



"Helping Inspire Change for Marginalised Young Australians"

Coca-Cola Australia Foundation community grant helps bring out the best in the west

17 November 2011 – Western Chances, with support from a \$10,000 community grant from the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation (CCAF), has today announced they will continue to support young people in Melbourne's western suburbs through 13 new and renewal education scholarships.

Melbourne's West is the fastest growing region in Australia with an inflated proportion of residents experiencing financial disadvantage. In realising this disparity, Western Chances set up their Scholarship Program, to alleviate some of the financial burden faced by these families and in return enable young people to pursue their educational goals and greatly increase their chances of future employment.

The Western Chances Scholarship Program is an ongoing program targeting talented and motivated disadvantaged youth attending government schools, TAFE and universities across the six Victorian municipalities of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham. On a tangible level, the scholarships help disadvantaged families pay for their children's education and training related costs such as textbooks, laptops, internet, leadership camp fees and specialist tuition.

"In line with our commitment to help inspire change for marginalised young Australians, CCAF is delighted to award Western Chances a grant in support of their scholarship program," said Jim Bird, Chairman of the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation.

"After seeing first-hand the great work Western Chances are doing, I know they have a strong future ahead and will continue to motivate young people to fulfill their educational and career aspirations and in doing so, support the development of Melbourne's west as a community," Added Mr Bird

Rhyll Dorrington, spokesperson for Western Chances said, "We are extremely grateful to CCAF for their support. In the current economic climate, it is obviously much harder for our financially disadvantaged young people to fulfil their potential. This grant will help Western Chances to continue providing its invaluable scholarship program and to support young people to pursue their dreams and goals."

Western Chances has awarded over 2,000 tailor-made scholarships totaling \$1.7 million to assist over 1,000 children and young people with the number increasing each year. In the 2011-2012 financial year, Western Chances will award in total, approximately 400 new and renewal scholarships.

For more information about Western Chances and their Scholarship Program visit www.westernchances.org.au

About the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation (CCAF):

Established in 2002, the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation (CCAF) aims to help inspire change for marginalised young Australians aged primarily between 12–25 years. Jointly funded by Coca-Cola Amatil and Coca-Cola South Pacific, CCAF was originally created to bring together the wide-range of Community programs already being funded in Australia by both businesses. Through funding innovative and practical programs run by community and youth organisations, charities and NGOs CCAF supports young Australians who are facing major social, physical and/or economic challenges in their lives. CCAF works with a select number of National Partners on larger-scale, longer-term programs and also funds a number of Community Grants for smaller-scale programs to achieve its aims. CCAF donates approximately \$1 million each year and since its inception over \$7,000,000 has been awarded to hundreds of programs right across Australia

www.coca-colaustraliafoundation.com.au.



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About Western Chances

Founded in 2003, Western Chances's (WC) vision is to see young people in Melbourne's western suburbs achieve their full potential. To fulfil this goal, WC awards merit based scholarships that are targeted to young people in Melbourne's West who have an identified talent, desire and motivation to fulfil their potential but lack the financial support, opportunity and networks to pursue their goals. In addition, WC provides programs and networks that advance the talents and pathways of young people in Melbourne's West and builds partnerships that are aligned with its vision to support the sustainability of Western Chances.

www.westernchances.org.au

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