

Media Release



\$40,000 Hobart Airport Community Grants Announced

Wednesday, January 31 2024

Hobart Airport is helping to pack suitcases of a different kind, with local charity Hope in a Suitcase receiving a \$15,000 grant as part of the annual Community Grants Program.

Hope in a Suitcase is one of six local charities sharing in almost \$40,000 in Community Grants from Hobart Airport for selected projects that help Tasmanians come together.

Hobart Airport Chief Operating Officer Matt Cocker said his team was impressed and overwhelmed by almost 100 applications for the 2023 Community Grants.

“Hobart Airport’s core purpose is to connect communities, and that’s exactly what we set out to achieve with our Community Grants Program,” Mr Cocker said.

“We’re very proud to announce six recipients will share in almost \$40,000 in grants, that will help Tasmanians to connect in so many ways.

“This year’s grants will help the Huon Valley PCYC to boost employment opportunities for at-risk youth, support Homely Retreats to improve quality of life for cancer patients, and assist the Aurora Disability Services café to stay open, and so much more.

“We’re also thrilled to provide a \$15,000 Major Grant to Hope in a Suitcase.

“You can pack a lot in a suitcase, but there’s nothing more valuable than hope and we’re so proud to be able to provide that to young Tasmanians entering foster care.”

Hope in a Suitcase Southern Tasmania Coordinator Leah Revell said the \$15,000 grant would buy 75 suitcases for deserving and worthy Tasmanian children as they enter foster care.

“As a not-for-profit organisation run solely by volunteers this community grant means the world to us at Hope In A Suitcase-Tasmania,” Mrs Revell said. “It will help us provide suitcases and bags to children & young people aged from newborn babies to 18 years of age entering into foster care across Tasmania.

“As foster carers, my husband and I saw first-hand the trauma and uncertainty that children feel when entering foster care. They often arrive with very few items, if any at all. This is why our

suitcases filled with all new essential belongings are so important for the children that receive them. Giving them everything they need and deserve at a time when love and care is so important”

“The impact of our suitcases and bags stretch far greater than just the essential items that they provide, they send an important message that you are worthy, loved and cared for by your community. Giving much needed encouragement and hope for a brighter future.”

The 2023 Hobart Airport Community Grant Recipients are:

Hope in a Suitcase - \$15,000

To provide suitcases/duffle bags to Tasmanian children entering foster or out of home care with belongings they can call their own.

Huon Valley PCYC - \$5,000

Funding for their Café-teen-ria project, which provides practical work experience that aims to reduce unemployment for at-risk teenagers in the local community.

Aurora Disability Services - \$4,889

To support the service's Car Yard Café, where clients can learn life skills, to replace a 15-year-old coffee machine and grinder. The café faced closure without the funding.

Homely Retreats – \$5,000

To support the Homely Retreats Patient Support Education Program to empower the community with skills and knowledge to support cancer patients.

Epilepsy Action Australia - \$5,000

Funding for the Epilepsy Action Australia's Ted-E-Bear Connection program that will help up to 50 Tasmanian children affected by epilepsy and their families by posting a cuddly plush teddy, and connections to online peer support, workshops, and nurse support.

ParaQuad Association Tasmania - \$3,577

To purchase IT equipment to ensure services are available across the state and assist with individuals in the wider community.