

350 Volunteers supported disadvantaged communities

\$600,000 Raised for Community Partners

24 Telecommunication Organisation Members

Nationwide Reach over 70,000 staff

# Chairman & CEO Report



Our second year of operations has proven to be another testament to the generosity of the telecommunications industry, with some outstanding fundraising efforts held throughout the year.

Telco Together was established as a collaborative vehicle for the telecommunications industry to make a positive social contribution within Australia. The generosity of those within the telco industry continues to impress, as does the potential for industry skills and resources to make a positive social contribution.

## Community Impact

Telco Together have raised over \$600,000 for programs that directly support some of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia. These funds have helped improve the health of Indigenous children in remote communities through Red Dust Role Models. They have also helped thousands of young people build resilience and coping mechanisms to combat mental health through ReachOut.com, and have created a link to the community for children of refugees by encouraging and supporting participation in local sporting clubs, through Sports Without Borders. In addition, we have also helped provide thousands of nutritious meals to people suffering from food insecurity through SecondBite.

We are proud to be associated with our Community Partners who continually prove their passion for delivering services to those in need.

## Strategic Projects

Not only have we achieved some fantastic fundraising results, but we have also made good headway with a number of projects that seek to harness the power of technology and the skills within the industry to help the not-for-profit sector.

Our inaugural community project - Apps4Change – has enabled the Foundation to extend its support across the wider not-for-profit sector by creating a free online educational resource and webinar series about mobile technology in the charity sector.

A sincere note of thanks to our members and supporters whose enthusiasm, motivation and dedication to the cause have enabled us to achieve so much in our first 24 months of operation.

A special thanks also to the Foundation Trustees and Advisory Board members who volunteer their time to help shape the strategic direction of the Foundation.

We look forward to deepening our relationships with our members through volunteering, fundraising and workplace giving programs, and growing our community impact during the year ahead.

Vaughan Bowen  
Chairman

Renee Bowker  
CEO

# Who We Help

## Supporting Australian communities in need

Our community engagement and fundraising activities are focused on supporting Australian communities in need, with specific areas including mental health, homelessness, social inclusion and Indigenous communities.

We currently fund four Community Partners who were selected through a rigorous due diligence process that considered focus on impact, financial responsibility, transparency, and governance.

### ReachOut.com by Inspire Foundation

Telco Together supports ReachOut.com by Inspire Foundation, promoting mental health in Australia. Their work enables young people to access help, wherever and whenever they need it, after research found that only 30% of the young people who need professional help with their mental health get any kind of help. They are helping to combat this problem in a number of ways;



#### ReachOut.com

Australia's most accessed online youth mental health service ReachOut.com has helped millions of young Australians get through tough times. With 1.4 million unique users accessing its online services each year.

#### Young & Well Cooperative Research Centre

The Young and Well CRC promotes cybersafety, mental health and wellbeing through three complementary research programs mapped to specific groups of young people.

#### Mental Health Industry

Providing leading research on Australia's mental health system and its role in the economy.

#### Professionals Support

Providing recommendations and advice for youth support workers and education professionals working with young people.

*"Every day, around 5000 young people find the help they need for their mental health on Reachout.com. Telco Together's support makes getting help easier. Thank you.."*

**Jonathan Nicholas,  
CEO ReachOut.com  
by Inspire Foundation**



### Sports Without Borders

Telco Together supports Sports Without Borders (SWB), a not-for-profit organisation which provides support for young people from new and emerging communities to overcome the barriers of participation in community sport.

The major programs supported by Telco Together funds and resources include:

**Scholarship Funds:** SWB has provided over \$42,000 in scholarship funds impacting approximately 1,500 young people from sport clubs and community groups. These scholarships have a greater impact on the families of the recipients and the increased community engagement that come as a result of such exposure.

**Consultation Services:** Telco Together support is critical in facilitating connections with SWB stakeholders and provided SWB an opportunity to expand beyond Melbourne and engage with western Sydney communities, ultimately resourcing three soccer specific programs and making significant connections with local sporting organisations.

**Facilitating Sport Programs:** SWB facilitate and support a number of sport programs and activities, offering Telco Together members from Melbourne and Sydney opportunities to engage with kids in community sport.

*"Sports Without Borders provides opportunities to individuals, councils, sport clubs and community organisations in pursuing the goal of social inclusion for new and emerging communities through sport. The Foundation helps across all aspects of the organisation and more specifically the Scholarships Program which allows young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in sport clubs."*

**James Demetriou, Chairperson, Sports Without Borders**



## Red Dust Role Models

Telco Together supports Red Dust Role Models - a health promotion organisation that delivers innovative health promotion programs and community development projects in partnership with remote communities.

Over the preceding year, Red Dust has engaged more than 500 school-aged children from six remote communities around the Northern Territory. With health education programs delivered through the education system, and by utilising innovative health promotion resources, Red Dust positively impacts and improves health outcomes for future generations of Indigenous youth.

The communities Red Dust currently partners with are Yuendumu, Areyonga and Kintore in the Central Desert, and Daly River, Wadeye and Tiwi College in the Top-End.

### Healthy Living Programs

Healthy Living is a school based health promotion program delivered through three stages of week-long visits to schools in remote communities.

### Red Dust Alcohol Education & Community Liaison Program

The alcohol education program consists of two key elements focused around improving knowledge and creating alternative pathways for young men living in and around Alice Springs town camps.

### Community Development & Infrastructure Projects

Red Dust development projects have included the financial support, development and construction of sporting facilities including; basketball courts, swimming pools, community gardens and football grandstands.

*"The support of Telco Together has yielded Red Dust's ability to increase hundreds of children's understanding and awareness of vital health issues such as diabetes, anaemia and scabies, which have been found to be prevalent in many remote Indigenous communities. Together we are having a positive impact on the health and futures of the children that participate in these vital programs."*



**Darren Smith, CEO Red Dust Role Models**

*"SecondBite is now sourcing and redistributing over 4 million kilograms of fresh food for agencies and people in need each year, providing 20,000 meals every day for disadvantaged families and children across Australia."*

**Elaine Montegriffo,  
CEO SecondBite**

## SecondBite

Telco Together supports SecondBite, whose work supports food security and food services for the homeless and other communities in need. SecondBite rescues and redistributes fresh, nutritious food to over 1,100 community food programs across Australia.



SecondBite does more than just provide healthy calories for hungry Australians and is committed to improving the poor nutrition suffered by disadvantaged families and children, which exacerbates their vulnerability to illness and lower levels of health and wellbeing. SecondBite has two evidence based nutrition programs focused on improving nutrition, increasing access and consumption to affordable fresh food.

In 2013/14 SecondBite rescued 4.3 million kilograms of fresh food, (meat, dairy, eggs, fruit and vegetables), resulting in the following:

- Providing more than 8.6 million nourishing meals for people in need;
- Saving 304 million litres of water, the equivalent of 156 Olympic swimming pools;
- Saving more than 24 million kilowatts of energy, the equivalent of leaving a TV on for 4,980 years;
- Saving more than 24 million kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent of 3,676 flights from Melbourne to Perth.

