

*Mazda Foundation  
Report to the Community 2007*



**mazda**

Mazda Foundation

## *Introduction*

The work of the Mazda Foundation began in 1990 when it was formed to provide charitable assistance to a broad cross section of organisations involving important causes throughout Australia.

The Mazda Foundation was seen as an ideal way for Mazda Australia to develop an equitable and broad community involvement apart from its commercial operations.

This year the Mazda Foundation has raised almost \$500,000 for various projects and activities, taking the total to almost \$4.1 million from its inception.

The Mazda Foundation is supported by generous contributions from Mazda Australia as well as Mazda Dealers, public donations and the proceeds of special fund raising functions.





## *Chairperson's Message*

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2006/2007 Mazda Foundation report to the community.

Our fund raising activities continue to be extremely successful and I would like to acknowledge our many contributors to the Mazda Foundation, both in personal effort and funding. I would particularly like to thank our supporters within the wider Mazda family including our Mazda Dealers, our suppliers and of course our Mazda staff. We are indebted to your enthusiastic participation in our fund raising activities and I am delighted to report that the Mazda Foundation attained a record surplus from fund raising of \$325,923 in the twelve months to 30 June 2007.

This year the Mazda Foundation continues to expand its role in the funding of worthwhile and socially relevant causes with a total of \$690,115 gifted to 16 applicants in the 12 months to 30 June 2007.

Mazda Foundation's current priority area is "Projects focussed on the health risks for young people arising out of obesity, such as diabetes, and other related health issues." This focus is one that I'm sure you'll agree merits much greater community awareness. We all have a role to play in working towards a healthier community and few things are more important than the health of our children.

We have so far identified 8 projects which we have agreed to fund in accordance with our current area of focus and a number of these are outlined in this report.

In the course of a year the Mazda Foundation receives many funding requests and we are indeed fortunate to retain Directors who give freely of their time and expertise to the difficult and demanding work of assessing applications. On behalf of the Mazda Foundation I sincerely thank my fellow Directors for the wisdom, sensitivity and insight that they bring to this process which ensures that the funds you entrust to the Mazda Foundation are deployed responsibly and effectively.

The success of our fund raising activities and the benefits that flow from our gifts renews our vigour and commitment to enthusiastically continue the work of the Mazda Foundation. We look forward to a further year of robust fundraising and a raft of new projects to consider and support. As is our practice, applicants wishing to make contact with the Mazda Foundation should visit our web site ([www.mazdafoundation.org.au](http://www.mazdafoundation.org.au)) and follow the instructions contained therein.

Once again, on behalf of the Mazda Foundation, thank you for your generous support over the last year and I trust we have earned your continuing support in the years to come.

Doug Dickson  
Chairperson

*Board of Directors of  
Mazda Foundation Limited  
– Trustee Company  
of Mazda Foundation*

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Executive Director  
Royal Children's Hospital  
Good Friday Appeal

**Colin Johnstone**  
Dealer Principal  
Werribee Mazda  
Victoria

**QLD**

*Autism Queensland Inc*

**\$33,545**

Recent research shows that one in 150 children will be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at some stage of their life. ASD, which includes Autism and Aspergers syndrome, is a neuro-biological disorder that affects the way a person communicates, socialises with others, processes information and adapts to his or her environment. This can have a profound and complicated impact on everyday activities. The cause is not known and as yet there is no cure.

Until now, families in regional Queensland affected by ASD have been dependent on Brisbane based outreach services with little or no support, resulting in many children being undiagnosed.

To address this problem, Autism Queensland recently established its first Regional Centre of Excellence for Children with Autism in Rockhampton. It provides outreach services, home visits and regional education workshops and training for persons with ASD and their families throughout Central Queensland.

The Mazda Foundation is proud to support this development and has contributed the funds to assist Autism Queensland to purchase a vehicle, enabling staff to provide services throughout the regional area.



**VIC**

*BEST Community  
Development*

**\$30,000**

The Mazda Foundation is proud to support the establishment of Cafe BEST, Gourmet Cafe & Catering Services in the retail precinct of Ballarat.

BEST Community Development created an exciting and viable business which will provide employment, training and transition opportunities for young people with special needs.

The BEST Gourmet and Catering Cafe will offer quality and flexible training in all aspects of hospitality, including becoming a chef, food and drink waiter, and careers in food retail, catering, kitchen operations and business management.

The training will take place in a safe and secure environment and will offer ongoing mentoring and a more personal service to participants to help build their confidence and self esteem.

It will also provide the citizens of Ballarat with a community enterprise in a state-of-the-art cafe and catering service, while providing for the needs of people with a disability. The aim is to see each participant with special needs complete a level of formal training either in hospitality or as an apprentice chef.

An amount of \$30,000 provided by the Mazda Foundation has contributed to the purchase of equipment for the training kitchens and furnishings for the cafe.

## **NSW**

### *Billabong Clubhouse Incorporated*

**\$27,520**

Billabong Clubhouse is a recovery oriented service for adults with a mental illness, based on the principles of psychosocial rehabilitation. One of 400 Clubhouses throughout the world, the Billabong Clubhouse is located in Tamworth, NSW and is a support system rather than a medical treatment program.

The Clubhouse concept is centred around a belief in the potential for productive contributions from everyone. Even members struggling with the most severe effects of mental illness have the right to engage in Clubhouse activities and the right to form and sustain meaningful relationships in a safe environment.

In this framework, people with psychiatric disabilities are given the opportunities of meaningful work, employment, education, friendships, social recreation, family, community and access to services.

The Mazda Foundation has been able to assist the Billabong Clubhouse with the provision of a Mazda2 vehicle, to transport members to employment, medical appointments, and many other vital services.

## **NATIONAL**

### *Lifeline Central West Inc*

**\$43,500**

A tragic reality of rural living is an increased risk of suicide in men.

Farm owners and managers are at higher risk of self harm or suicide associated with mental illness than other sections of the community.

The inaccessibility of services, combined with the misunderstanding of mental health issues, has compounded the problem and has inhibited access to early and effective help-seeking.

The Mazda Foundation donated \$43,500 to Lifeline Central West Inc to enable the establishment of a project entitled:

**Strong Farming Communities Supporting Each Other – Mates Helping Mates.**

Three complementary training programs will be incorporated, designed to improve people's ability to recognise mental health disorders, to change beliefs about treatment, decrease social distance from people with mental health disorders and improve confidence in providing help to others.

By seeking help, educating people to recognise and respond, and opening dialogue to remove stigma, stronger more resilient communities will be created.

## NSW

### Mission Australia

**\$25,000**

Mission Australia is one of Australia's leading community service organisations with a focus on helping disadvantaged young people, families and children, homeless people and those looking for work.

The underlying focus of Mission Australia's work is to empower individuals to gain control of their lives and, in turn, help improve entire communities. With over 500 services around the country, Mission Australia assisted 25,000 people in 2006.

With financial support from the Mazda Foundation, Mission Australia, Sydney is establishing an innovative healthy eating and nutrition program *Mad for Fruit & Veg* for people with mental health issues. Evidence suggests that people with a mental health illness die on average 10 to 15 years younger than the average population. Factors which contribute to this include physical inactivity, smoking and poor nutrition.

By establishing a healthy eating and nutrition regime for people with mental health issues, it is anticipated that an improved physical wellbeing will have a positive impact on their mental wellbeing.

*Mad for Fruit & Veg* will be run by a nutritionist and activities will include:

Awareness sessions:

- Teaching participants about the benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.

Nutrition sessions:

- Working with individuals to identify nutritional needs based on their personal health needs, such as diabetes and high blood pressure;
- Recipes to be tried will be identified with participants.

Shopping tours:

- Teaching participants how to shop for fruit and vegetables;
- How to read nutritional labels on packaging;
- Teaching budgeting skills.

Cooking demonstrations:

- Including preparation, cost effectiveness and storage methods.

The program will be evaluated, and it is anticipated that it can then be implemented at Mission Australia's other services and programs.



## VIC

### Murdoch Children's Research Institute

**\$55,529**

The Mazda Foundation is providing funding for the Centre for Adolescent Health, at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, to implement an initiative aimed at preventing depression and promoting emotional wellbeing in young people.

The project involves the development and delivery of a therapeutic outdoor adventure program incorporating the principles of group therapy with physical activity, in natural outdoor settings. Participants negotiate challenges, engage in creative problem solving, experience decision making with natural consequences and learn important life skills.

While the mental health promoting aspects of nature have been appreciated for many years, little is understood about how and why.

This program aims to research and evaluate the key principles of therapeutic adventure programs and construct a comprehensive model of best practice to prevent depression. Those participating are young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, each attending over an eight week period.

This project, supported by the Mazda Foundation, represents an important opportunity to explore new methods and approaches to the prevention of depression and the promotion of emotional wellbeing.

## **NATIONAL**

### *National Trauma Research Institute*

**\$100,000** (1st Year)

The Mazda Foundation has made a three year commitment to support the innovative work undertaken at the National Trauma Research Institute (NTRI), subject to the NTRI continuing to meet certain criteria.

Founded in 2004 the NTRI offers a world-class trauma research and education facility.

Trauma is the leading cause of death and disability for people under the age of 40, accounting for approximately:

- 50% of childhood deaths;
- 75% of adolescent deaths;
- 10% of deaths in the 45-65 year age group.

The primary goal of NTRI is to support and develop research programs that improve the quality of life for people who have suffered trauma.

Through a unique research model integrating laboratory, clinical and epidemiological research, the NTRI collates and expedites trauma knowledge, research and outcomes. This information is then delivered through education and training programs, with the goal of reducing the number of deaths and significant disabilities caused by trauma.

The NTRI collaborates with other multi-disciplinary trauma organisations and plays a systematic role in developing and evaluating state trauma guidelines and protocols.

## **NATIONAL**

### *Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia*

**\$50,000** (2nd Year)

In continuing its support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, the Mazda Foundation is pleased to note the appointment of Dr Antonsson as the inaugural Mazda Biomedical Prostate Cancer Fellow.

Dr Antonsson will undertake research focusing on the fundamental cause of prostate cancer and whether the papilloma virus (HPV) could play a role in the development of this form of cancer.

Identification of a virus linked to the development of prostate cancer would be an important discovery, enabling the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia to be instrumental in designing a test to detect the HPV type virus.

This would make it possible to identify men at risk of developing prostate cancer at an early stage, and opens up the possibility of developing a vaccine against this cancer.

Each year 12,000 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in Australia and tragically 2700 men will be lost to this illness.

The mission of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is to reduce the impact of this disease on the Australian community by funding world-class research, providing support to sufferers and their families, and raising community awareness.





## **QLD**

### *The University of Queensland*

**\$22,000** (2nd Year)

The University of Queensland Faculty of Health Sciences has developed an important pilot program of community based mental health services in Queensland rural towns – the Australian Integrated Mental health initiative.

AIMhi is working in eight rural/regional towns: Bundaberg, Biloela, Oakley, Stanthorpe, Mackay, Emerald, Goondiwindi and Chinchilla, with some workshops also being conducted in other towns. The project examines interventions to reduce and to improve physical health behaviours in people with chronic or recurring mental disorders.

Funding provided by the Mazda Foundation has been used for running community consultation meetings and focus groups and patient assessments, in local communities.

A vehicle provided by the Mazda Foundation is used by AIMhi staff members to drive to rural towns in Queensland for training workshops, meeting with GPs, mental health staff, patients, community representatives and participation in focus groups, community consultation meetings and presentations at conferences in South-East Queensland.

## **SA**

### *Renmark Paringa Community Centre*

**\$5,000**

The Renmark Paringa Community Centre provides a diverse range of health, welfare and community development services and activities otherwise not available in the local area.

The Mazda Foundation has contributed \$5,000 to the Renmark Paringa Community Centre to assist with the provision of individual counselling and group support to the Riverland community.

The impact of drought and the subsequent downturn in business, the lack of employment opportunities and mental health issues have heightened the need for a counsellor to be available on demand and during scheduled sessions.

Support from the Mazda Foundation will assist the Renmark Paringa Community Centre in the provision of:

- Counselling services;
- Support to individuals at risk of mental health issues;
- Referral services as required by the community.

**VIC & QLD**  
*Oz Child*  
**\$5,000**

Depression is an ever increasing concern for Australian children. It is estimated that one in five Australian children will suffer from depressive symptoms.

Oz Child has developed *Bright Ideas*; a program that specifically targets the development of optimistic thinking skills in children aged 10 to 13 years. Developed in Australia, more than 17,000 Victorian schoolchildren have participated in the *Bright Ideas* course with positive results.

Funding from the Mazda Foundation has enabled the *Bright Ideas* program to be introduced to Queensland schools and provide preventative strategies to address depression in children and the associated at-risk behaviours that accompany depression, including suicide and self harm.

The Mazda Foundation's funding has been used to employ a facilitator to conduct a three hour training workshop for teachers in the Greater Brisbane area, provide teacher and student manuals and ongoing support through the implementation of an eight week program.

The funding has also enabled the participation of approximately 12 upper primary school classes, impacting approximately 340 students and their families.

**NATIONAL**

*Reach Foundation*

**\$100,000 (2nd Year)**

The Mazda Foundation has continued to provide financial assistance to the Reach Foundation, supporting Reach in their goal to make a positive difference to the lives of many young people.

Established in 1994, the Reach Foundation supports young people from all walks of life, through school workshops, camps, rural programs, leadership training and youth groups.

The Mazda Foundation's support has been specifically targeted at:

- Programs addressing the mental health needs of young people;
- The Dream Factory Renovation;
- Reach Mazda interaction – involving members of Mazda and the Mazda Foundation in workshops, programs, camps and presentations.

A total of 611 programs have been conducted by the Reach Foundation in the past year, with an overall participation of 45,876 young people and adults.



## **NSW**

### *The Salvation Army*

**\$4,545**

Carinya Cottage is a crisis women's refuge centre operating under the umbrella of the Salvation Army. It provides safe and secure supported accommodation for women with children who are homeless or victims of domestic violence. At any given time the refuge may accommodate eight women and their children; with staff available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The majority of clients suffer from depression and anxiety disorders, including low self esteem, low energy levels, helplessness, paranoia, suicidal tendencies and/or feelings of being worthless.

Research findings, backed by client feedback, indicate that exercise would assist in alleviating the effects of depression. With the support of the Mazda Foundation, Carinya Cottage is establishing an 'in house' gymnasium to encourage clients to participate in an exercise program. Located next to the communal living area of Carinya House, it aims to provide safe and easy access to the gymnasium at no cost to the users. The funds provided by the Mazda Foundation will enable gymnasium equipment and partitioning to be purchased for this facility.

## **QLD**

### *Stepping Stones Clubhouse Inc*

**\$45,000**

Stepping Stones Clubhouse is the only psychosocial rehabilitation program in Brisbane to provide a broad spectrum of support to more than 800 people with a mental illness. The word 'Clubhouse' clearly communicates a message of membership and belonging, and is a restorative environment for those who have had their lives drastically disrupted and who need the support of others.

Through participation in the Stepping Stones Clubhouse, people are given the opportunity to rejoin the world of friendships, family, important work, employment and education, and to access services and support they individually need.

The Mazda Foundation has provided funding for a vehicle that will be used to assist members to access education opportunities, employment opportunities, and affordable housing. The vehicle will also be used to transport members to medical appointments and participate in social activities.

## **NSW**

### *Schizophrenia Fellowship of New South Wales*

**\$35,000**

The Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc – Hunter Region has developed a comprehensive mental health education program directed at young people in the Hunter Region.

The program encompasses primary school, secondary school and community education programs particularly focusing on rural and remote areas where services are often difficult to access:

- The SKIPS Plus Program is aimed at primary school children in Years five and six and their teachers, leading to better intervention for children at risk of developing a mental illness, and a better understanding of the needs of children who have a parent with a mental illness.
- With the support of the regional Education office, the High School Mental Health Education Project was able to include the Mind Works Hunter Youth Mental Health Conference involving Year nine students.
- The Youth Mental Health First Aid Program provided an important tool for those working with young people, helping them to identify early signs of mental illness.

The Mazda Foundation provided a grant to enable the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW to further develop and implement these valuable programs.

## *The Mazda Foundation*

Established in 1990 as a public benefit trust, the Mazda Foundation is administered through an independent body and provides endowments as appropriate each year.

The Mazda Foundation's aims and objectives include (but are not limited to) the provision of financial aid to funds, authorities and institutions which qualify for income tax deductibility for gifts. These provide:

- Assistance to young people through education and employment skills development, with particular emphasis on children from deprived backgrounds;
- Assistance in the advancement of education and achievement of excellence at all levels in the community;
- Assistance in the development of technology, to help improve Australia's international competitiveness;
- Assistance towards the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment;
- Assistance to address community needs identified by the Mazda Foundation from time to time;
- Assistance in research, feasibility, surveys and other background work in relation to any of the above aims and objectives.

## *Further information*

Substantial contributions to the Mazda Foundation have been made by Mazda Motor Corporation, Japan and Mazda Australia. Further contributions continue to be made by Mazda Australia, Mazda Dealer Network, Mazda staff and the public.

Donations to the Mazda Foundation, which are tax deductible, are also invited from individuals and organisations sharing the philosophy of the Mazda Foundation.

The Mazda Foundation has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Mazda Foundation'.

Further information about the work of the Mazda Foundation and grant application guidelines can be obtained from the Mazda Foundation's website:

**[www.mazdafoundation.org.au](http://www.mazdafoundation.org.au)**

Communications and donations should be directed to:

**The Secretary  
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Private Bag 40  
MOUNT WAVERLEY BC VIC 3149**

## *Acknowledgements*

Design and artwork production donated by Clemenger Harvie Edge.

Print production donated by Lithocraft.

Paper donated by K.W. Doggett Fine Paper.

Data processing & mailing by IMS  
(Integrated Mailing Services).



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