



YWCA
CANBERRA



GREAT
YDEAS

MEDIA RELEASE

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CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATION RESULTS IN RECORD NUMBER OF GREAT YDEAS GRANTS AWARDED

24 April 2017: In its seventh year, YWCA Canberra and its partners have provided a record number of grants to women and girls in Canberra through the [Great Ydeas Small Grants Program](#), with nine successful recipients announced today.

With the support of a number of business and philanthropic partnerships, this year's grants program offered a pool of \$20,000 in funding.

Grants of up to \$2,000 were made available in the categories of small business, community development, the arts, diversity and inclusion, social enterprise, and professional development.

YWCA Canberra's Executive Director, Frances Crimmins said she is thrilled that these new partnerships facilitated a range of bespoke grants this year, in addition to the \$8,000 available through YWCA Canberra's own funding.

"With the support of our partners, Microsoft, NAB, Australian Catholic Superannuation, EY, Soroptimist International ACT Monaro, and the CBR Innovation Network, we have demonstrated the collective social impact we can make when corporate, philanthropic and community organisations work together.

"It's wonderful to see the growth of the Great Ydeas program over the last seven years, and the significant impact this program has made on Canberra women and our broader community," Ms Crimmins said.

The program was launched in 2010 in celebration of YWCA Canberra's 80th anniversary. Since then, more than 40 women have been awarded a grant, and received ongoing support in their pursuits.

"Our past recipients have gone on to achieve amazing things. One of our 2014 recipients, Hannah Wandel, has since been named one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence for her project, Country to Canberra. And 2015 recipient, Chiara Grassia, has turned her Girls Rock! camps into a sold-out music program for young women, which is now nation-wide."

Recipients of the 2017 YWCA Canberra Great Ydeas Small Grants were announced at the YWCA Canberra Great Ydeas Innovation Breakfast earlier today.

- ENDS -

Frances Crimmins is available for interview.

Media contact: Eliza Hughes 0429 210 881

About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 300 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children's services, community development, housing, youth services, women's leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership. For more information visit:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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Successful recipients of the 2017 Great Ydeas Small Grants Program:

NAB Great Ydeas Innovate Grant: Hayley Teasdale, *Buzz Balance Ball*

Hayley is a PhD candidate at the University of Canberra, working to improve balance for people with severe balance impairments. Her Buzz Balance Ball is a new medical technology that is intended to rapidly improve balance and reduce the risk of falls for people with neurological conditions, as well as the elderly. Her vision is to assist and rehabilitate people so they are able to continue to work, remain engaged with the community and stay independent for longer.

Microsoft Great Ydeas STEAM Start- Up Grant: Kavinya Welikala, *Dry Electrode Heart Monitor*

Kavinya intends to create a heart monitoring app that can detect irregular heart activity, and can instantly provide a notification to emergency services, along with the person's location in the event of a heart event. The app functions will also include sending a notification the relatives and friends of the affected person, and displaying an ECG on a smartphone. Through her project, Kavinya aims to eliminate the need for human intervention, and provide a cheap, fast and reliable response in emergency situations.

The Australian Catholic Super Great Ydeas Enrichment Grant: Elise Kellett, *the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF)*

Elise hopes to use her grant to help fund her attendance at the London International Youth Science Forum, to be held from 26th July - 9th August 2017. The forum will attract around 500 young scientists between the ages of 17 to 21 from over 60 countries, and bring together a diverse range of the world's leading scientists, who will conduct presentations and discussion forums about the latest advancements and the range of career opportunities. Elise hopes the opportunity will help her gain greater knowledge about possible career paths in STEM and opportunities to study locally and overseas.

Soroptimist International ACT & Monaro Great Ydeas Diversity and Inclusion Grant: Deborah Evans, *The Jarjum Project*

Deborah is an Aboriginal Elder (Gija/Djaru), works part time in the criminal justice system, and has established a program to support the children and families of offenders. Deborah intends to use her grant to introduce a cultural program at the Alexander McConochie Correctional Centre. The Jarjum Project is crime prevention initiative, assisting children to cope with the issues parental incarceration and separation, and supporting them to building positive relationships through the learning and sharing of culture. Ultimately, the aim of the project is to aims to reduce the number of Aboriginal people in correctional centres, and break the cycle of intergenerational offending.

EY Great Ideas Creativity Grant: Lucy Nelson, *Girls Write Up: Canberra*

Girls Write Up (GWU) is a daylong festival for teens aged 12–18 that teaches empowerment through writing and sharing stories; explores the relationship between language, gender and power; and examines the effects of unconscious bias on our sense of self. The program is administered by the Stella Prize and has already run in Melbourne and Sydney. Lucy hopes to assist Noted Writers Festival to bring GWU to Canberra for the first time in 2017.

Sophie Fisher: *Girls on Bikes*

Through her project, Sophie aims to empower young women in the community by teaching them how to ride a bike. She came up with the idea after having a conversation with a student she tutors at the Migrant and Refugee Resource Centre who confessed that she had never owned a bike and never been taught how to ride.

Girls on Bikes has two parts: the first the restoration and donation of a second hand bike to each woman in the program, followed by five weekly training sessions that promote independence, mobility, fitness and strength, as part of a supportive and cooperative community.

Sarah Lovelady: *Aid Memoir*

Sarah is a school age care manager and intends to develop an Aid Memoir for all School Age Care Educators to use as a resource to support them to work with children with additional needs. Her motivation for the project is the recent changes to inclusion support funding, and the subsequent inability to roster additional support workers at programs, resulting in having to turn families away.

Sarah hopes the project could overcome this issue by empowering educators with strategies, additional information, support and key indicators that will give them the confidence to provide quality support for children with additional needs.

Sarah Lovelady: *Social and Emotional Learning Program*

Sarah also plans to design a Social and Emotional Learning Program to be delivered in School Age Care Programs across Canberra. The program will aim to help children between 6 – 12 years develop the necessary skills to promote a positive sense of self, establish respectful relationships with peers, make responsible decisions and build student understanding of how to manage their emotions.

Sarah hopes the program will provide young people with alternate strategies to manage their emotions and solve problems.

Hannah Gissane: *Young Women Speak Out*

Through her project, Young Women Speak Out, Hannah aims to provide support directly to young women leading change in our local community. The project provides training for

young women to plan and develop a campaign, and take the lead on issues that are directly about them.

Through a series of workshops, Young Women Speak Out will create a space for 16 and 17 year olds who are politically active to strategise and plan advocacy and campaigning on an issue that would drive the political participation and engagement of many more young Canberrans.

Francesca Maclean: *Fifty50's Big Ideas Breakfast: Gender Equity in STEM by 2025*

Fifty50 is a student-led movement dedicated to promoting gender equity in STEM. Through the Fifty50's Big Ideas Breakfast event, Francesca hopes to create a meaningful discussion and catalyse real action in Canberra, ultimately leading to a more timely achievement of gender equality, especially in STEM, given the current estimation for reaching this target is 2186.

The breakfast will bring together industry professionals, academics, government representatives (ACT and Federal), and current ANU students, and aims to engage all parties in the development of tangible strategies to achieve gender equity in STEM by 2025.