 1954 under the Wills of Alice, Edith and Annette Collier and has become an integral part of Melbourne's philanthropic history.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown said, "We are delighted to honour the Collier sisters Alice, Edith and Annette for their enormous and wonderful contribution to the wellbeing of Melbourne. They have inspired Australian philanthropy, especially in Melbourne for many decades.

"We are privileged to be a beneficiary of the Collier bequest. Together we share 65 years of supporting the people of Melbourne especially in health, education and community development."

Guest speaker Samantha Mostyn inspired guests by sharing her insights on the important contribution women have made to Australian philanthropy and the need for more data on the specific needs of women.

To watch Samantha's speech, visit:
lmcf.org.au/Celebrating-women-in-philanthropy

Philanthropy Supporting New Ideas



Redevelopment of Ozanam House topping out ceremony, June 2018

Following the launch of our new report *Vital Conversations – Giving Older Women in Greater Melbourne a Voice*, I received a very interesting book from one of the partner organisations involved in the projects focus group discussions.

The Moonee Valley Golden Age Women's Group has worked in Flemington and Kensington for ten years, engaging older people from the Chinese community in a myriad of community activities. The book tells the story of their journey, ultimately becoming leaders in their community. A highlight is the story about the Music and Food Autumn Festival organised by Chinese and Italian community groups. The book reflects: *"We don't know if the initiative was the first in the world, but we think it was the first in Australia. This is an inclusive city in action!"*

This edition of *Connect* features many stories about people in Melbourne who simply need an opportunity or support. The financial counselling work of WEstjustice with women leaving family violence who have experienced economic abuse is preventing women and their families from entering a cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Good Cycle's City Services Project is providing employment to unemployed young people, and at the same time, helping to support our transition to a sustainable cycling-based city. Ganbina's JOBS4U2 is taking a very hands-on approach to supporting Indigenous young people's transition from school to work.

Our transition to a low carbon economy will only be successful if everyone is supported in this transition. The Foundation's work in this area includes energy efficiency for vulnerable households. Our Hot Spots Initiative is also building collaborations in three local communities at-risk of the heat impacts of climate change.

Youth in Philanthropy kicked off this year with 19 schools. Michael Lim from YLAB, a social enterprise part of the Foundation for Young Australians, spoke to the students about his own path from a disengaged young person to a social entrepreneur with a strong sense of social purpose. One of his teachers was a strong influence on his change in direction.

Finally, it is extremely exciting to report that the new Ozanam House in Flemington will open its doors at the end of June. Older women as well as older men will now be able to access crisis housing and longer-term housing opportunities.

Stable housing is critical to all aspects of health and wellbeing. The new Ozanam House is a wonderful, sustainably designed building. As the first philanthropic funders, this project is a wonderful example of the leverage philanthropy can have when we are able to share in the vision for an innovative project.

There are many examples in this edition of *Connect* of organisations approaching social and environmental problems with fresh thinking and creativity. Philanthropy is here to invest in demonstrating and testing these new ideas.



Catherine Brown

Dr Catherine Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Education & Employment



Good Cycles City Services Project

Since 2015 Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has partnered with Good Cycles to increase their financial stability, explore new ideas and launch Community Bike Hubs. The most recent grant will assist the scaling-up of the innovative new city services project that will extend its employment program for young people.

Good Cycles has identified a range of city services such as graffiti removal, parking meter servicing and bin cleaning across inner Melbourne that can be delivered using cargo bikes. These services can provide meaningful employment pathways for at-risk youth as part of Good Cycles' existing transitional employment model. Cargo bikes are congestion busters in the inner city especially as bikes can deliver or collect things from locations where larger vehicles are more constrained.

“Over the past four years the Foundation and the Good Cycles team have built a strong partnership which serves as a great example of how community philanthropy can nurture social innovation and entrepreneurship to increase employment opportunities.”

– Stephen Torsi, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Program Manager for Education & Employment

Jaison Hoernel, Chief Executive Officer at Good Cycles said, “The recent funding for our City Services Project will help Good Cycles create new and exciting employment opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

“Good Cycles is greatly appreciative of the continued support received from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation over the years particularly in its openness to look at new ways of creating impact.”



Good Cycles, 2018



Ganbina, 2018

Ganbina Regional Job Pathways for Indigenous Young People

Statistics show that 60 per cent of Indigenous young people aged 17-24 are not engaged in post school education, training or employment compared to 25 per cent of non-Indigenous young people.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided an Innovation Grant to Ganbina to help improve these statistics through its school to work transition program JOBS4U2.

The program provides mentoring to young Indigenous people, aged 6 to 25 years, enables them to gain the education, skills and life experiences they need to reach their full potential.

The team take a practical, hands-on approach to help Indigenous children, from a very early age, to develop and sustain the personal motivation, confidence and enthusiasm they need to ensure they complete their education and secure employment.

Ganbina's Chief Executive Officer Anthony Cavanagh said, “Ganbina recognised that early intervention was key. This approach was different to the proliferation of services that were only accessible once a person was in trouble.”

In less than a decade, the Ganbina model has facilitated a cultural shift away from welfare for young people involved in their programs.

“Our young people are remaining engaged in education at higher rates and are aspiring to gaining and keeping themselves in private sector employment in higher numbers than ever before.”

Having successfully implemented the JOBS4U2 program in Shepparton, Ganbina needed a funding partner to help test the replicability of the program suite in another Indigenous community. The Foundation has provided further funding of \$300,000 over three years.

Since receiving the Foundation's grant, Ganbina has formed a partnership with the Collingwood Football Club Foundation to deliver the program in three sites across the La Trobe Valley starting next year in February.

Environment & Sustainability



South Australia Bungala solar farm, Climate Council of Australia, 2018

Climate Council of Australia *Helping Communities Reduce Emissions*

Communities in towns and cities across Australia have been signing up to the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership (CPP) since 2017.

There are now over 100 local governments, representing 10 million people across 300 towns and cities, committed to supporting their local community to transition to clean energy.

The Climate Council is Australia's leading independent climate change organisation providing expert advice to the community on climate change and energy solutions.

They are made up of leading climate scientists, energy and health policy experts, staff and volunteers.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided an Innovation Grant of \$150,000 in December 2017 to assist the CPP program to encourage communities to take action at a local level. Some of the actions have included increasing their use of

renewable energy, energy efficiency strategies and improving sustainable transport. Member councils of the partnership have also pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the aim of achieving a sustainable, non-polluting energy future for their local community.

“By providing this grant we are assisting the community to rapidly reduce emissions, while also helping them adapt as the climate changes.”

– Dan Pediaditis, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Senior Program Manager for Environment & Sustainability

As part of the project the members are provided with access to a national knowledge hub to support emissions reductions, buddied with cities to knowledge share, visited by domestic and international experts, profiled in the media, connected with community energy groups and celebrated at events with other local leaders.

One successful program in Strathbogie saw residents counteract rising energy bills by launching a solar bulk buy program, to bring solar power to residents at reduced prices.

The 'Bogie Bulk Buy' program has now inspired 13 other shires and councils to implement a similar program.

“The Bogie Bulk Buy program has helped Strathbogie residents to purchase cheaper, quality-vetted solar systems to power their homes, businesses and farms. The number of solar systems installed have now reached around half a megawatt. The CPP has helped promote the program so that 13 other councils are now following in their footsteps,” added Dan.



Watch our video on Climate Council, visit: lmcf.org.au/Cities-Power-Partnership



Environment & Sustainability

Monash University's Climate Change Communication Research Hub

Climate News Media Partnership

Monash University's Climate Change Communication Research Hub has partnered with weather presenters Jane Bunn of Seven TV News and Paul Higgins from ABC TV News to deliver information about relevant climate change trend data as part of their nightly weather segments.

The Hub has now partnered with Leader Community News to launch a new column *Changing Climates* which feature informative, fact-based infographics about local climate change.

Changing Climates have been incorporated in 23 local newspapers throughout metropolitan Melbourne. Information for the column includes local climate data gathered from nine weather stations across the city. This will ensure that each of Leader's 1.5 million weekly readers will receive climate information relevant to their local area.

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown said, "This partnership builds on the Foundation's long-term partnership with Leader Community News which began in 2011 with the *Feed Melbourne* campaign. We are now working with Leader and Monash University on climate change education."



Watch our video about Monash University's Climate Change Communication Research Hub at:
lmcf.org.au/our-impact/environment-sustainability/understanding-climate-change



Paul Higgins, ABC TV News, 2018

Look out for your climate change segment in your local Leader Community News.



OUR
IMPACT



Australian honey bee

Macquarie University

Protecting Our Australian Honey Bees

The world's worst honey bee disease is the parasitic mite Varroa Destructor, which can devastate a bee hive within weeks. Through the Eldon and Anne Foote Trust, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has provided a grant to Macquarie University to help protect our vulnerable Australian honey bees.

Australia is the only country in the world where the pest has not been found, although there are some concerns it has already arrived undetected.

Macquarie University researcher Andrew Barron said that in Australia we have the unique ability to evaluate which miticides (chemical pesticides to kill mites) have the fewest side-effects on bees, and how best to deploy them in Australia's unique environment.

The Foundation's grant has enabled researchers at Macquarie University to provide crucial information to the bee industry which once completed will be shared through reports, online, newsletters and presentations at meetings of local and national bee keeper groups.

"As part of the research, we've been exploring which of the miticide treatments used in bee hives have the fewest side effects on bees, and what those effects are so we can use the miticides to the greatest benefit. This will help to save the Australian honey bee," said Andrew.

Andrew said that the grant has been significant in progressing the research, "We have achieved more in the project than we had hoped for and we are still analysing and writing up experiments.

"The grant has been incredibly important to our research in saving not only our Australian honey bees but Australian agriculture more broadly."

Healthy & Resilient Communities



Hot Spots partners gathered together to discuss recent results from their community resilience projects.

Left to Right: Nuredin Hassan (IPC Health), Rob Macindoe (enliven), Alison Fraser (Sustainability Victoria), Harriet McCallum (Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation), Glenn Menner (Brimbank City Council), Lynley Dumble (Brimbank City Council), Heather Lawson (enliven), Steve Cameron (Emergency Management Victoria), Dianna McDonald (Sustainability Victoria), Darren Wilson (City of Greater Dandenong), Susan Quinn (VCOSS), Yonis Dawd (Brimbank City Council), Meagan Chiuchiarrelli (IPC Health)

Hot Spots Initiative

Across Greater Melbourne communities are becoming more resilient thanks to Hot Spots, a new initiative launched by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

With the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, Hot Spots provides funding to health and community organisations to proactively support their communities.

Using the *Monash Heat Vulnerability Index*, the Foundation identified key areas in Melbourne with higher temperatures during heatwaves along with higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage, and invited applications for funding from not-for-profit organisations already working in health and community service sectors.

The Foundation's Senior Program Manager for Healthy & Resilient Communities Harriet McCallum said that Hot Spots supports collaborations between community health, social service organisations, local government and emergency services in areas requiring more intensive community care during extreme heat.

"We provided funding to *enliven* in Greater Dandenong and IPC Health in Brimbank. Both organisations have brought together a diverse range of project partners to develop local responses to the health impacts of heatwave. We recognised that these impacts are disproportionately felt by those experiencing disadvantage.

"Our funding provides the backbone support required to enable these community networks to grow and to test their programs."

In Dandenong, *enliven's* project is a collaboration between City of Greater Dandenong, Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre and Bolton Clarke (formerly Royal District Nursing Service). The health promotion activities focused on community members who are vulnerable on days of extreme heat including newly arrived migrants, older people and parents with babies and young children.

IPC Health also focused on younger and older residents, especially those residents with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds who may not understand health messages in English, to increase heat health literacy and prevent the health impacts caused by extreme heat.

Brimbank City Council's Environment and Sustainability team has also conducted a heat-mapping project, measuring surface heat temperature. This mapping has identified the areas in St Albans and Sunshine West that need investment for the development of blue (water) and green (trees and vegetation) infrastructure to help cool these areas.

"Hot Spots is an ongoing initiative as part of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Healthy & Resilient Communities and will be scaled-up throughout 2019 and 2020."

– Harriet McCallum, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Senior Program Manager for Healthy & Resilient Communities



Homelessness & Affordable Housing



OUR
IMPACT

Artist impression - Ozanam House, 2018

VincentCare

Ozanam House Redevelopment

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided a Signature Grant of \$600,000 to VincentCare towards the redevelopment of Ozanam House in 2016.

The redevelopment of Ozanam House will be the first of its kind in Victoria and will enable VincentCare to effectively respond to adults who have experienced homelessness and ongoing financial and social disadvantage.

The new Ozanam House will increase the supply of affordable housing to include crisis accommodation responses, transitional accommodation for men and women who are recovering from a period of homelessness and long-term independent living units for men and women aged over 50 who have experienced homelessness. All units include separate bathroom facilities and storage facilities, and some include separate kitchenettes allowing for privacy and self-sufficiency.

The grant of \$600,000 from Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has assisted VincentCare to pursue other funding from government and philanthropic organisations. The new Ozanam House will open in June 2019.



Artist impression - Ozanam House, 2018

“Congratulations to VincentCare on this wonderful accommodation and service facility.” – Dr Catherine Brown



Watch our video on the Ozanam House redevelopment at: lmcf.org.au/Ozanam-House





OUR IMPACT

Sacred Heart Mission

Journey to Social inclusion

In 2009 Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided a Signature Grant of \$750,000 to Sacred Heart Mission to fund an innovative new program that would reduce the impacts of long-term and entrenched homelessness.

The program titled *Journey to Social Inclusion* (J2SI) provides intensive wrap-around support to people who are homeless and assists them to find and maintain a secure safe home, training to find employment, healthcare and counselling support. Ten years later the J2SI program is now regarded as an effective and successful model in reducing entrenched homelessness and assisting people to rebuild their lives.

“This is an innovative program that has been tested, refined and is ready to go to market and will help one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community.”

– Erin Dolan, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Program Manager for Homelessness & Affordable Housing



WEstjustice

Restoring Financial Safety and Rebuilding Lives

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation continues to support organisations who are assisting women leaving family violence situations to re-establish and rebuild their lives.

A recent grant to WEstjustice has enabled the organisation to partner with McAuley Community Services for Women to integrate its financial counselling and legal support services across Melbourne's western suburbs.

WEstjustice works with clients to resolve and prevent the escalation of legal and financial problems arising out of family violence.

WEstjustice Chief Executive Officer Denis Nelthorpe said that women who leave family violence have also experienced economic abuse and are unable to work through their financial issues on their own.

“Our clients have incurred many unpaid bills in their name that have been accumulated by an ex-partner. We have so many cases whereby an ex-partner has deliberately and maliciously incurred fines or not paid the rent or utility bills so that it is difficult for a woman to leave the relationship.

“WEstjustice advocates on behalf of our clients to have these unpaid bills and fines waived which then provides an opportunity for them to start their lives again free from their ex-partner's debt.”

WEstjustice has also been working extensively with business sectors to bring about effective system change and lasting reforms so that women who have been economically abused are not penalised.

“We are working with regulators, peak associations and corporate companies such as debt collectors and real estate agencies, by providing training and education to improve their understanding and knowledge of family violence so that they can respond proactively and flexibly by implementing appropriate systems.

“With the support of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, we are substantially improving our clients' financial security and recovery which prevents them entering a cycle of poverty and homelessness.”

Spotlight on Inspiring Donors

Our donors are the beating heart of our philanthropy. Without our donor community we would not be able to achieve the positive social change we are creating throughout Melbourne. In our new series on giving, we shine the light on our donors who have inspired change through their personal philanthropy.



Former Board Chair Geoffrey Green OAM RFD ED and Pauline Green with former Board Chairs Robert Masters (far left) and Darvell Hutchison AM (left)

Pauline and Geoffrey Green OAM RFD ED

Retired businessman and financial adviser Geoffrey Green OAM RFD ED and his wife Pauline have been supporting Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation as donors and committee members for over 30 years.

After accepting an invitation to join the Foundation's *Hospital and Charities Appeal Committee* in 1987, Geoffrey was elected to the Board in 1990.

"As a Board member I continued to serve on the *Hospital and Charities Appeal Committee* as it was the main fundraising appeal for the Foundation and very important at the time."

Pauline believes that a society is only as strong and healthy as its least able member.

"When Geoffrey became involved with the *Hospital and Charities Appeal Committee* we had the opportunity to share direct action philanthropy making significant impact upon people's lives."

From 2001 to 2004 Geoffrey says he was honoured to serve as Chair of the Foundation's Board, finally retiring from the Board in 2006.

"It was during these years that the Foundation was fortunate to receive the generous endowments from Eldon Foote QC. His initial donations and subsequent bequest were pivotal in escalating the Foundation to the substantial corpus that it enjoys today."

Supporting charitable causes has always been an important part of the Geoffrey and Pauline's life.

"From the earliest years of our marriage, Pauline and I have always supported charitable causes. We regard it as a natural duty to share our good fortune with others. After 62 years of marriage we still adhere to this belief."

— Geoffrey Green OAM RFD ED

Geoffrey and Pauline extended their generous support of the Foundation by establishing the Geoffrey and Pauline Green Fund in 2001 and continue to add to it each year.

"Each year we are able to support important causes and organisations that are important to us through our charitable fund which will grow and continue our contribution to the community in the years to come."

Pauline says that over the three decades supporting the Foundation they have both witnessed and supported the changing and growing needs of Melbourne.

"With the growth in demand for services and assistance, the work of the Foundation is more important than ever before, and we are very pleased to be part of the Foundation's work."

These days Geoffrey and Pauline are sharing the best of life with their three sons and five grandchildren.

"Our continuing association with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is a matter of some pride and satisfaction," added Geoffrey.

Inspiring Philanthropy



YiP Forum, 2019

Youth in Philanthropy 2019

Students from across Melbourne gathered together at the State Library of Victoria as part of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Youth in Philanthropy Forum. Since 2002 the Foundation's youth program has informed students about philanthropy and the impact it can have to help solve challenging issues such as homelessness.

Guest speaker Michael Lim spoke about his journey from a disengaged secondary school student to graduating with an Honours degree from The University of Melbourne. Michael is an award-winning social entrepreneur who founded CHASE (Community Health Advancement and Student Engagement) which works to improve health literacy amongst disadvantaged students through education and mentoring.

Students learnt about the Foundation's Impact Areas and were challenged to choose one Impact Area to investigate further. Throughout Term 2 students will work in their grant committees to review grant applications and visit three charitable organisations. Students will then be asked to decide on their grant allocations and submit these recommendations to the Foundation's Board for approval in August.



Top to Bottom:
Guest speaker Michael Lim with host
Sherry-Rose Bih Watts at YiP Forum, 2019

University High School, YiP Forum, 2019

Ringwood Secondary College, YiP Forum, 2019



Swanson Society Dinner, 2018

Swanson Society *Your community, your legacy*

By leaving a gift in your Will to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, you will leave a lasting legacy which will create positive social change in communities across Greater Melbourne today and in the future.

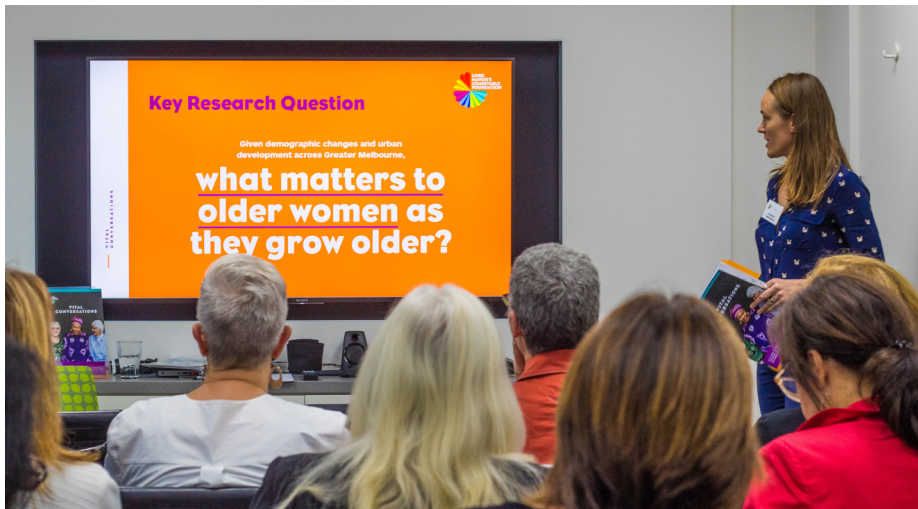
Your gift to the Foundation will be managed in perpetuity and will continue to respond to the pressing issues of the day.

The Swanson Society, named in honour of Melbourne's Lord Mayor Sir John Swanson, recognises our valued donors and supporters who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

If you would like to learn more about including Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation in your Will or discuss your support of the Melbourne community through the Foundation, please contact **Andrew Deane**, Donor Development Manager on andrew.deane@lmcf.org.au or **(03) 9633 0033**.



Vital Conversations



Vital Conversations Launch event, 2019



(Top) From left to right: Dr Susan Feldman, Dr Catherine Brown and Dr Harriet Radermacher
(Above) Vital Conversations Launch event, 2019

Vital Conversations with Older Women

Older women have been given the opportunity to provide their insights and share their experiences about living in Melbourne as part of research conducted by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

The newly launched *Vital Conversations with Older Women Living in Greater Melbourne* research highlights seven key themes important to older women as they age, including social connectedness, neighbourhood development and infrastructure, financial security and housing, family and generational change, ageism and abuse, volunteering and advocacy, information and technology.

Vital Conversations complements the findings of the *Greater Melbourne Vital Signs 2017* research which indicated that older women were facing challenges and, in some cases, extreme disadvantage across diverse aspects of their lives.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation wanted to hear more directly from older women about their lives, the challenges they face and potential solutions.

The Foundation commissioned Dr Susan Feldman and Dr Harriet Radermacher to conduct the

research which has provided insight into the issues women face as they grow older, especially with regards to their health and wellbeing.

The Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Dr Catherine Brown said that the research provided an opportunity for women to provide insights to actively participate in society by sharing their knowledge, experience and expertise.

"We need to become better as a society at including and valuing the views of older women. Their expertise and knowledge is incredibly valuable for policy development and planning for a more inclusive, age-friendly city.

"As a society we are quick to dismiss the life experiences and wisdom of older people. We need to be more proactive in consulting with older women when making decisions for community initiatives and urban development projects, as well as increasing opportunities to enhance financial independence."

As part of the research, 18 conversation groups were conducted with 127 women aged between 50 and 91 years, including women from multicultural backgrounds, and from across 22 local government areas.

This report also provides some concrete recommendations for the philanthropic, not-for-profit, corporate and government sectors to action.

"We now have a deeper insight into the issues of older women ageing in Melbourne which will help the Foundation to inform our grantmaking in areas such as affordable housing, and to make better decisions for a growing and ageing population.

"We look forward to developing collaborations to help make sure older women continue to be a vital part of our community," said Catherine.

1 You can read 'Vital Conversations – Giving Older Women in Greater Melbourne a Voice' report by visiting: lmc.org.au/vitalconversations

1 Listen to our podcast with Dr Catherine Brown talking to Dr Susan Feldman about older women living in Melbourne at lmc.org.au/vital-conversations-with-older-women