Wicking Trust Major Grants program

About the Trust

The Will of John Wicking, under which The J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust (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+).

2020 Granting Approach

Equity Trustees, as Trustees of the Wicking Trust, is committed to measuring its philanthropic impact and in 2019 commenced the first stage of a strategic plan to map, measure and report on the organisation’s impact today and into the future.

Through the support of the Wicking Trust, the Ageing and Aged Care Focus Area has a longstanding major grants program that seeks to support organisations that are well placed to affect systemic change in the area of wellness and quality of life of the aged and/or those with, or at risk of, Alzheimer’s disease.

The diagram below represents the opportunities we see for the Ageing and Aged Care focus area, including the Wicking Trust, to realise lasting, positive change in the community.
This diagram works in tandem with the 'Themes and Leavers for Change for Ageing and Aged Care' Map on the Wicking Trust page

2020 Major Grant Round Priority outcomes

In 2020 we will focus on the following levers for change*

- Inform Choices
- Lift Care Capacity and Quality
- Support Independence
- Improve attitudes

The Wicking Trust will prioritise initiatives benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders, CALD communities and rural, regional and remote communities.

*As part of the strategic review we noted there a number of excellent organisations undertaking valuable work in promoting the rights of older Australians. With this in mind and while we view this as an area of importance in achieving better outer outcomes for older Australia’s, the Wicking Trust 2020 Major Grants program will not have a specific focus in the area of ‘Promote Rights’

2020 Granting Approach

With both the ‘Impact Framework’ diagram and the ‘Themes and Leavers for Change for Ageing and Aged Care’ map in mind, we conducted a review of the Wicking Trust’s granting strategy. The review confirmed the continued relevance of the Trust’s approach to achieving its goal.

In 2020, the Wicking Trust is seeking initiatives from organisations that will assist in achieving the intended future state (outlined in the Impact Framework diagram above) by contributing to systemic change that enables all Australians to make informed choices about where and how they age and die, and to access high quality formal and informal aged care that is affordable and responsive to individual needs.

The Wicking Trust will prioritise initiatives benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders, CALD communities and rural, regional and remote communities.
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 – 2020 Major Grant Round**

- Approx. $800,000 p.a. in new grants (total funding available)

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 27 March 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted.
4. If your Expression of Interest is shortlisted, you will be INVITED to submit a full application.
5. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to present their proposal at the Annual Wicking Symposium and then participate in an interview with representatives of the Trust at events held across the 13th, 14th and 15th of October 2020

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):

- Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) in partnership with the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP) – [Older Persons Homelessness Prevention Project](#)
- La Trobe University Palliative Care Unit - [Choice: Healthy End of Life Project (HELP)](#)
- LifeCircle - [Changing the experience of end of life in residential aged care](#)
- [Melbourne Ageing Research Collaboration](#) – Improving the Lives of Older People
- 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 Melbourne: Florey Dept - [Dementia registries and clinical trial cohorts that enable national consumer participation in research and clinical trials](#)
- [University of Tasmanina](#) – [Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre](#)
- University Of Wollongong - [Improving choices through the Palliative Care Collective](#)
- Wintringham Specialist Aged Care - [Building Capacity and Creating a Sustainable Organisation](#)

**Other grant recipients:**

- [O’Brien Foundation](#)
- Vision Australia

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**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 Kivi 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.