

# Dunstan Foundation Strategic Plan 2014-16

## Strategic Directions

### Distribution of Wealth

A just distribution of global wealth and income is one of the values set out by Don Dunstan in the constitution of the Foundation (see page 3). 'Distribution of wealth' will serve as an overarching or umbrella term which will assist in defining and intensifying the Foundation's focus over the next three years. A fair and just democratic society is one in which all individuals have the opportunity to access, at the very least, the most fundamental requirements for living such as shelter, income and health care. Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world but not everyone is benefiting; the distribution of wealth is not equitable and this is increasing with our growing wealth. Three areas of focus for the Foundation are directly aimed at creating greater opportunity for the very disadvantaged in our society to participate in society and reach their potential in self-sufficiency; overcoming homelessness, achieving support for people with mental health issues, and achieving greater employment levels.

### Overcoming Homelessness

#### Targeting known risk factors for intervention



**Reason:** homes provide stability from which many of the fundamentals required to live in this society, such as maintaining health and gaining an income, are made possible.

It is about providing a level playing field and therefore opportunity for everyone to live the best possible life.

### Creating employment opportunity, targeting long term unemployment

**Reason:** Employment provides an avenue for independence and control over one's life and choices. It is empowering. An income means the fundamentals of survival and societal expectations are possible. Each person in our society deserves access to employment opportunities and long term strategies, independent of political winds, need to be in place to achieve this. The positive flow on to our society generally will become evident over time. Low skilled workers have experienced greater difficulties in our increasingly computerised society and with the decline of manufacturing in South Australia.



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### Achieving mental health and maintaining it with the support of the mental health system and the broader community; profiling systems of mental health support and providing direction for improvement

**Reason:** the disadvantage experienced by those with chronic mental illness is profound and yet it is one of the most under resourced health and societal issues. It affects not only the individual but their families, communities, workplaces and community services. Sound policy development is critical and implementation strategies need to be embedded in modes of practice and operation. We need to know what is working and not working in our public mental health sector and in the community generally.



### Land reparation, ecosystems and conservation; land use and access to the natural environment

**Reason:** the rapid destruction of our environment and its ecosystems represents a real threat to human survival and wellbeing due to the lack of safe, arable land and clean air and water, and due to lack of access to the natural environment which provides psychological harmony.



**The Foundation's commitment to overcoming the disadvantage of the Aboriginal people of Australia, and protection of their rights, is ongoing.**

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## Implementation Plan

The plan provides strategies for the Dunstan Foundation to achieve the strategic directions of this plan and its broader organisational objectives;

- Provide annual updates of academic research and information available on the strategic direction topics
- Commission papers by our academic partners specific to the strategic direction topics and provide avenues for publicly presenting this information
- Develop projects in collaboration with new and established partners to achieve more sustainable outcomes
- Engage government decision makers in policy discussions with researchers from our university partners, and other experts, on recommendations for change, through round tables and forums
- Fully integrate Arts based approaches to the Dunstan Foundation's social justice activities to reach a broader audience
- Develop and implement methods of evaluation to assess project effectiveness and outcomes, and provide publicly
- Further capitalise on the existing strengths of the organisation:
  - Skills, knowledge and research capacity of its university partners
  - The South Australian origin and focus of the Dunstan Foundation
  - Don Dunstan's legacy and status as a social reformer
  - Strong and influential supporter base and their networks
  - History of the Foundation's participation in social justice issues and experience in managing events, communications and projects
- Create a communications strategy, inclusive of social media, and high profile communication of outcomes
- Become the 'go to' organisation for information on the strategic direction topics
- Increase the number of events and activities that occur annually to form a predictable programme for promotion and planning purposes, and to significantly develop the depth of topic analysis and policy development
- Scholarships: Further develop and streamline existing scholarship offers and seek out new opportunities
- Provide more opportunities for the involvement of volunteers

## Strategies for Organisational Development

- Create a strong vision for the future to engage younger generations in the DDF
- Refresh the Dunstan Foundation brand
- Establish strong funding pathways with solid budget processes associated with each project
- Grow and rejuvenate its support base while maintaining its traditional and loyal supporters
- Establish ongoing, predictable funding arrangements appropriate to the achievement of this strategic plan and beyond
- Ensure a targeted and focussed approach to the adoption of new ventures, activities and events
- Consolidation and stream lining of administrative processes
- Strategic alliances with other not-for-profit organisations to capitalise on their knowledge, experience and networks
- Increase co-badged events to maximise the outcome of resources and energies

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- Staff training in not-for-profit practices through alliances with older, more experienced not-for-profit organisations
- Increased communication with, and appropriate involvement of, the Trustees and the Board of Management members
- A structured approach to the involvement of volunteers will be created

## About the Dunstan Foundation

### The Values of the Foundation

The Foundation aims to continue the life work and vision of its founder by fostering research and education on a broad range of social issues and social development reflecting the following values, as specified by Don Dunstan himself in the Foundation's constitution:

Cultural and ethnic diversity

Ability of individuals to control their own lives

A just distribution of global wealth and income

Democratic and inclusive forms of governance

Respect for and protection of human rights, with specific reference to those of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island citizens and indigenous people generally

The Foundation advocates for change on behalf of those who cannot do so for themselves and who require social and government action in order to live safe, healthy and more complete lives.

### Don Dunstan's legacy

Don Dunstan was the Premier of South Australia during the 1970s. He was a visionary and a unique individual who throughout his career and life in general changed the nature of South Australian society. It is difficult to now imagine Adelaide without the Festival Theatre, the State Theatre Company, the Regency Park School of Food and Catering, The South Australian Film Corporation and the Jam Factory which represent only a few of Don Dunstan's achievements still thriving forty years later.

Alongside of these symbols of his era, Don Dunstan was actively committed to social justice and reform, and many of his achievements in this area have been acknowledged by both sides of politics and have been strengthened over time. His legacy is outstanding. He was dedicated to and successful in reforming legislation in Aboriginal land rights, social welfare, and consumer, environment and heritage protection, and in preventing discriminatory practices. He was instrumental in abolishing the White Australia Policy and capital punishment.

The Don Dunstan Foundation (DDF) was established by Don Dunstan in 1999. The strong relationship between the University of Adelaide and Flinders University, as well as an in kind commitment from the South Australian Government provides a strong structure for perpetuity. The Dunstan Foundation however is a not-for-profit organisation and not an academic or government institution. It therefore must create its own future in strategic direction and function, and financially.