

# SMP CONNECT

## Investing in the well-being of Southern Mornington Peninsula (SMP) communities

### Introduction

*Human rights begin close to home: so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; their neighbourhood; the school or college they attend; the workplace. Such are the places every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world. Adapted from a speech by Eleanor Roosevelt (1943).*

### Education is power

Education is a vital factor in enhancing the health, safety and socio-economic well-being of individuals, families and their community. It empowers people to make a difference. Low income youth and adults who lack disposable funds and who are poorly educated are vulnerable, at risk and face major obstacles because of their disadvantage and marginalisation.

### Community partnership

Southern Mornington Peninsula (SMP) Connect is a partnership between the Chisholm Institute and its charity the Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation and businesses and community organisations and networks to improve the socio-economic well-being of Southern Peninsula residents, families and their communities through a scholarship program which provides vocational education and personal development to youth and adults whom are experiencing hardship.

### Objective

Increase the number of SMP residents who have an accredited tertiary qualification so that more youth and adults have the opportunity to gain full or part time employment and act as a 'circuit breaker' to remove or lessen their dependence on welfare/charity support.

### Southern Peninsula Community

- Low socio-economic profile of the selected communities
- Negative socio-economic indicators for a large number of youth and adults
- Lack of tertiary qualifications; low educational attainment and early school leaving
- Restricted access to education because of low income and physical barriers.

### External factors which marginalise the vulnerable and disadvantaged

- The Victorian Government's shift to a user pays model for funding vocational education and training makes it far less affordable to low income people
- Reduction in the Federal Government's allowance for single parents
- Elements of the Federal Government's proposed Learn or Earn policy
- Increased demand for employees to have tertiary qualifications (Deloitte 2012 study)
- Increase in the cost of living making it difficult for families to meet basic living needs.

### Personal socio-economic profile

Experience has shown that low income youth and adults have at least one, and generally several, of the following personal hardship characteristics.

- Dependency on welfare/charity support, in some cases intergenerational
- Never been in paid employment or have been unemployed for a long period
- Very poor formal education 'track record' with a significant deficit in knowledge/skills
- A long absence from formal education
- Limited living, communication and social skills
- Low self-esteem and low aspirations
- Homeless
- Lives in a family with no role model in education and employment
- Lives in a family in which there is domestic violence and/or drugs and/or alcohol abuse
- Lives in a single parent family surviving on the 'breadline'
- Lives under the guardianship of grandparents

## SMP Connect - Investing in the well-being of Southern Mornington Peninsula communities

### Community Socio-Economic Profile

The selected SMP communities have a higher than Mornington Peninsula Shire percentage of the resident population in the following key socio-economic factors<sup>1</sup>.

| Key Factor                  | ABS Statistical Division/Area |      |  |      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|--|------|
|                             | Mornington Peninsula Shire    |      | Total of Dromana/Rosebud/Rye ABS Areas |      |
|                             | 2006                          | 2011 | 2006                                   | 2011 |
| No tertiary qualifications  | 45.9                          | 43.3 | 48.4                                   | 45.9 |
| Renting accommodation       | 18.3                          | 20.1 | 19.9                                   | 23.7 |
| Single parent families      | 10.0                          | 10.5 | 10.2                                   | 10.7 |
| Household income (<\$600pw) |                               | 23.8 |  | 32.1 |
| Household income (<\$400pw) |                               | 12.5 |  | 17.1 |
| Unemployed                  | 4.7                           | 4.5  | 5.5                                    | 5.0  |
| Not in the labour force     | 37.4                          | 38.1 | 46.1                                   | 45.7 |

In addition, each ABS statistical area (Safety Beach/Dromana to Rye/St Andrews Beach) has a more adverse socio-economic disadvantage rating than the total Mornington Peninsula Shire and Victoria.

### Strategy

- Provide scholarships to fund student costs not covered by existing allowances – eg. tuition, materials, tools, child care, transport, other approved out-of-pocket expenses
- Develop personal & vocational knowledge and skills
- Offer VCAL and at least Certificate III nationally accredited qualifications, with the opportunity to progress to higher levels
- Integrate on-the-job and off-the-job experience and learning
- Provide mentoring to support individuals return to education and employment
- Establish links with local community organisations and networks
- Establish links with agencies providing case management services to the disadvantaged
- Invite government, business, community organisations and individuals to fund the scholarships
- Offer tax deductibility for donations

### Advisory Group

The following is the membership of a community based advisory group.

Ian Predl, AM, (Chairperson), Community  
Heather Barton, AM, Seawinds Community Hub  
Margaret Brown, Southern Peninsula Community Support & Information Centre  
Antonella Celi, Mornington Peninsula Shire  
David Conley, Community  
Jessica Cook, Chisholm Institute  
Liz Higgins, Anglicare  
Kate Hulusi, Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation  
Dorothy Mortlock, Southern Peninsula Community Fund Opportunity Shop  
Meredith Owens, Australian Department of Human Services (Centrelink)  
Helen Turner, Community  
Des Whehan, St Vincent de Paul Society

### Contact

Enquires can be directed to either of the following.

Ms. Kate Hulusi, Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation, Tel 9212 5111

Ms. Jessica Cook, Chisholm Institute (Mornington Campus @ Rosebud), Tel 9212 5385

Revised June, 2015

<sup>1</sup> In all of the following characteristics the Not Stated responses for the SMP is a much higher percentage than for the MPS. This is likely to lead to a greater differential in the characteristic than shown in the summary in the table.



# SMP Connect

## Progress Report @ 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015

- SMP Connect** is a partnership between the Chisholm Institute, its charity the Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation, businesses, community organisations and networks to provide vocational training scholarships to the Southern Mornington Peninsula's youth and adults whom experience hardship. It is a 'circuit breaker' to give people an opportunity to improve their social and economic well-being and to remove or lessen their dependence on welfare/charity support.
- Corporate, community organisations and private donors in 2014/15.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| All Saints Anglican Opportunity Shop (Rosebud)                       | Rosebud RSL                                 |
| Bendigo Bank (Rye/Dromana/Rosebud)**                                 | Rosebud/Rye Rotary Club                     |
| George Hicks Foundation  | Ross Trust (Hillview Quarries)              |
| Mornington Peninsula Shire   | Rye RSL                                     |
| Optical Superstore   | Southern Peninsula Community Fund**         |
| Peter Smit (Rye resident)  | Uniting Church Opportunity Shop (Rosebud)** |
| ** These organisations were also donors in the 2013/14 pilot program |   |

- Scholarships range** from \$250 to \$5,250 per person (average about \$1,200pp) depending:
  - on the requirements of the accredited vocational course;
  - whether a Health Card holder which entitles them to receive financial support for training, and
  - on the circumstances and level of hardship of the applicant.
- Age Profile** ( all SMP Connect scholarship students)

| Year enrolled | 15-20     | 21-24    | 25-29    | 30-34     | 35-39    | 40+      | Total     |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 2014          | 17        | 6        | 3        | 7         | 3        | 2        | 38        |
| New 2015      | 13        | 3        | 2        | 5         | 1        | 7        | 31        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>30</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>69</b> |

- Gender** (all SMP Connect scholarship students) – 52 females and 17 males.
- Courses studied** (all SMP Connect scholarship students)

| Course  | 2014 | 2015 | Total |
|---|------|------|-------|
| Advanced Diploma of Computing Systems Engineering | 1    |      | 1     |
| Post Graduate in Family Violence Work             |      | 1    | 1     |
| Diploma of Beauty & Diploma of Salon Management   | 1    |      | 1     |
| Diploma of Community Development                  |      | 1    | 1     |
| Diploma of Community Services                     |      | 1    | 1     |
| Diploma of Specialist Makeup                      |      | 1    | 1     |
| Certificate IV in Beauty Therapy                  | 2    | 2    | 4     |
| Certificate IV in Beauty                          | 2    | 5    | 7     |
| Certificate IV in Pathology                       | 1    | 1    | 2     |
| Certificate IV in Visual Arts                     |      | 1    | 1     |
| Certificate III in Business Administration        |      | 1    | 1     |
| Certificate III in Carpentry                      | 2    | 1    | 3     |
| Certificate III in Childcare                      | 1    |      | 1     |
| Certificate III in Commercial Cookery             | 2    | 1    | 3     |
| Certificate III in Community Services             | 2    |      | 2     |
| Certificate III in Conservation & Land Management |      | 3    | 3     |
| Certificate III in Cookery                        | 1    |      | 1     |
| Certificate III in Early Childhood & Care         |      | 1    | 1     |
| Certificate III in Hairdressing                   | 9    | 1    | 10    |
| Certificate III in Health Services Assistant      | 1    | 1    | 2     |
| Certificate III in Plumbing                       | 1    | 1    | 2     |
| Certificate I in General Education for Adults     | 2    |      | 2     |
| Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)  | 10   | 7    | 17    |
| Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)          |      | 1    | 1     |

**SMP Connect Progress Report @ 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015**  
**Selected Profiles of Scholarship Students**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Student A</b><br/>           Age 22 years<br/>           Male<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Family circumstances caused him to leave home<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Certificate III in Plumbing<br/>           Scholarship value - \$1,605</p>   | <p><b>Student B</b><br/>           Age 44 years<br/>           Female<br/>           Unemployed<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Single parent with two children<br/>           Previously in a violent relationship<br/>           Long standing injuries from a car accident<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Certificate IV in Beauty<br/>           Scholarship value - \$1,400</p>   |
| <p><b>Student C</b><br/>           Age 38 years<br/>           Female<br/>           Unemployed<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Single parent with one son<br/>           Cannot afford to pay full fees which she would be required to do because long ago she completed a Certificate III for a different occupation<br/>           This scholarship has enabled her to return to education as her disposable funds were used to pay for new uniform, books and other schooling costs for her son's commencement at High School<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Certificate III in Hairdressing<br/>           Scholarship value - \$3,348</p> | <p><b>Student D</b><br/>           Age 25 years<br/>           Female<br/>           Unemployed<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Single parent with one daughter<br/>           Spent a period homeless<br/>           Previously in a violent relationship and was abandoned by a partner who left her with debts when he went overseas when she was pregnant<br/>           Lives for her young daughter who has health problems<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)<br/>           Scholarship value - \$1,250</p> |
| <p><b>Student E</b><br/>           Age 16 years<br/>           Female<br/>           Unemployed<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Previous level of education – year 9<br/>           Left school because of bullying<br/>           Previously in a violent relationship<br/>           Father retrenched; mother cannot work due to poor health<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)<br/>           Scholarship value - \$610</p>  | <p><b>Student F</b><br/>           Age 17 years<br/>           Male<br/>           Unemployed<br/>           Commonwealth Health Card<br/>           Previous level of education – year 10<br/>           Lives with a single father who is a disability pensioner - student F is his carer<br/>           Extreme financial hardship<br/>           Would like to become a paramedic<br/>           Certificate III in Health Services Assistance<br/>           Scholarship value - \$570</p>   |