

**Asian**  
Australian  
**Foundation**  
**May 2020**  
**Communication**

# AAF establishes relief fund

The Asian Australian Foundation (AAF) remains committed to supporting our community through various organisations that work tirelessly to service the vulnerable and distressed. Some of these organisations are now themselves in distress given the fall in revenue with a consequent impact on their services and the people they serve.

The AAF Board and AAF Committee have been in deep discussion as how best to assist these organisations and our community during these times. Uncertainty is a major factor in our deliberations as we balance purpose, mission, need and responsibilities. The complexities have challenged us to think beyond the usual whilst firmly exercising fundamentals and considered, structured thinking in our decision-making.

We have been in close contact with some of our grantees and where requested and appropriate have been able to offer on a voluntary basis the expertise, experience and skills of AAF Supporters to assist them through this period.

## **\$110,000 set aside for relief with key major donation from AAF Supporter, Blueways Group with further contribution from Landream Group**

Flowing from this, the AAF is pleased to announce that we have set aside \$110,000 to assist our community through current difficult times and ahead as eligible not for profit charitable organisations face the outfall and increase in demand for their services across sectors in the community.

This amount is the largest to date that we have been able to set aside and has been made possible through release of funds from corpus and the incredible generosity of Blueways Group, a key major supporter of AAF with a further contribution from Landream Group. The AAF Board and AAF Committee would like to acknowledge and deeply thank both Blueways Group and Landream Group for their incredible support.

# \$25,000 grant to Swinburne University Student Emergency Fund

As a first step, the AAF Board and AAF Committee have made a grant of \$25,000 from this pool to the Swinburne University Student Emergency Fund which was established earlier this year to support current Swinburne University students (both domestic and international) that have been impacted by disasters such as bushfires, floods, droughts or a health pandemic to access financial support through a one-off grant of up to \$1,000 ensuring that all students with aspirations of higher education and training can succeed, regardless of circumstance. The AAF is pleased to be able to make this grant to assist the community at this time.

Swinburne University's Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Linda Kristjanson AO has thanked AAF stating:

*"It was my great pleasure to receive the news that the Asian Australian Foundation has invested \$25,000 in support of Swinburne's students through the Student Emergency Fund.*

*On behalf of Swinburne I extend my thanks to all involved in the Foundation for this generous investment.*

*The plight of our students at this time is deeply concerning to us. More than 3000 students have reached out for support to cover meals and basic living expenses. We have a responsibility to support our students, but we cannot do this alone. The support of partners like the Asian Australian Foundation is critical and greatly appreciated.*

*Later this year we will unveil an honour board at our Hawthorn campus to acknowledge our wonderful donors who have contributed to our Student Emergency Fund. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus at that time to thank you for your support."*

Over the coming months, the AAF Board and AAF Committee will be receiving and considering applications for grants from the amount and will come back to you on the grants that we have made.

# AAF Oration and Dinner

Given current circumstances and social distancing requirements relating to COVID 19, our annual fundraiser the AAF Oration and dinner will not proceed this year but we do hope to that we will be able to hold one next year.

## Help us support the community during these times

If you would like to support our efforts, please donate through our partner platform GiveEasy by clicking [HERE](#) or contact us through [contact@aafoundation.org.au](mailto:contact@aafoundation.org.au).

If you have made a commitment as a Circle of Promise donor, we hope you will continue with your commitment if you are able to through the above link.

In the mean time, do take care, stay safe and keep well.



Asian Australian  
Foundation

[www.aafoundation.org.au](http://www.aafoundation.org.au)

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