



2015/16

ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to present the Big Sister Foundation's 2016 annual report.

Once again, it is a privilege to write this board report and highlight the incredible work of the community organisations which the Big Sister Foundation supports.

It is a pleasure working with so many passionate people from these organisations – leaders, staff and volunteers alike. The services they offer are compelling and support a range of complex challenges experienced by women and their families living in our local community. We thank them all for their dedication and professionalism.

With client numbers continuing to grow, this past year has seen many of these local services exploring innovative ways to grow resources to meet demand. In response, BSF's grant and investment programs have focussed on building long term capacity. By further targeting our resources and utilising our networks, we aim to assist these organisations in achieving greater long term sustainability and impact.

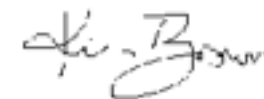
We will continue to adapt as local needs arise, refining our grant practices in response to specific community challenges and the investment climate.

As usual, the investment markets play an important role in our ability to maintain the level of our funding programs. Our board is focussed on optimising our investment returns, ensuring we can continue assisting these community organisations into the future.

I would like to say a special thank our staff, Sonia Baxant and Gail Jones, whose fantastic efforts make a considerable contribution to the Foundation. Also to our volunteer Directors who work so enthusiastically and cohesively in advancing our key decisions.

As we move into 2017 we are excited at the opportunities we have before us and we look forward to finding new and innovative ways to support the valuable work done by all our local community organisations.

Yours sincerely



KIM BROWN

Chairperson

Big Sister Foundation

PROGRAM FUNDING

Since 2005 the Big Sister Foundation has donated over \$3.0 million to local community organisations supporting women and families in need.

We would like to congratulate this year’s funding recipients and acknowledge the valuable contribution made by their staff and volunteers to assist women and their families in our local community.

We are committed to working with like-minded organisations who provide valuable support and deliver maximum impact from our funds invested. This year we have granted funding of \$605,000 through the following Big Sister programs:

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

In December 2015, the Big Sister Foundation established a three-year Sustainability Program of \$475,000.

The Program provides financial support to assist in managing growth, building resources, expertise and governance systems. Designed to develop internal capacity and hence underpin the long term community benefit our current sustainability partners include:

- Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation
- Dandelion Support Network
- Southern Community Welfare

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Grants totalling \$223,000, were distributed in December 2015 to five community organisations – 3Bridges, Dunlea Centre for Girls, Life Changing Experiences Foundation, Project Youth, and Sylvanvale.

These grants are currently in the acquittal phase. A 2016/2017 Grants program is currently being reviewed.

MONTHLY DONATION PROGRAM

Our Monthly Donation Program this year provided \$7000 in response to requests for short term program activities.

Donations were provided to Dunlea Centre for Girls, Project Youth – Kurnell and Menai, Nurses on Wheels, MS Society Local Carers and SGS Interagency Newsletter. This program continues in 2017.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Big Sister Foundation engages with all community stakeholders to gain insight into the areas of real need and challenge. This year has seen Big Sister further strengthen our relationships with local community organisations and networks. Our highlights included:

- Attendance of AGM’s for Project Youth, Sutherland Shire Family services and 3Bridges
- Attendance of Kookaburra’s Illawarra office launch and Parliamentary fundraising dinner.
- Meetings with 3Bridges Network to discuss Circle of Impact project and expansion into St George area; and Project Youth to review new youth programs need funding in the Sutherland Shire
- Meetings with other sponsors including Payce, to investigate opportunities for achieving shared community goals.
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and building contacts between organisations including Dandelion, Sylvanvale, Kookaburra, Social Atlas
- Educational visits to services including Sutherland Family Services to review domestic violence programs; Project Youth to review INSPIRE program and Youth initiatives; Dandelion Network to view operations;
- Plus many fundraising events, including Kookaburra Kids luncheon, Early Years Support/Rotary lunch, Sylvanvale annual fundraising dinner, Dandelion afternoon tea.

A special thank you to the directors for investing personal time beyond our board meetings for these activities, your support is greatly valued.

INVESTMENTS

We noted in last year's report we anticipated a slower growth in our investment fund returns FY 2016 than in previous years.

As predicted FY 2016 was a challenging year, with the overall decline in interest rates impacting our cash returns and share market volatility affecting equity values.

Our long term investment strategy continues – taking a conservative investment approach, combined with minimal overheads, to ensure longevity and growth of the Foundation's fund.

At the May annual investment review, some changes were made to better align the investment portfolio with the current market challenges and improve long term returns. The equities market will continue to play an important role in our ability to maintain levels for our Community Grants Program.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

The board remained unchanged in 2016 with current directors as Kim Brown (Chair), Julie McCarthy (Deputy Chair), Alison Brown, Debbie Crowley, Cathy-Anne Kelly and Shanne Taylor

Board members continue to advance their knowledge and expertise by attending investment and educational events, including the UNSW School of Social Impact.

We thank our special guest speakers whose presentations contributed greatly to our understanding of current social research techniques, social enterprise and philanthropy trends. Thankyou Cathy Quinn from Sylvanvale, David Lilly from United Way, Lynnette Ryan from Social Atlas, Katy Tyrrell from Philanthropy Australia.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The board continues to focus on governance and risk as a core component of all discussions and decisions.

Fully compliant with ACNC policy, our audited accounts are lodged annually and core financial, risk and management processes continually reviewed.

Two directors attended the ASK ACNC seminar and met with Susan Pascoe AM, ACNC Commissioner to understand proposed new legal PBI guidelines and potential changes to Big Sister status. Advice was also sought from Stuart Brown Chartered Accountants, however no changes eventuated and our status as a PBI is unchanged.

As highlighted in last year's report, the issue of reputational risk stemming from IBIS Care 'Big Sister Hostel' has now been resolved, with IBIS renaming the Miranda facility in early 2016. Thank you to Brett Crowley, BTC Lawyers for his pro-bono advice on this matter

We also thank our other pro-bono advisors Peter Hall DevelopR, Nicholas Garling Kemp Strang Lawyers, Michael Brown Vicinity Property and Greg Baxant for their professional guidance.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As we move into 2017, a new 3 year strategic plan will map out our future focus. Currently in development, we envisage the new plan including:

- New and innovative ideas for working with other funders to achieve shared community goals
- Support for local social enterprises
- Helping effective community organisations build the capacity they need to grow and flourish
- Contribution to the understanding of what creates positive social impact in the Sutherland Shire through our knowledge and networks

Starting with local research in 2017, we will shine a light on issues that matter most to women and girls in the Sutherland Shire, identifying areas most in need of funding or support.

With an overall goal of 'Strong, safe, happy and healthy women and girls in the Sutherland Shire', our strategy will encompass the five key areas of impact for women – economic empowerment, strong families, education, physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing.

