



Innovation Fund: Tranche 1, 2022-23

A Western Australia for Everyone: State Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (the Strategy)

In 2020, the State Government announced a \$5 million Innovation Fund (the Fund) to support the outcomes of the Strategy.

During July and August 2021, in line with the Delivering Community Services Partnership Policy 2020, Communities undertook targeted consultation with key stakeholders to scope and inform focus areas for the Fund.

Communities released an Expression of Interest in September 2021 seeking applications from WA based organisations interested in *improving people with disability's inclusion, participation and independence in the home and community and to continue education and to be employed resulting in economic and social wellbeing*.

An evaluation panel assessed all offers. Seven (7) applicants were shortlisted for direct negotiation with a requested budget of \$2,498,070 over 2 years. An overview of the funded projects is provided below.

1. Communication Disability Capacity Building Project

Developmental Disability WA

People with disability with complex communication support needs often miss opportunities for inclusion, education, and employment because the wider community lack an understanding about their needs. This project aims to change community attitudes and increase the community's capacity to be inclusive. Resources in a variety of contemporary accessible formats, co-designed with people with Complex Communication Support Needs, will be developed to advance and improve communication accessibility for services and community organisations. Engagement of people with disability both as participants and in governance roles is key in the delivery of this novel project.

Total Funding: \$510,646 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: State-wide

2. SECCA App

SECCA: Sexuality, Education, Counselling and Consultancy Agency Inc.

The SECCA App is a unique digital learning tool with over 200 inbuilt lessons (aligned with a curriculum), 2000 images and a flexible, accessible teaching space for relationship and sexuality topics for all ages. SECCA supports people with disability to learn about

relationships, sexuality, and sexual health. This project will transform user engagement and experience of the current SECCA App by modernising the existing platform and building in considerations for next-generation updates by using intelligent and future-proofing technologies.

Total Funding: \$562,826 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: State-wide

3. Creating Inclusive Communities

Autism Association of Western Australia (Inc)

Autism is a 'hidden disability', and the wider community often doesn't recognise and adapt to create positive experiences for people with Autism, their families, and carers. This project targets key community organisations, including the Art Gallery of WA, AQWA, Perth Airport and Optus Stadium, to learn about and understand 'hidden disabilities' and how to best to include people with Autism and complex communication and support needs. Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) and specialist advice that incorporates environmental design principles will be integrated at each site to create a fully inclusive experience for people with disability.

Total Funding: \$461,037 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: State-wide

4. Post Graduate Qualification/s in Positive Behaviour Support and Complex Communication Needs

Microboards Australia

Contemporary disability practice includes creating individualised strategies that are responsive to the person's needs, in a way that reduces/eliminates the need for the use of regulated restrictive practices. In partnership with Curtin University, this project will develop a post-graduate course in Positive Behaviour Support to equip disability support staff to provide high quality, safe supports and services for people who display challenging behaviours.

Total Funding: \$232,870 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: State-wide

5. Healthy Food for All Abilities: a food literacy and nutrition education program for people living with a disability

Foodbank WA

Research shows that people with a disability are overrepresented amongst households visiting a foodbank. Healthy Food for All Abilities is a new four-week interactive food literacy and nutrition education program designed to empower people living with disability and their support workers with food literacy skills. It provides basic nutrition knowledge around healthy food choices, and cooking skills to incorporate into everyday life to help develop a sense of independence.

Total Funding: \$392,344 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: Perth Metro South-West Wheatbelt Mid-West Gascoyne

6. Industry Mentor in Employment (IMinE) Project

Inclusion WA Incorporated

Being able to actively participate and contribute to the community is a central part of living a good life. Inclusion WA will lead a WA-based consortium to create an innovative and contemporary approach to meaningful and inclusive employment for people with disability. Targeting Local Government Authorities, the IMinE Project identifies and uses existing assets in an innovative manner; purpose-built software will be used to recruit mentors and match skill sets and interests to mentees. This project will develop a blueprint for other industries to follow facilitating important social connection and ongoing economic participation of people with disability.

Total Funding: \$193,200 Term of Funding: January 2022 – December 2023 Regions: Perth Metropolitan

7. Peer Support for Self-Advocacy (PSSA)

Albany Community Legal Centre Inc.

Every person's experience is unique to their individual circumstances. Some people with disability live independent lives, while others rely on networks of support through family, services, and community. Peer supporters provide role modelling and share experiences, feelings, and awareness of disability issues. This project will equip members of peer and family support groups in the Albany region to advocate on issues related to their disability or mental health conditions. Peer support groups will identify and share experiences of self-advocacy, share learned life strategies, and then support one another when self-advocating.

Total Funding: \$145,015 Term of Funding: January 2022 until July 2023 Regions: Great Southern