

TOWARDS A JUST SOCIETY FUND

Report 2007 1.7.06 – 30.6.07

The Towards a Just Society Fund has completed a successful year, increasing both, donations from contributors (\$ 265,000) and distributions (\$ 269,178). Income from investments, managed through MCF (\$ 56,534), has enabled us to close the financial year with a satisfactory safety margin.

In pursuit of our **Purposes** (shown below) and more specifically defined as increasing participation and completion rates in Indigenous Education, we have expanded our work in several directions – secondary schools, creative activities, regional programs (under discussion), while maintaining our support for Indigenous student bursaries at tertiary level (universities of Monash, Melbourne, La Trobe, Deakin). We have also undertaken a modest amount of lobbying with the Vice-Chancellors Melbourne and Monash universities and more particularly with both the Minister and Shadow Minister of Education at federal level in an effort to get them to rescind changes to the Abstudy scheme which have resulted in significant reductions in tertiary enrolments.

Two particularly pleasing developments are firstly next year's Research and Evaluation Project focussing on our methodology by the ANU's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) which is now in its planning stage and the fact that we are getting requests for assistance by people interested in funding Indigenous Education, including the Ballandry Sub Fund who wants to invest \$ 10,000 (who previously channelled \$ 4,000 through TJS).

TJS Purposes (as agreed June 2002)

To assist in the reduction of current injustices affecting particular groups and individuals in Australian society and/or to increase the capacity of such people to overcome any disadvantages, discrimination or injustices through their own efforts and to increase their ability to control and manage their own lives.

To take account of the fact that this definition of the Fund's purposes applies in particular to Indigenous Australians, leading to the presumption that a major proportion of available funds, ie at least approximately 75%, will be devoted to projects affecting Indigenous Australians. This flexibility is designed to ensure that Non Indigenous people are not excluded where the need for action is equally great, eg in the provision of emergency accommodation for homeless youth.

To give priority, initially, to projects enabling Indigenous students and Indigenous people of any age to participate in education, broadly defined, at all levels.

Distributions 1.7.06 – 30.6.07

10.8.06	Community West – Coronial Inquests/training	\$10,988 1,000
10.8.06	La Trobe University – bursaries, cultural events, emergency fund, 2 nd half of grant (28 students plus)	\$ 17,500
14.11.06	Monash University – bursaries (5 students)	\$ 15,378
14.11.06	Paravics – contribution to competition travel o’s seas	\$ 2,000
14.11.06	Melbourne University, Trinity College, acc’tion (1stdt)	\$ 1,750
14.11.06	Deakin University, bursaries, em’cy fund (40 stdts)	\$ 40,000
25.1.07	Worawa Aboriginal College – After school programs, contribution to new school bus (60 students)	\$ 20,000
25.1.07	Koorie Heritage Trust – Young Indigenous Writers Project (potentially 10 participants)	\$ 3,500
27.2.07	Melbourne University, Medical School, bursaries (5 students)	\$ 9,000
27.2.07	Melbourne University, Trinity College, bursaries (asylum seekers) 3 students	\$ 15,000
21.3.07	Banyule Cty Health Service for Northland Secondary College, numeracy teacher (30 students approx)	\$ 30,000
21.3.07	Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre for KODE School Glenroy – Attendance/Incentive Pilot Program (30 students)	\$ 20,000
28.3.07	Monash University bursaries, e’cy fund, (5 students)	\$ 21,522
28.3.07	St Vincent de Paul for Box Hill Secondary – Yvonne Goolagong/Indig. Sports Fndtn. bursaries (4 students)	\$ 10,540
1.5.07	Action for Community Living – young Indigenous International scholarship winner – cost of overseas participation(New York)	\$ 3,500
1.5.07	La Trobe University – bursaries, cultural events, emergency fund (30 students plus)	\$ 35,000

6.6.07	Cape York Charitable Trust – Indig Youth Group environmental campaign (5 participants)	\$ 5,000
6.6.07	Melbourne Workers Theatre – production of “Show us Ya Tiddas”, incl training in stagecraft (est. 5 participants)	\$ 7,500
		\$ 269,178 =====

MCF administration fees \$ 5,473
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TJS administrative expenses NIL
(all work done pro bono and all expenses met by individual contributors)

Distributions since 1.7.07

3.7.07	Eastern Region Education Project (incl. workshops 19.9.07)	\$ 10,000
7.8.07	Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place – Education Support program (Eastern Region)	\$ 6,250
7.8.07.	Wathaurong Aborig. Coop – Documentary Video Education and Training Project (Richard Frankland)	\$10,000
10.9.07	Monash University, bursaries and contribution to overseas conference attendance	\$ 8,000
10.9.07	MullumMullum Sports Club – contribution to costs of participating in Vaysar Sports Carnival, Shepparton	\$ 3,000
10.9.07	Melbourne University, Trinity College, participation in Trinity College Summer School by 6 Worawa students together with co-funding from Ballandry sub-fund: \$ 7,000, and the BB&A Miller sub-fund: \$ 5,000.	\$ 2,280

Attached also the Macro Melbourne publication by MCF – we are getting good exposure on p 16 and 17.

Projects in preparation

Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program – scholarships are \$ 6,000 per participant – we would consider if and when they find potential Indigenous participants.

The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Victorian College of the Arts - looking for scholarships, will be meeting with them shortly.

“Big Game” program of the Rumbalara Football and Netball Club, Shepparton – the Club is providing social and educational support programs beyond its sporting activities and would now like to target about 100 youngsters, aged 17 and under to assist them in completing secondary school and to start them on post secondary education and/or employment. The budget includes two full time youth workers and small bursaries – I believe it needs support from pro bono mentors and tutors and we are actively engaged in discussions . The total budget pa is currently \$ 134,000 and we are exploring co-funding possibilities. A proposal has been drafted by Paul Briggs and Stephen Rothfield (who has been involved on the Cape York Peninsula and is now assisting Rumbalara) – we will be discussing it at our next meeting but do request a copy if you want to read it earlier.

Eastern Metropolitan Region – Indigenous Education Support Program. Encouraged by our small grant the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place is canvassing the community, calling for applications from individuals in need of support to continue or start educational activities. We have never done it in quite this way so the response will be interesting.

Administration

In June 2007 TJS has put in place the new constitution, streamlining the grants approval process. Earlier in 2007, Ian Baker and John Burke have volunteered to assist with day to day administration – with Ian concentrating on liaison with funded projects and John helping to organise the CAEPR research project - their assistance is much appreciated.

Sid Spindler, Chair
12.9.2007