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New granting programs launched for \$6.5 million of annual giving by the William Buckland Foundation

One of Victoria's largest sources of philanthropic funds, giving away in the order of \$6.5 million annually, has launched a new granting program with the aim of supporting real change in four key areas; Homelessness and Employment, Health, Education and Agriculture.

The William Buckland Foundation will call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in the first of the four – the *Enabling Education Program* – from 20 June. Submissions are sought for initiatives which support Victorian children and young people (age 0 – 25 years), especially those experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, to attain better educational outcomes.

"We have worked hard to redevelop the structure of our giving program to have the greatest impact, and make a real difference in improving the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians," said Foundation Chairman, Mr Sandy Clark.

"In doing this well, we properly honour the legacy of William Lionel Buckland, who died in 1964 leaving a Trust of £4 million. Since then, the Trust has given in excess of \$90 million."

Mr Clark said \$1.5 million would be available in the first granting round for *Enabling Education*, with EOIs set to close on 20 July 2016. Calls for EOIs in the other three focus areas will be scheduled over the course of the next 18 months.

"We have taken a new approach in the hope that it will give clear guidance to those seeking a grant from the Foundation. We are committed to supporting real change, and to achieve this we are keen to work with other philanthropic funders," Mr Clark said.

William Buckland Foundation Program Manager, Natalie Elliott, said priority outcomes for the *Enabling Education* granting program included improving engagement for students, families and communities in children's education, supporting inclusive cultures in schools, high quality teaching and leadership and accessible pathways to training and higher education.

"We are looking for initiatives that can measure their impact, that are innovative and holistic. We want to support passionate teachers to inspire and create love of learning, promote early childhood centres and schools as hubs in local communities and build more positive connections between teachers, students and community support services - these are just some of the approaches we know are working, but there are many other great programs out there and we want to hear from them," Ms Elliott said.

More information about the *Enabling Education Program*, the priority areas of the granting program and eligibility criteria are available on the [William Buckland Foundation page on the Equity Trustees website](#).

Expressions of Interest in *Enabling Education* grants open 20 June, and close 20 July 2016. Program inquiries should be directed to Natalie Elliott on 0428 947 989.

Media Release



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Media inquiries:

Alicia Patterson
Senior Manager – Marketing & Communications
03 8623 5396 / 0403 172 024
apatterson@eqt.com.au