



ANNUAL REPORT



Western Chances

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2017 highlights

621 scholarships awarded

467 renewal scholarships
154 new scholarships



\$524,573.00 granted



New holistic support

A new holistic model of support introduced for our scholarship recipients

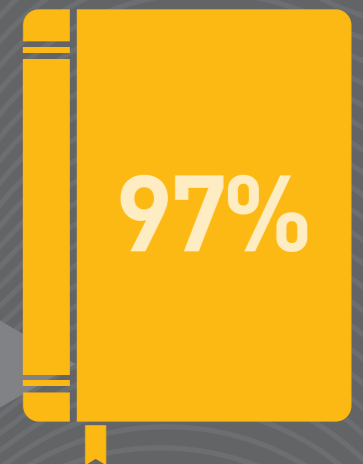


100% completed studies

100% of Year 12 scholarship recipients* completed VCE or equivalent

97% to ongoing studies or employment

97% of our Year 12 scholarship recipients* offered places in tertiary institutions, training or employment



\$361,108.00

In free personal and professional development opportunities provided

Over 5800 scholarships awarded and over 2650 young people assisted since 2004.

*120 Western Chances scholarship recipients studied VCE or equivalent, 118 were contactable.

James

James, 21, is a third year of Bachelor of Laws (Hons) /Arts student. He also works part time on campus as a residential services assistant, helping other students from all over the world to settle in and get the most out of campus life.

"My Arts/Law degree is giving me the tools I need to analyse and solve problems, something that will help me in the future. My goal is to work in Canberra, in government. I love the idea of being a political speechwriter.

Before I discovered Western Chances I was struggling to meet the costs of my textbooks and studies. The scholarships really took the pressure off and gave me more time. I didn't have to sit in the library to read books. I could buy my own and read at home.

The best thing about Western Chances is the connections and opportunities they've given me. And the awesome people I've met – people in a similar situation to me, who are trying to push through and succeed. We've forged a real bond.

Thanks to Western Chances for believing in young people from the west and for helping us to believe in ourselves."



Message from Chair and CEO



Looking back on 2017, we are very proud of what our scholarship recipients achieved and excited about continuing that level of success into 2018 and beyond.

This year we awarded 621 scholarships valued at over \$524,000 and, again, our Year 12 destination stats were outstanding. In addition, through our Links Program partners, we provided more than \$360,000 worth of free opportunities that will help our young people to achieve their goals. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our partners.

In 2017 we completed a strategic review which found that a lack of networks and professional development opportunities were major barriers for students from low socio-economic backgrounds. The review recommended that we formalise and expand the holistic support we provide to past and present recipients. So in 2017 we resourced this need by introducing a Holistic Support framework. This program will help overcome key barriers, placing Western Chances recipients and alumni in a better position to attain their big dreams and fulfil their potential.

In November, we received funding from the Erica Foundation to conduct an economic analysis of our programs. This will provide us with evidence to demonstrate to our stakeholders the social value being achieved through our work with young people in Melbourne's west. We will also use the report findings to make changes to improve our processes and program delivery.

None of our achievements would be possible without the support of our donors and partners. This year we again thank our major ongoing donors Melbourne Airport, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and pro bono supporters Western Health and KPMG. We were also pleased to welcome new major donors – Yarra Trams, the Toyota Community Trust and the Victorian Government.

Our sincere thanks to our dedicated Board directors, subcommittee members and volunteers, whose hard work and commitment make us very proud. Our staff excelled in their commitment and professionalism, and we are again grateful for their outstanding efforts.

As an organisation we have a lot to be proud of. With the support of our donors and partners, we look forward to strengthening our impact on the lives of our young people in 2018.


Terry Bracks AM
Chair


Rhyll Dorrington
Chief Executive Officer



From our Patron

People of all ages across Melbourne's west face financial, social and cultural difficulties and this impacts greatly on families and on our young people, who are our future leaders.

Now more than ever before we need to ensure that disadvantage in the area is minimised, and that young people who are identified by schools and community service organisations as talented and motivated are given the financial assistance and support that they need to achieve their goals.

We are proud of the fact that, thanks to our generous donors, supporters and volunteers, Western Chances continues to make a difference where it's most needed.

The Hon. Frank Vincent AO QC



Cherleylee

Cherleylee, 16, is in Year 11 and is academically talented across the curriculum. She works part time in retail and has been a volunteer junior camp assistant for disadvantaged youth. She will be the first person in her family to attend university.

"My Western Chances scholarships took a lot of pressure off my mum, who's a single parent with two teenagers. It felt good to be less of a burden for her. The scholarships paid for textbooks, my calculator and art materials. Art is my passion and I was able to buy proper canvases, which are expensive.

Through Western Chances I also completed the Doxa Pathways program, which taught me what I have to do to go to uni. And I completed the Trinity College Young Leaders Program, where I met other students from around the world. It was a real eye-opener about other cultures, I learned so much. It made me certain that I want to work in social justice in some way.

I'm really grateful for the opportunities that Western Chances has given me. I know I wouldn't be this far along in my studies without their help."

About us

Western Chances is a not-for-profit organisation that helps talented and motivated young people who face significant barriers to reach their potential.

At Western Chances, young people are at the centre of our world. Their hopes for a better future fuel everything we do.

- We provide scholarships for young people in Melbourne's west
- We link young people to additional life-changing experiences
- We collaborate with partners and supporters to increase opportunities
- We work to broaden our reach
- We celebrate achievements

Vision

To see young people in Melbourne's western suburbs achieve their full potential.

Purpose

Western Chances assists motivated young people in Melbourne's west to realise their potential by providing scholarships, opportunity programs and ongoing support.

Strategy for achieving these objectives

1. Awarding scholarships that are targeted to young people in Melbourne's west who have limited opportunities and financial resources.
2. Connecting alumni to provide opportunity programs and networks that advance the talents and pathways of young people in Melbourne's west.
3. Recognising achievement to nurture and celebrate the talent and potential talent of scholarship recipients and alumni.
4. Building support to develop the sustainability of the organisation.

Nominating organisations

Professionals working in selected state secondary schools and other organisations attended by young people from Melbourne's west nominate talented and motivated young people for our scholarships.

During 2017, nominations for students to receive a Western Chances scholarship were received from the following secondary schools and other organisations:

Secondary schools

Bayside P-12 College / Braybrook College / Buckley Park College / Copperfield College / Essendon Keilor College / Footscray City College / Gilmore College for Girls / Hoppers Crossing Secondary College / Keilor Downs College / Kurunjang Secondary College / Lakeview Senior College / Laverton P-12 College / The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School / Manor Lakes P-12 College / Maribyrnong Secondary College / Melbourne High School / Melton Secondary College / Mount Alexander College / Point Cook Senior Secondary College / Rosehill Secondary College / St Albans Secondary College / Staughton College / Strathmore Secondary College / Sunshine College / Suzanne Cory High School / Tarneit Senior College / Taylors Lakes Secondary College / The Grange P-12 College / University High School / Victoria University Secondary College / Victorian College of the Arts Secondary College / Williamstown High School

Other organisations

Artz Collective Performing Arts School / David Jaanz School of Singing / Deakin University / Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services / Monash University / Open University Australia / RMIT University / Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre / Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning / Swinburne University of Technology / Victoria University / Wyndham Community and Education Centre

Our region

- We operate in Melbourne's west, one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. It is a region that is developing rapidly and one that has areas of significant disadvantage.¹
- Our program reach covers 102 suburbs across Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and two of the 10 fastest growing municipalities in Australia – Melton and Wyndham.¹
- Over the past two decades, Melbourne's west had the fastest absolute rate of growth of any Melbourne region and this is expected to continue over the next 20 years – from around 837,000 people today to 1.8 million by 2051.² This is over 100,000 more than the next largest region.
- Our region has low levels of literacy and numeracy, and the Year 12 completion rate of 89.4% is lower than the metropolitan average (90.8%). And while 35% of our adults hold a bachelor degree or higher, this is 4% lower than the Melbourne average.³
- Our population is growing, young and diverse, with a median age of 34 (compared to 37 in Victoria and 38 in Australia).⁴
- Over the next five years the region's population is expected to grow by more than 14%, compared to the metropolitan average of 10%. The areas of Werribee-Wyndham and Hoppers Crossing-Truganina are expecting growth of 23%.⁵
- Melbourne's west is the most culturally and linguistically diverse of all the regions in Victoria, with 38% of the population born overseas and over 130 nationalities represented.⁶

¹ Estimated Resident Population figures for LGAs, ABS 2016
² Western Region Data, LeadWest 2017
³ Western Assembly, Metropolitan Partnerships – Western region 2017
⁴ LeadWest 2017
⁵ Western Assembly 2017
⁶ LeadWest 2017



Scholarships

Western Chances scholarships support motivated young people who have an identifiable talent and who may not otherwise have an opportunity to complete their education and fulfil their potential.

Here's how we helped changed lives in 2017:

- 621 scholarships worth over \$524,000
- Average scholarship \$845
- 154 new scholarships worth over \$127,000
- 467 renewal scholarships worth almost \$397,000.

Study areas

Accounting, animal science, architecture, art, audio visual, banking and finance, biomedicine, biotechnology, business, clothing production, commerce, community services, conservation and land management, criminology, dance, dentistry, dermal science, design, drama, economics, education, electrical, engineering, English, event management, exercise science, fashion, film, global studies, fine arts, health science, health services, hospitality, humanities, interior architecture, industrial design, informatics, information technology, interior architecture, languages, law, live production and technology, leadership, marketing, maths, media, medicine, midwifery, music, musical theatre, nursing, nutrition, optometry, paramedicine, patisserie, pharmacy, photography, psychology, public health, physiotherapy, property and real estate, radiography, science, singing, social work, visual arts, writing, youth work and zoology.

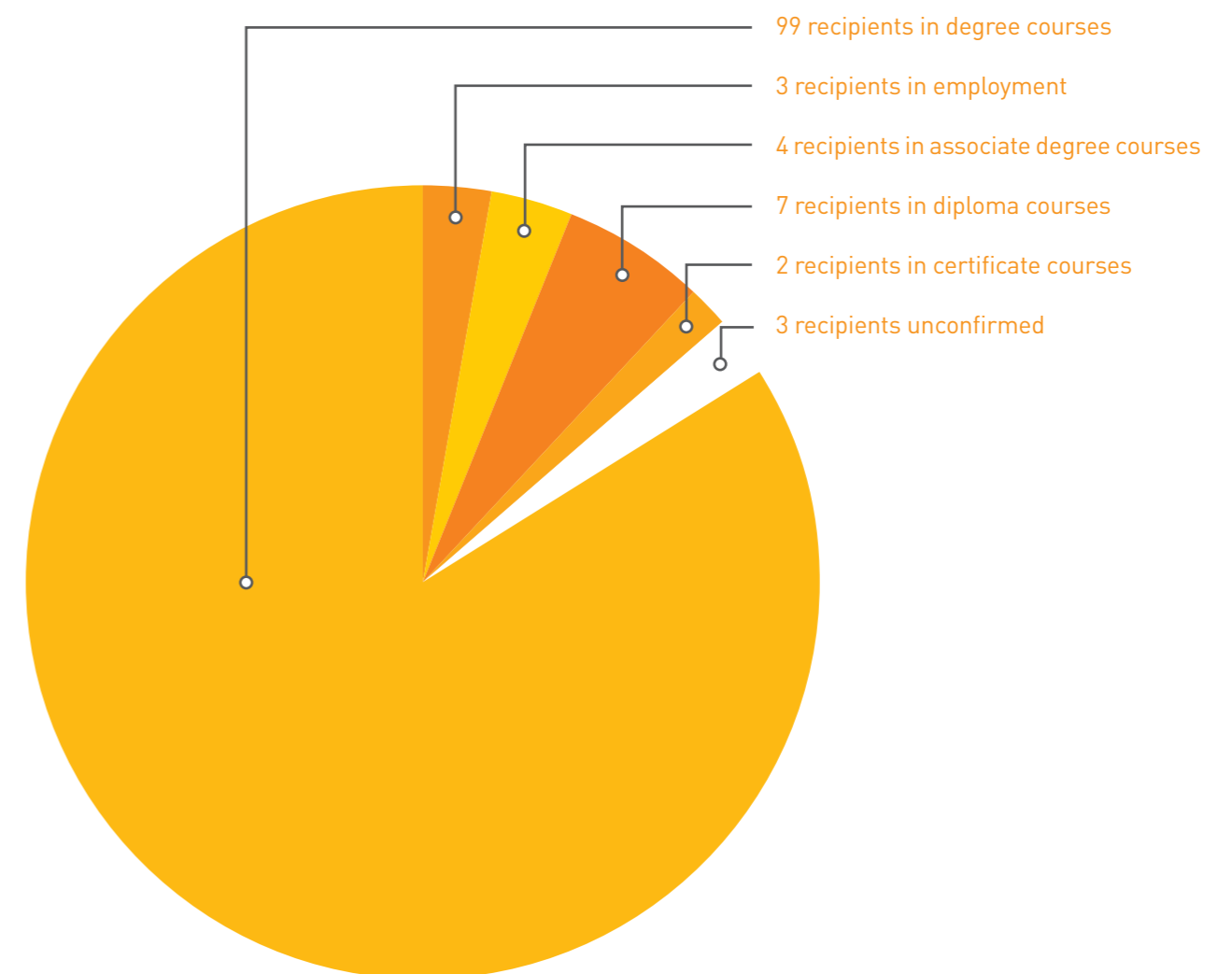
Study support items

Art supplies, calculators, cameras and equipment, camp fees, computers, computer equipment and software, conference expenses, course materials, dance fees and equipment, dental equipment, dressmaking tools, e-books, fabrics, GAMSAT fees, internet, laboratory equipment, laminators, leadership programs, lecture notes, material fees, modelling materials, music lessons and equipment, parking expenses, placement accommodation, printing/photocopying, sewing machines, short courses, uniforms, stationery, study desks, TAFE fees, textbooks, tickets, tools and equipment, transport expenses, tutoring, UMAT fee and materials, university exchange programs, and VCE lectures and resources.

Impact

120 scholarship recipients studied VCE or equivalent.
100% of the 118 we were able to contact successfully completed the school year.

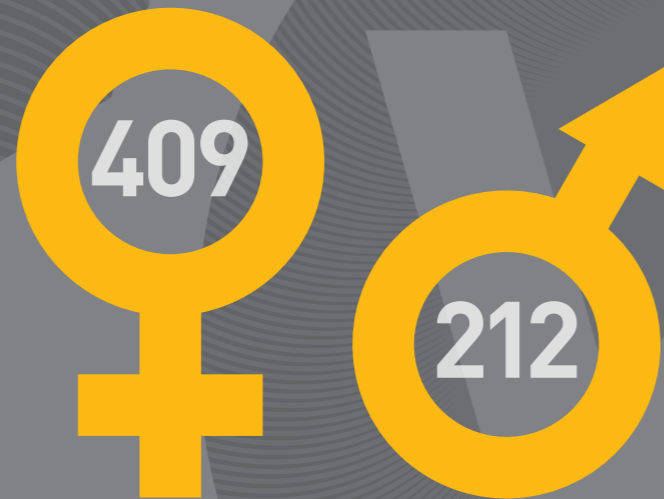
115 gained places in tertiary institutions or employment:



Scholarship statistics

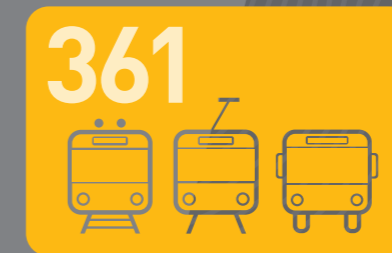
Gender

409 female
212 male



Residential status

204 refugee immigrant recipients
417 recipients born in Australia



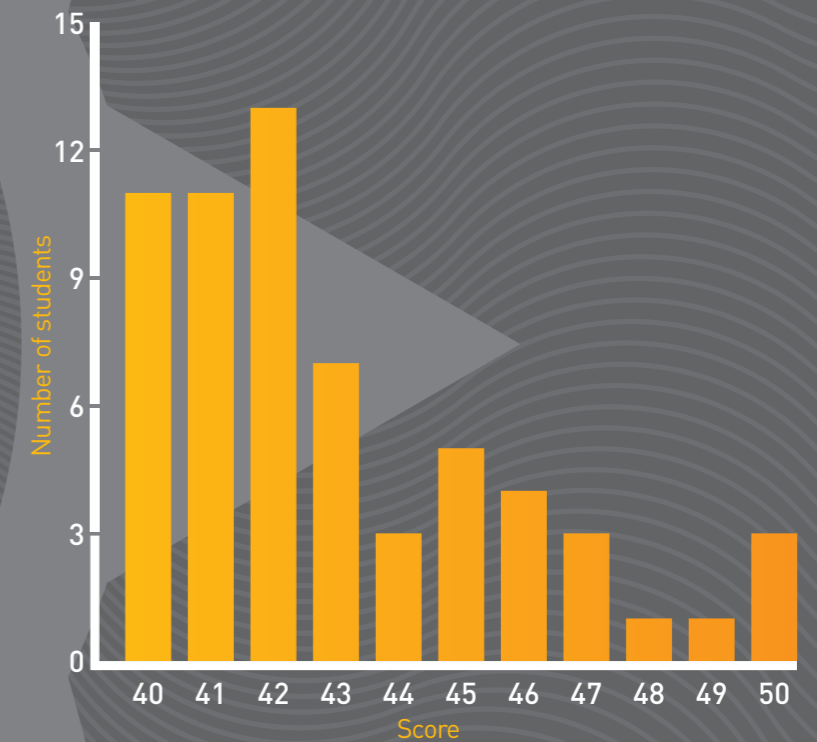
Awarded

473 requests for textbooks = \$167,287
361 requests for myki = \$170,147
213 requests for computer, internet = \$82,568

40+ VCE score

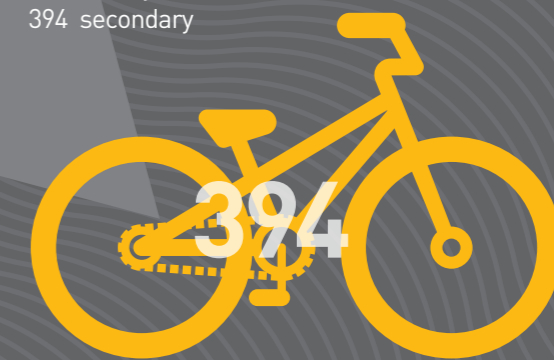
Total students completing VCE = 120
25% of students received one or more study scores of 40+

A study score of 40+ places these students in the state's top 9% in each subject



Student year level

227 tertiary
394 secondary



Abid

Abid, 26, completed postgraduate studies in medicine at The University of Melbourne last year. Currently undertaking an internship at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, he is part of the Western Chances Alumni Community and STAR advisory group.

"My internship is great. I've been on rotation in general surgery, emergency and orthopaedic surgery. Next year I'm hoping to do a surgical residency and with a bit more training and experience my goal is to apply to the Royal College of Surgeons.

While I was in secondary school our family experienced some financial hardships. I found a part time job so that I could help out. The Western Chances scholarships paid for transport, stationery, textbooks and applications for medical exams. It meant I didn't have to work so many hours. I could concentrate on my studies.

Through being part of the Western Chances community I've had a lot of opportunities and made valuable professional and personal connections. I'm proud to be giving back and mentoring younger people who are thinking of a career in medicine.

Thanks to Western Chances for being there and for the opportunities that have enriched my life."



Holistic support

Holistic support offered to Western Chances young people means complementing financial support provided through scholarships, with access to a range of development and networking opportunities. These opportunities encourage personal and professional growth and support young people to advance their education, career and personal goals.

Holistic support begins when a recipient receives their first scholarship and continues while they are an alumni member until they are no longer disadvantaged and/or are over 25 years of age.

The type of support transitions as the relationship lifecycle moves from secondary recipient to tertiary recipient to alumni community member, with a focus on:

- financial support through scholarships
- educational, personal and professional development opportunities
- creating connections and networks.

Links Program

As part of the Western Chances Links Program we collaborate with education, community service and not-for-profit organisations to offer free and often life-changing personal and career development opportunities to recipients. These opportunities value-add to the scholarships and extend the recipients' knowledge and skills, increase confidence and self-esteem, and foster leadership.

2017 Links Program opportunities

	Participants/offers	Value
Lord and Lady Somers Camp One week personal development program, 16-18 years	9	\$4,950
Dafydd Lewis Trust University scholarships for boys, 3 years @ \$15,000 pa	4*	\$60,000
Mary Jane Lewis Foundation University scholarships for girls, 3 years @ \$10,000 pa	4*	\$40,000
Doxa Youth Foundation Tertiary cadetships, support and professional and personal development, \$7000 per year	8*	\$56,000
Ormond College (The University of Melbourne) College-based tutorial and activities program for non-resident students	18*	\$76,770
Spark Engineering Camp (Youth Without Borders) Residential camp, held at The University of Melbourne, that explores all things engineering	5	\$2,500
Trinity College (The University of Melbourne) One week residential program involving interactive learning, excursions and group work	26	\$48,100
Victoria University Access Scholarships Scholarships of \$1000 pa for up to 4 years of study	27*	\$27,000
Victoria University Kee Wong scholarships Two scholarships valued at \$5000 for 12 months	2	\$10,000
RMIT laptops RMIT University offers up to 15 new laptops and software annually	13	\$12,441
RMIT Equity Scholarships RMIT University offers a range of Equity Scholarships annually	1	\$1,250
Leadership workshop Specialist workshop run by a leading corporate advisor	9	\$5,000
Word from the Wise Lunch with an eminent person for a small number of recipients	13	\$585
Conference attendance A donor supported a recipient to attend an overseas conference	1	\$2,300
Ticket giveaways** (cultural events including art exhibitions, concerts and festivals)	608 tickets	\$14,212**
Total	748	\$361,108

* New and ongoing beneficiaries

** Includes giveaways to recipients, alumni and supporters

Gemma

Gemma, 23, is a fourth year Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) (Photography) student at RMIT University. She specialises in documentary photography, and aims to continue creating work that comments on societal issues.

"During my VCE studies, my mum passed away and I didn't have a lot of other support at the time. I was accepted into RMIT to study a degree in photography, though being a high material cost program I was expected to fund additional things like equipment, editing programs, photographic paper and more. My honours year has helped me develop and refine a project that will be published as a book next year.

Without Western Chances, I wouldn't have been able to afford these important things which have helped to get to where I am now. The scholarships have fuelled me to be confident and have motivated me to succeed in this competitive, creative field.

Western Chances isn't just an organisation. It's a community of passionate people who do everything they can to support and empower people like me and I'm incredibly grateful for their efforts."



Communications and events

We continued to increase our reach through our marketing and fundraising strategy and through high quality events that showcase the impact of our programs and the achievements of our recipients.

Communications

Nominators

- Met with 44 individual nominators
- Presented to more than 60 nominators and potential nominators
- Made 29 visits to schools and community service organisations

Social media

- 347 posts on Facebook
- 148 posts on Instagram
- 197 posts on LinkedIn



Email marketing

- 6 newsletter emails sent to a receptive audience of over 2500 nominators, recipients and alumni
- 41 Opportunity Alerts* sent out targeting our recipients and alumni with great opportunities courtesy of our supporters and partner organisations

Major events

Western Chances Scholarship Award Ceremony

15 March 2017 at Deakin Edge, Federation Square

- Over 90 talented young people were presented with their certificates.
- Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services the Honourable James Merlino MP opened the ceremony and presented the certificates.
- Western Chances Patron the Honourable Frank Vincent AO QC assisted in presentation of certificates.
- Western Chances alumni Dr Abid Khan was our Master of Ceremonies.
- A vocal performance showcased the talents of scholarship recipient Tania Suesue.
- An exhibition showcased the work of Western Chances alumni.

"I've done a lot speaking gigs, but this had to be one of my faves so far because I could see the eyes of the young scholarship recipients light up as I spoke (it reminded me of my young self!). Thanks and HUGE congrats to you and the lovely team at Western Chances for putting together such a beautiful event last night!"

Celia Tran, Western Chances alumna and Board member

"It was a lovely evening and so wonderful to see the talented students of the west. We met the singer later as she was leaving. What a wonderful voice and wonderful young woman."

Associate Professor Alex Cockram, CEO Western Health

Thank you to our event sponsor [Transurban](#).

Good Business Forum Luncheon

16 June 2017, at Zinc, Federation Square. Raised over \$86,000.

- Guest speaker was eminent crime writer and journalist John Silvester.
- Western Chances alumnus Dr Garang Dut spoke of his personal journey, from a Kenyan refugee camp to studies at Harvard University.
- Western Chances recipient Selam* updated us on her successes since 2016 – dux of her school, studying a Bachelor Science at The University of Melbourne and receiving a Mary Jane Lewis Scholarship.
- Members of STAR (Scholarship Team for Advice and Review) told us of their many achievements.
- Our generous supporters helped us raise \$20,000 from a raffle alone.

Thank you to our event sponsor [Netflow](#).

* Opportunity Alerts include free corporate wear, exhibition tickets, additional scholarship opportunities and more.

* Name changed to protect privacy

Song, 21, is in his second year of a Bachelor of Applied Science/Master of Physiotherapy. He also volunteers with Sunshine Headspace, visiting schools to help young people deal with the pressures of anxiety and stress in senior years.

"When some of my family members were ill I saw how physiotherapy helped them recover. That made me decide I wanted to help people in the same way. The course is challenging but rewarding. I've made the right choice.

My Western Chances scholarships have helped my family through times of financial hardship by covering things like myki, textbooks and printing. It's given us peace of mind.

Through Western Chances, I took part in a Trinity Young Leaders camp which was life-changing. And I've been awarded a Dafydd Lewis Trust Scholarship thanks to their strong referrals and advocacy on my behalf. Over summer I'm volunteering in Vietnam, helping disabled children through physio. None of this would have happened without Western Chances.

I want Western Chances to know how much I appreciate the faith they have in me. The funds are great but the best thing is knowing that someone recognises my hard work in this way."

Alumni Community

Over 2000 proud Western Chances alumni

Our Western Chances Alumni Community ensures a continuity of care for the rising number of scholarship recipients completing their studies and entering the workforce.

Past recipients continue to seek our guidance and assistance as they complete their education and embark on their careers. We recognise this support is critical to our cohort successfully taking their next steps and breaking into their chosen careers.

Alumni Community activities leverage Western Chances networks to create connections that support alumni members. Alumni activities also help to encourage past recipients to support our organisation with donations and volunteering.

Our Alumni Community:

- connects
- meets
- networks
- mentors
- volunteers
- shares
- donates back.

Our Scholarship Team for Advice and Review (STAR):

- meets
- advises.

Alumni Community activities for 2017 included:

- support with employment preparation
- connecting alumni to employment opportunities
- leadership workshops
- Word from the Wise lunches with business and community leaders.

Our supporters

At Western Chances, we rely entirely on the generous donations of supporters to continue our valuable work. Every year any gift, big or small, makes a real difference. We would like to sincerely thank these people and organisations for their generosity and for making our programs possible.

Big grants and donations

Alex Cockram / Allandale Foundation / Allens Philanthropy Committee / Allyson Stubbe / Asian Australian Foundation / Australian Communities Foundation – DDJE Fund / Australian Communities Foundation – Westgate Health Charitable Fund / Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation / Bank of Melbourne Neighbourhood Fund / Barlow Family Foundation / Beck Family Foundation / Bensons Property Group / Besen Family Foundation / Beverley and Lloyd Jones / Bongiorno Group / Boom Baby Boom Publishing / Brendan Crotty / Brimbank City Council / Calvert Jones Foundation / Campbell Edwards Trust / Carmine Consulting / Catherine Long / CDC Victoria / Chris Deighton / City of Melton / CMV Staff Charitable Foundation / Cult Design / Darryl Tirtha / Daryl Forge / David Waldren / Deb Beale / Downer Group / Dr Dashiell Gantner / Emma Warren / Equity Trustees – Hazel Peat Perpetual Charitable Trust / Eiril Deighton / Fitzgerald Optometry / Geotech Group / Glenn Williams / Gourlay Charitable Trust / Helen Macpherson Smith Trust / Hobsons Bay City Council / Inner West Community Enterprises / Janet Whiting / Jay Grant / John Kirby / Jonathan Dunlea / Julie Evans / Leonard Family Foundation – managed by Myer Family Company / Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation – Association of Civilian Widows Vic Fund / Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation – Impact 100 Melbourne Fund / Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation – Thrive Grant / Louis Raunik / Maddocks Foundation / Magistrates’ Court of Victoria – Sunshine and Werribee / Marian & EH Flack Nominees Pty Ltd / Mark Madden / Mary Street Holdings – John MacKinnon / Matthew Nation / Melbourne Airport / Michael Burn / Michael Sowards / Michael Wheelahan / Dr Mimi Huynh / Nandos Point Cook / Netflow – a Cintra & Plenary JV / Newsboys Foundation / Norman, Mavis and Graeme Waters Perpetual Trust / Ocean Grove Uniting Church Outreach Centre Opportunity Shop / Perpetual Trustees – Brasher Family Foundation / Perpetual Trustees – Samuel Nissen Charitable Foundation / Peter Bartholomew / Peter Lemon / Peter O’Brien / Pierce Armstrong Foundation / Price Family Foundation / QENOS Pty Ltd / Rapid Office Choice / Rhyll Dorrington / Richard Boaden / Riverlee Corporation / Riverlee Foundation / Ros Willett / Ross Adamson / Service Stream Limited / SNCF Foundation – Yarra Trams / St Albans Community Centre Cooperative Limited / State Trustees Foundation – George Robert Phillips / State Trustees Foundation – John Sylvester / State Trustees Foundation – William Austin / State Trustees Foundation – William Henry Hutchinson / Steadfast Foundation / Sue Bursztynski / Sue Pitt / Sun Foundation Pty Ltd / Susanna Mason / The Erica Foundation Pty Ltd / The Hon David O’Callaghan / The University of Melbourne / Transurban Group / Truganina Mechanics Institute / UCI Projects Pty Ltd / Urban Maintenance Systems / Westpac Foundation / Wylie Foundation / Wyndham City Council / Yellow Window Foundation

** Those featured have donated \$1000 or more.*

Elizabeth

Elizabeth, 15, is in Year 9. Born in Kenya, she came to Australia in 2009. She does well in all her subjects and is involved in many extracurricular activities, including her school's Student Representative Council.

"The Western Chances scholarships have made a big difference to my life. It's less of a burden for my parents. They work a lot and worry about money. Now I don't have to go to them for money all the time, there's less stress in our home.

The scholarships have helped me to buy textbooks and a laptop computer, so I don't have to wait in turn for the computer at home. I can take it to the library and work there if I want.

I enjoy all my subjects at school and I do well in everything. I definitely want to go to university but I'm not sure what I will study, maybe business or law. I'd like to thank Western Chances because they are helping me to get a good education. Through my scholarships I can help my parents too."



Our supporters cont.

Big Dreams donors

Dr Andrew Court / Andrew Hooper / Angela Weir / Ann Goller / Anne Connors / Annie James / Betty Klonaris / Bronwyn Pike / Brooke Young / Cameron Howie / Carol Hay / Caroline Doherty / Cathie Connors / Chad Orr / Chris Christoforou / Chris Limm / Christine Warke / Craig Rowley / Damian Toohey / Dan Gleeson / Darryl Tirtha / David Cooke / David Waldren / Deb Beale / Emily Mudge / Erin Coldham / Felicity Dakin / Felicity Pantelidis / Gaye Hamilton / Geoffrey Perraton / Geoffrey Robinson / Glenn Williams / Guy Nelson / Haley Forge / Helen Bebbington / India Patterson / Jack Diamond / Jane Collinson / Jeff Challis / Jennifer Kelly / Jennifer McConnell / Joan Stennett / John Fitzgerald / Jonathan Dunlea / Julia Truong / Julie Evans / Juliette Alush / Kay Attali / Kerry Thompson / Laura Hughes / Lena Pangalo / Leonie Hall / Libby Gillingham / Liz Round / Louis Raunik / Louise Whiting / Lucinda Patterson / Mark Logue / Matthew Nation / Meriel O'Sullivan / Merran Charles / Mitty Williams / Natalie Truong / Natasha Norton / Neil Saxton / Nicholas Yap / Paul Connors / Paul Gardner / Paula Dorrington / Perry McKenzie / Peter Birch / Petrina Dorrington / Dr Philip Moors / Rachel Petchesky / Dr Rachel Wilson / Rhyll Dorrington / Rita Zammit / Rob Bertagnolio / Robert Naughton / Robin Craig / Rod Coughlin / Ros Casey / Ros Willett / Rosemerry Utber / Ryan Krishnan / Scott Patterson / Sharlyne Tracy James / Sharon Vis / Shelley Penn / Singh Chater / Sue Karzis / Susan Pelka / Terry Bracks / Thomas FitzGibbon / Timothy Connors / Vesna Bennis / Victor Tran

** Those featured in this list make regular monthly donations*

Pro bono supporters

Abid Khan / Alice McDougall / Amy Venema / Allens / Celia Tran / Clayton Utz / Craig Perrett / Darcy Morgan / Dr David Hipgrave / Dr Garang Dut / Emma Gough / Felix Palmerson / Helen Thomas / Herbert Smith Freehills / John Silvester / Juliette Alush / Krystelle Salazar / Lachlan Henderson / Lynda Tran / Neil McCarthy & Associates / Paul Larkin / Raine and Horne Williamstown / Tom Bogusiak / Willett Marketing / Westpac

Donations in kind

Alex Hayes / Australian National Academy of Music / Brian Cohen / Council of Adult Education / Dana Nelson / Gabi Gray / Hilary Chapman / Louise Whiting / Melbourne Airport / Melbourne Youth Orchestra / Michael 'Muddy' Waters / Mitty Williams / OMG Media / Patrick Flannigan / Printing Intelligence / Rapid Office Choice / Ric Dakin / Sheelagh Connors / Simon Gray / Spotless Group / The Bowery Theatre @ STACC / The Huddle - North Melbourne Football Club / Tran Siu / Tyson Goldsworthy / Victorian Opera / Ros Willett / Zaylee Saint-Turner

Volunteers

Alexandra Patterson / Amanda Surrey / Anna Watson / Eva Maleken / Gabrielle Keating / Gaye Hamilton / India Patterson / Jenny Pham Vo / Julia Truong / Kerry Watson / Lucinda Francese / Lucinda Patterson / Melissa Garwood / Michael Lim / Peter Deng / Rita Zammit / Tania Suesue / Thao Ly / Tom Nelson / Victor Tran

David

David, 17, excels in maths and science, receiving top scores last year in maths methods, science, physics and biology (accelerated subject). He has served as a student ambassador and his goal is to go on to university to study medicine.

"I love science because it explains the unknown world. And I love to learn about how the body functions, how everything works to keep us alive. That's why I want to do medicine, to help people achieve optimal health for themselves and their families. It's so important. My goal is to become a specialist in cardiology because the heart pumps for a whole lifetime.

Thanks to Western Chances I've been able to buy textbooks and other school supplies. Money worries have put a lot of strain on our family. Two of my brothers have special needs, and their care is expensive. Now there is more money for them.

The Western Chances scholarships have given me the resources I need to achieve my potential at school and to contribute to our family."

Our organisation

Western Chances Board

Founding Chair

Terry Bracks AM GAICD BEd GradDipAppSc

Deputy Chair

Rosalind Willett BEd

Treasurer

Patrick J Flannigan BBus FAIM FAICD Dip

Secretary

Gaye Hamilton BSc(Ed)

Board directors

Deborah Beale BComm MBA

Mimi Huynh BSc

Guy Nelson BComm LLB *(resigned April 2017)*

Felicity Pantelidis BComm(Hons)

Tony Simpson MEd BEd GradDipEdAdmin

Celia Tran BSocSc MA (IntDev)

Board subcommittees

Executive

Terry Bracks (Chair)

Ros Willett

Gaye Hamilton

Rhyll Dorrington

Finance, Risk and Investment subcommittee

Patrick Flannigan (Chair)

Deb Beale

Rhyll Dorrington

Zion Abatayo

Fundraising and Marketing subcommittee (ceased November 2017)

Ros Willett (Chair)

Rhyll Dorrington

Neil McCarthy

Emma Sharp

Darlene White *(resigned February 2017)*

Bruce Anderson

Our team

The Western Chances office is made up of a capable team of five who are hardworking, dedicated and passionate about improving the lives of young people in Melbourne's west.

Rhyll Dorrington, Chief Executive Officer:

Rhyll has worked in a range of management roles within the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in Melbourne and London, including positions managing mentor programs and mentoring young people. Rhyll's role is to lead Western Chances and she is responsible for the overall management of the organisation.

Anne Connors, Program Manager:

Anne has previously used her teaching qualifications and skills in corporate training and university lecturing and tutoring. Anne's responsibility is to manage the development, documentation and delivery of Scholarship and Links Program operations.

Betty Klonaris, Finance and Administration Coordinator:

Before joining Western Chances, Betty worked in a large medical practice where she managed the daily running of the surgery. She undertakes a wide range of administrative duties in the areas of scholarships, programs, events and finance.

Felicity (Fizz) Dakin, Operations Manager:

Fizz has worked as an operations manager and compliance manager in hospitality, events, staffing and recruitment. She manages all aspects of administration and operations at Western Chances including community relationships, events, marketing, the Scholarship and Links Programs, and volunteers.

Fiona O'Grady, Program Coordinator *(resigned July 2017)*:

Fiona has worked in arts and community development as a program development manager, project coordinator, education facilitator, events producer and volunteer tutor. She is responsible for developing and delivering the Alumni Community program and assists in managing the Scholarship and Links Programs.

Ways to give

We encourage donors to support us on a monthly direct debit basis as part of our Big Dreams program. Friends who want to help build the sustainability of Western Chances can contribute as little as \$10 per month to change a life.

Other ways of giving include:

- bequests
- corporate giving
- event sponsorship
- In Celebration giving
- personal one-off donations
- pro bono support
- workplace giving.

Donate

Any donation – big or small – makes a difference to our organisation. Visit www.westernchances.org.au to sign up.

Donations at work

Whether our donors contributed monthly, annually or made a one-off donation in 2017, a little went a long way.

Here are examples of how donations assisted our recipients:

- **\$10 per month** - a specialist piece of equipment or software for a talented designer or artist.
- **\$15 per month** - annual stationery and photocopying costs for a student.
- **\$20 per month** - CAS calculator for a talented math student.
- **\$25 per month** - costs of a six-month student myki to get a recipient to and from school, tutoring and extracurricular activities.
- **\$40 per month** - internet access for a student for a year.
- **\$50 per month** - most of the textbooks for a secondary school student for a year.
- **\$70 per month** - a laptop computer allowing a student the flexibility to study anytime, anywhere.
- **\$100 per month** - one or more scholarships for a recipient comprising a combination of items.

Scholarship Reserve Fund

Western Chances has an obligation to ensure students awarded scholarships will receive the benefits of these scholarships. In the event that Western Chances ceases to exist the Scholarship Reserve Fund has been created to cover indicative obligations to scholarship holders and aims to honour scholarship renewals for two to three years or until the recipients can be transferred to another organisation.



Saeed, 15 arrived in Australia in 2012 as a refugee from Afghanistan. A very talented maths student, he works part time in a restaurant on weekends.

"School is great. I love learning new things every day, solving problems and building my knowledge. Maths is my favourite subject.

It's hard at home for my parents to manage when they don't have work. They help me as much as they can and they want me to get a good education. My scholarships have covered my textbooks, a desk and tutoring in English, because it is an important subject and I want to do well in VCE. I'm very serious about my studies.

I know that I wouldn't have been able to get these things if it wasn't for Western Chances. I'm really grateful and so is my family. It means less stress for them and for me as a student. In the future I want to become an architect or a civil engineer, designing and creating practical buildings."

Saeed

Western Chances
(a company limited by guarantee)
ABN: 17 110 713 865

Financial report

Western Chances Directors' report

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1 Directors

The Directors of the Company at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Founding Chair

Terry Bracks AM GAICD BEd GradDipAppSc

Terry Bracks is a board member of the Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation, Patron of Heide Gallery and Patron of the Williamstown Literary Festival. Terry has been a board member of Breast Cancer Network Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian Children's Television Foundation and a Trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust.

Terry has worked as a teacher in regional Victoria and as an electorate officer to Federal MPs. She received a Centenary Medal, has been inducted onto the Women's Honour Roll and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Victoria University. Terry was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012.

Deputy Chair

Rosalind Willett BEd

Ros Willett is Managing Partner of marketing agency Willett Marketing. Ros has a Bachelor of Education and has held teaching and Principal positions in secondary schools, including the development and provision of specialist education programs for disadvantaged young people.

In her role at Willett Marketing, Ros has accumulated extensive managerial experience and in working in the corporate and government sectors. Ros's experience extends to sponsorship and event management, digital communications and education campaigns. In addition to her professional experience, Ros is Chair of the Theatre Works board.

Treasurer

Patrick J Flannigan BBus FAIM FAICD Dip

Patrick Flannigan has over 25 years of commercial experience in the industrial services, hospitality and tourism sectors. He has held senior positions up to CEO level with responsibilities for a wide range of activities including finance, operations and marketing. He has established his own business and currently serves on the boards of various companies, both public and private.

Patrick is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He holds a business degree from Victoria University.

Public Officer

Gaye Hamilton BSc(Ed)

After a career as a secondary science teacher and Director of Zoos and Museums, Gaye now undertakes a range of contract and board work. Previous board roles have included the Western Bulldogs Football Club, Zoos Victoria, the State Sports Centres' Trust, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust and The People and Parks Foundation. Gaye is currently also a member of the Council of Victoria University and a Director of the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.