

Media release

Monday 16 May, 2011

Mackay Foundation distributes over \$10,500 to local charities

The Mackay Foundation will donate \$10,642.54 to five local community organisations tomorrow to help support a range of needs in the community.

Mackay Foundation Chairman Mr Bryan Loft said that the organisations were chosen based on criteria determined by The Mackay Foundation's distribution committee.

"Mackay Riding for Disabled Association will use the funds to cover the costs associated with training two coaches and more volunteers; Community Accommodation and Support Agency will be able to provide new furniture for their expanded offices; Whitsunday Crisis and Counselling Service will provide playground equipment for children who stay at their units; OzCare will provide electrical items and furniture for residential drug and alcohol program; and The Grapevine Group will use the funds to promote suicide prevention in the region.

"The distribution of funds to these worthwhile organisations will help to ensure that priority support is given to a number of groups in the community," Mr Loft said.

Ms Lorraine Wirth from Community Accommodation and Support Agency (CASA) said that the funds will help CASA to continue to support people requiring crisis accommodation in the region.

"Community Accommodation and Support Agency provides a number of programs including supported short term crisis housing for families with dependent children; Long Term Community Housing; Community Managed Studio Units for singles; youth transitional housing units and a Home Stay program that works with people in order to prevent homelessness in the community.

"Due to the overwhelming need in the region, we have currently outgrown our current premises and will soon be relocating into a new office. The funds provided by The Mackay Foundation will help to furnish our new office while creating a welcoming atmosphere for our clients

"When clients come to the agency, they are often in low spirits and struggling to survive in these difficult financial times, so it will be good to offer better facilities to replace the current collection of old and worn furniture. I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Mackay Foundation for their generous support of our organisation and for supporting our community. This support is very much appreciated," Ms Wirth said.

A formal presentation of all donations will be at 10.30 am on Tuesday 17 May at McKay's Solicitors in Wood Street.

More...

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The Mackay Foundation is the regions community foundation that aims to build a capital fund that will provide ongoing support to the regions community. Further information about the Foundation can be found at www.mackayfoundation.com.au.

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