

Social Innovation Grants

In 2007 seven organisations were selected for the first round of Social Innovation Grants. Each project displays innovative ways to build social connections and improve the health and wellbeing of children. The projects are listed below, and show how the Telstra Foundation grants will make positive and lasting difference to the lives of Australian children and young people.

ABRACADABRA

Charles Darwin University (NT)

This project will intervene early to help struggling Indigenous junior primary school students acquire foundational literacy skills and reduce the devastating impacts of illiteracy. The project will pilot ABRACADABRA, a multimedia interactive, educational software program developed in Canada, targeting children aged between five and eight years and their teachers in remote communities throughout the Northern Territory.

The Telstra Foundation grant is \$250,000 per year for the three year project.

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/abracadabra.html>



Beanbag

Inspire Foundation (National)

Beanbag works in partnership with 18 youth centres across Australia to build the social connections and improve the mental health of disadvantaged young people through the use of information and communication technologies. Beanbag programs include creative technology initiatives such as the KickArse short film-making project, Digital Eye photography project and youth action projects which facilitate civic action. Over the next three years, Beanbag will focus on establishing 100 new affiliated Beanbag agencies across Australia.

The Telstra Foundation grant is \$200,000 per year for the three year project.

<http://www.inspire.org.au/what-we-do-beanbag.html>

The logo for Inspire, featuring the word "Inspire" in a large, blue, cursive font. Below it, the tagline "inspiring young people" is written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font.

Mixed Ability Creative Arts Program St Lucy's School (NSW)

Expanding a pilot creative arts program, this project will integrate St Lucy's students with mainstream peers to participate in a series of creative arts projects, performances and exhibitions that challenge the social exclusion and marginalisation experienced by children with a disability. The communicative power of performance by non-verbal children and children with poor audibility will be enhanced with the use of digital media and communication technologies.

The Telstra Foundation grant is for \$40,000 per year for three years.

<http://www.stlucys.nsw.edu.au/>



Reconnections Novita Children's Services (SA)

This project will establish an e-mentoring program to assist young people (13-18 years of age) living with an acquired brain injury to improve their self esteem, rebuild their relationships with family and friends, and gain social and independent living skills. Reconnections will use telephone, email, SMS, one-to-one secure internet forums and voice-assisted technologies to provide access to a mentor who will encourage, support and be a friend to the teenagers.

The Telstra Foundation grant is \$217,000 over three years.

<http://www.novita.org.au>

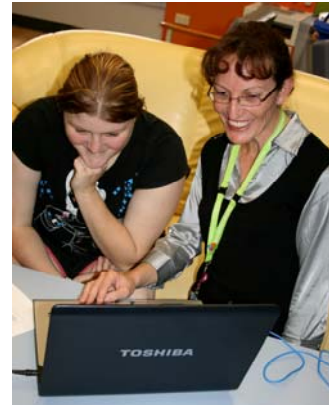


**Breathe Easier Online
Royal Children's Hospital Foundation (QLD)**

Broadband-based communication technologies will be used to help build the social support and enhance the well being of disadvantaged and socially isolated children (aged 10-15 years) with chronic respiratory illnesses. The project will provide one-to-one engagement between the children and a psychologist for ongoing counselling and support, connect the children with each other in a chat room, and provide online support and clinical advice for families.

The Telstra Foundation grant is \$292,500 over three years.

<http://www.workingwonders.com.au/>



**Virtual Trauma and Critical Care Unit
Royal Children's Hospital Foundation/Loddon
Mallee Health Alliance**

The Virtual Trauma and Critical Care Unit project represents innovation in healthcare using broadband networks. It allows for broadcast quality conferencing for the delivery of specialist trauma and critical care support from major health facilities such as the Austin, Alfred, Royal Children's and St Vincent's Hospitals.

The Telstra Foundation grant is \$250,000 over one year.

www.lmha.com.au/vitccu

