Wicking Trust Major Grants program

About the Trust

The Will of John Wicking, under which The Wicking Trust was established, provides for funding to bring about “benefits for the blind or visually impaired, the aged or for persons suffering from Alzheimer’s disease” and includes funding research into “problems associated with blindness or visual impairment, or with ageing, or into the cause or treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, or the care of persons suffering from that disease…”.

Special consideration is given to Vision Australia, a named beneficiary. In addition, the Will provides that the Trustees may grant money to the Microsurgery Foundation (now known as the O’Brien Foundation). These considerations are treated outside of these guidelines.

Program Goal: Improved wellness and quality of life of older people and people with Alzheimer’s disease in Australia (i.e. 60yrs+).

2018 Granting Approach

Through previous Major Grants rounds the Wicking Trust identified that there are a number of excellent organisations undertaking valuable work in the ‘end-of-life sector’. However, the sector is fragmented. Therefore, the pre-conditions for the Wicking Trust to make a larger scale ‘investment’ focused on systemic change did not fully exist. As a result, the Trust provided funding in 2017 to The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) to undertake some preliminary work to assist the Trust in addressing this challenge. TACSI are considered the leading social innovation and systems thinking experts in Australia.

At the completion of the preliminary work a Systemic Impact in End of Life report was provided to the Trust outlining a ‘road map’ for the Wicking Trust to determine the best opportunities for investments in systemic impact initiatives that result in more older Australians dying where and how they choose.

The report provided us with the confidence to now believe the conditions exist for the Wicking Trust to invest in and seed a national collaboration for systems level impact in end of life care and services through the stated impact movement.

Over the next three years the movement will be established and the keys to the sustainability of this impact movement beyond the core funding will be further developed by the collaboration including - demonstrating change around key levers in the system; proving return on investment to shape where money flows in the system; building relationships between those who can invest, those who can make decisions and those who can implement and replicate innovation and building a set of leaders within the system for the ongoing work by developing their capability to lead systems change.

The Systemic Impact in End of Life report will be made available here in the near future.

Further to the above, the report from TACSI also assisted the Trust in informing the strategy and key themes for the 2018 Wicking Trust Major Grants. The Round will focus on integrating the end of life system via the five critical areas that affect death and dying outcomes:

- Education
- Networks and Roles
- Planning
- Navigation & Flow
- Choices
We believe that ensuring good dying and death experiences and outcomes for older Australians will require joining together the growth and spread of dying and death literacy (ensuring that people have the practical know-how needed to plan well for death (Groundswell, 2016)) and the building of a responsive system which offers options, choice and opportunity.

To that end and put as simply as possible, the continuing work of TACSI and the impact movement seeks to make changes **within** the end of life system while the Major Grants round will focus on changes **within** the end of life system.

**2018 Major Grant Round Priority outcome**

As outlined above, by mapping the end of life sector with stakeholders from across the system, it was established that there are five opportunities to enable positive death related outcomes for older Australians being:

- Education: Normalising death across the whole system
- Networks and Roles: Enabling community based care
- Planning: Flexible, values based approaches to planning
- Navigation & Flow: Access to the right care, in the right places, at the right times
- Choices: Choice no matter who you are and what context you’re in

In order to achieve the stated outcomes The Wicking Trust is seeking to identify and fund clearly articulated initiatives that can demonstrate strong alignment to the priority areas of interest for the 2018 Major Grants round.

**Granting Approach**

While the Trust is funding and working with TACSI and other key players to make changes to the end of life system, the Trust is also seeking to make strategic investments through the 2018 Major Grants round in initiatives that have the potential to result in:

1. More older Australians dying where and how they choose.

This decision aligns with a broader focus across Government and philanthropy to grow design of and access to effective end of life care and increase investment in services and literacy around dying and death in Australia.

To realise this aim the granting approach for the program seeks to identify and make substantial ‘investments’ in a small number of organisations (or collaborations between organisations) that are assessed as being well-placed to make a systemic impact (enduring change in policy and/or practice) in the areas of priority interest for the Trust. In particular, organisations and collaborations will be well regarded when they can demonstrate that they have:

1. A clear vision for their organisation/collaboration
2. A deep understanding of how to achieve the systemic change they are seeking the Trust’s support for;
3. Passionate, capable leaders; and
4. A proven track record of achievement

We seek to:

- Build the capacity of the organisations/collaborations that we support (our intention is that at the conclusion of our funding relationship our grant partner will be better placed to more effectively and sustainably make a significant impact in the end of life sector;
- Substantially support a small number of organisations over a number of years to achieve impact;
- Enhance the sharing of learnings and knowledge across the sector; and
- Build a community of Wicking Trust grant partners that are collectively helping us to achieve our goal and are supporting each other in their individual endeavours.

**Eligibility for the Program**

Organisations must have both DGR and charitable status and the work must be undertaken within Australia.
Granting Support – 2018 Major Grant Round

- Approx. $300,000 p.a. in new grants

Equity Trustees acknowledges that we cannot truly hope to achieve the abovementioned goal through traditional, transactional grant making. Therefore, we seek to amplify the impact of the Trust’s grant making by annually bringing together grant partners in one place to share information on their program of work, their learnings, their challenges and their knowledge through the annual Wicking Trust Symposium. The Symposium is a forum to spark collaborations amongst grant makers and to foster a community of leading organisations committed to achieving the aims of the Trust.

From time to time the Trust may take up special projects outside these guidelines which support the Trust to achieve its aims.

Application Process

1. Funding guidelines and a link to the online Expression of Interest Form for the Major Grants Program can be accessed via the Equity Trustees website.
2. Read all material in these Grant Guidelines before applying.
3. Prepare your Expression of Interest providing all requested information and submit via SmartyGrants by midnight on 6 July. Late submissions will not be accepted.
4. If your Expression of Interest is shortlisted, you will be INVITED to submit a full application by 31 August.
5. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to present their proposal at the Annual Wicking Symposium (usually held in October) and then participate in an interview with representatives of the Trust.

The announcement of successful applications is usually in December. Successful applicants will be notified in writing of the result of their application. Grant recipients will likely be required to participate in the Annual Wicking Symposium in subsequent years.

In the first instance, all enquiries should be directed to charities@eqt.com.au.

Review Process

Successful applicants will be required to complete Progress and Final Reports on their funded initiatives.

In addition, successful applicants may be required to present on their work at the Annual Wicking Symposium.

Current Grant Partners

The Trust’s current grant partners are listed below (NB: Grants to some of these organisations were awarded prior to the implementation of the Trust’s current granting approach):

- Charles Sturt University – Wicking Trust Chair of Ageing and Practical Theology;
- COTA Victoria;
- Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) in partnership with the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP) – Older Persons Homelessness Prevention Project
- Melbourne Ageing Research Collaboration – Improving the Lives of Older People
- Per Capita – Centre for Applied Policy in Positive Ageing (CAPPA)
- The Australian Centre of Social Innovation (TACSI) – The Innovation Age
- The Benevolent Society – EveryAGE Counts
- The GroundSwell Project – Building Death Literacy: New Conversations, Innovative Practices
- University of Tasmania – Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre

Other grant recipients:

- O’Brien Foundation
- Vision Australia
The Benefactor – John Oswald Wicking (1918 – 2002)

John Wicking was one of the great modernisers of Australian business. He is known as a great achiever in every sense and led an extraordinary life. At the outbreak of World War II John Wicking volunteered and joined the A.I.F. where he was regrettably captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. After surviving the War he returned home, married Janet Thompson and established a successful property in Euroa. However, his professional and leadership skills became apparent to many business leaders and he was enticed back to the city.

John Wicking, among his many professional achievements, was a Director of Bowater Scott and Norwich Union Insurance, Chairman of Western Pacific Investments, Webster, Cheetham and Kiwi International.

John and Janet Wicking were notable philanthropists and benefactors to many institutions during their lifetime, particularly in the areas of the arts, microsurgery and most notably, vision impairment. They provided immense moral and financial support to the Association for the Blind (now Vision Australia) for over 40 years. Mr Wicking was a Board Member of the Association for 18 years including 12 years as President.