



Thursday 10 June 2004

Governor Launches Future Funding Foundation

His Excellency Lt General John Sanderson, AC, Governor of Western Australia today launched Western Australian Community Foundation in the Grand Ballroom at Government House. Western Australian Community Foundation has been established to provide an umbrella under which communities across the state can work together to develop leadership capacity and establish endowment funds to benefit the future of their community.

"As Patron of the newly-formed Western Australian Community Foundation, I am immensely pleased that we are providing communities across our state with an opportunity to build a source of ongoing funding for their own futures," said the Lt General John Sanderson, AC.

"The Community Foundation model will create an opportunity for communities to pool and invest donations, with the interest earned being used to fund local initiatives in their own communities. Areas such as health, research, social services, the arts, economic development and the environment are likely to benefit from funding generated through the Foundation," said the Governor of Western Australia.

Community Foundations are a tried and tested model around the world; they however, have a younger history here in Australia. Lessons learned from around the globe and from our eastern states counterparts coupled with input from communities in Western Australia, have led to the development of a model that can, over time, come to support the diverse needs of our state.

The Foundation is surrounded by a very accomplished and prominent Board of Trustees who are voluntarily working to establish and grow the Foundation. Chairman of Western Australian Community Foundation Mr Frank Cooper, said at the launch today, "One of the Foundation's key goals is to actively contribute towards strengthening communities across Western Australia. Harnessing the energy of communities, encouraging business community partnerships and providing learning opportunities will all contribute to strengthening the spirit of community in our state."

(more)

(more.../2)

"The Foundation is excited to announce that Alcoa, St John of God Health Care and Wesfarmers have each expressed their intention to work with Western Australian Community Foundation over the next 4 years," said Mr Cooper, Chairman of Western Australian Community Foundation.

Alcoa's Director of Western Australian Operations, Giulio Casello, said Alcoa was delighted to be the first involved in the Foundation as it enhanced Alcoa's contribution to the WA community over the past 40 years.

"Through our partnership program focused on partnering stronger communities, Alcoa is committed to making a real and long-term difference to the quality of life in WA," Mr Casello said.

"As a major WA organisation that provides hospital, pathology and community services throughout the state, we are proud to be a corporate partner for Western Australian Community Foundation," said Dr Michael Stanford, National Chief Executive Officer St John of God Health Care.

"This is particularly exciting due to our involvement in rural and regional areas - the Kimberly region, Geraldton, Bunbury and the South-west. We have an ongoing commitment to WA and are very keen to support this tremendous initiative, and encourage other corporates in the State to do the same," said Dr Stanford.

"The Hyden Community, Friends of Kings Park and Community Leaders within the Peel region are already working towards establishing a sub-fund under the umbrella of Western Australian Community Foundation. Each community has different needs and as such their priorities vary from youth accommodation, respite care for the frail aged to positive aging programs," said Ms Kathryn Sydney-Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Western Australian Community Foundation.

"If you love where you live, where you raised your children and made your friends, Western Australian Community Foundation provides an innovative way of giving back to your community and preserving that gift for the future," said Ms Sydney-Smith.

In addition to our corner-stone partners, Western Australian Community Foundation also received a starter grant from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development to assist it through its initial stages, and more recently, the Myer Foundation has provided \$25 000 to contribute to the Foundation's first year.

(more)

(more.../3)

The Foundation enjoys bipartisan support with the Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Leader of the Opposition the Hon Matt Birney MLA as Vice Patrons.

END OF RELEASE



Picture Opportunities:

At the event the Governor of Western Australia, the Premier and Leader of the Opposition will be available for photo opportunities.

For more information contact:

Ms Kathryn Sydney-Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Community Foundation

Ph: 9323 5521 or mobile 0439 526 595

Governor's Media Office 9429 9199 Premier's Media Office: 9222 9475