



Supporting  
**communities**  
to break the cycle of disadvantage  
on the Mornington Peninsula

## ABOUT US



# Worldsapart

The Mornington Peninsula is a place where people live side by side, but worlds apart.

Adjacent to some of our wealthiest neighbourhoods, one in four households lives below the poverty line, including one in seven children.

The Mornington Peninsula Foundation (MPF) was established as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) in 2017 in response to this inequality.

Our vision is to significantly reduce the level of socio economic disadvantage in the region. We support local communities to break the cycle of disadvantage through education, inclusion and economic independence.

Since formation, we have raised over \$4.5 million from more than 100 donors, funding over 120 projects.

As we grow our networks, this work is leading to community wide initiatives that bring sectors together to create cohesive pathways of support.

As a PBI with deductible gift recipient DGR Item 1 status, MPF provides tax deductibility for all donations. As the George Hicks Foundation covers our running costs, all donations are paid in full as grants to community partners.

# \$4.5 million

Since formation in 2017, we have raised over \$4.5 million from more than 100 donors, funding over 120 projects.

### Our approach

MPF draws on its place based knowledge and networks to coordinate donors to fund, community organisations to create and governments to sustain systemic social change.

Mornington Peninsula Foundation is bottom up – it identifies and addresses root causes to bring about systemic change.

### Our guiding principles

Disadvantage on the Mornington Peninsula is largely hidden.

There is a wealth of resources in the community, which our support can help unlock.

Systemic change requires the identification of root causes by listening to people at the grass roots.

Change becomes sustainable when communities own and drive it. Real change occurs at their own pace.

People with lived experience have expertise that policy makers need; close connection and translation of data is essential.

Advances in research, science and technology are critical parts of social change initiatives.



# Western Port Learning Guarantee

## (WPLG)

WPLG is a cluster of local schools and community agencies joined through shared resources and a vision that every child is supported to succeed in their education. This is achieved by addressing low rates of readiness for secondary school in upper primary children

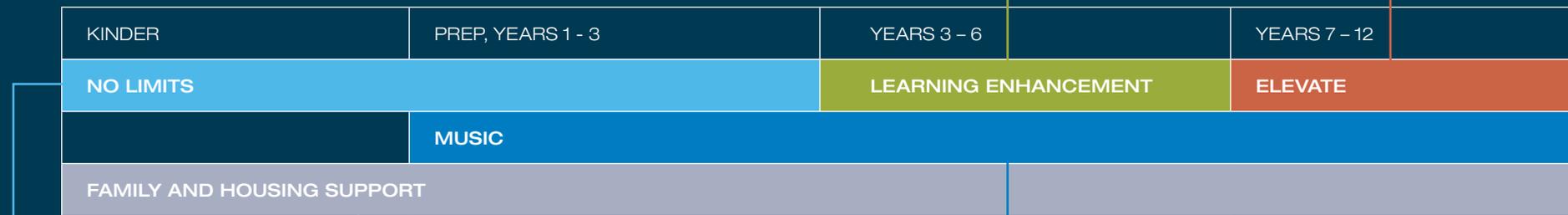
It comprises: No Limits, Learning Enhancement, Elevate, Music and the local family and housing support services.

### Learning Enhancement Program

Currently only 3 out of 10 students enrolling at the secondary schools are at expected literacy and numeracy levels. The LEP aims to change this so every child is at level at transition.

### Elevate

Elevate uses a personalised and flexible learning approach based on student-driven individual learning plans and focused on students' goals and interests. Teaching primarily occurs one-on-one and utilises a range of evidence based pedagogical practices.



### No limits

No Limits addresses low rates in oral language in six schools and kinders on the Mornington Peninsula.

### Family Support and Housing

Family Support and Housing programs provide streamlined, interconnected, client-led support in partnership with the schools to ensure no child falls through the cracks.

### Music

Four primary schools in the Western Port cluster enjoy weekly music education sessions provided by a specialist music teacher based at the secondary school. With a unified program there are opportunities for combined choirs, ensembles and performances and support for the transition from primary to secondary school.

# No limits

The aim of No Limits is to support children with targeted assessments and interventions so they are reading at the expected level by the end of year 2.



## Project snapshot

- Three year project 2019 – 2021 in six schools and kinders
- Donor funded budget of \$1.4m
- 412 children have been engaged in the first two years; over 700 will participate over the three years
- Over 40 teaching, speech therapy and support staff are involved in the program
- On average, baseline testing shows 85% of prep children required oral language intervention
- By the end of 2019, this has dropped to 31% and in 2020 to 57%.



## Key Insights

- Schools were generally using a whole language or balanced literacy approach to teaching reading. Through No Limits teachers and support staff have seen an explicit phonics approach in action and have embraced this with enthusiasm and commitment.
- Anecdotally children are more engaged, less disruptive, more confident and cooperative.
- A community of practice involving kinder and school teaching and support staff has formed and is supporting the sustainability of the program across all schools and kinders.



## Future plans

Ongoing sustainability of the program is important and will be achieved with the upskilling of teachers and support staff. We are in the early stages of discussions with Monash University with regard to creating a course for teachers in which they will learn how to implement the No Limits program, wherever they are. Meanwhile, we wish to continue the program in its current form for one more year.

## Funding needs

Continued support for the program in the current schools and kinders for one more year to secure changes and sustainability into the future.

**Total funding  
required for 2022  
\$420,000**

# Learning Enhancement Program

Currently only 3 out of 10 students enrolling at the secondary schools are at expected literacy and numeracy levels. The LEP aims to change this so every child is at level at transition.

LEP specialist staff target learning and wellbeing with assessment and intervention. They are based at the secondary school one day per week outreaching to the primary schools as a team two days per week.

## Funding needs

	LEP Four primary schools	Music
2022	\$600,000	\$35,000
2023	\$600,000	\$35,000
2024	\$600,000	\$35,000
Total	\$1,800,000	\$105,000

**Total funding required for 2022-24**  
**\$1,905,000**



### Project snapshot:

- In 2020 36 upper primary students participated in the program after significant funding enabled a full time lead teacher to focus on individualised learning.
- Baseline testing for mathematics demonstrated 38% of the students were at or above level, and at the end of the program this had changed to 51% (with 23% improving above the expected growth rate)
- Baseline testing for reading demonstrated 32% of the students were at or above level, and at the end of the program this had changed to 51% (with 43% improving above the expected growth rate),



### Key insights

- Students showed they can catch up with literacy and numeracy with skilled assessment and targeted interventions.
- Supporting wellbeing of the child and family is crucial to success, local family support that is non-judgemental and relational is working.
- Children respond to teachers they have a relationship with; children need to be known and understood by the teacher.
- Having a familiar face in the program coordinator for new year sevens in 2021 helped them settle in very quickly, making this the best transition year on record.
- Synthetic phonics is a key part of success in learning reading.



### Future Plans

We want to continue to support the implementation of LEP in the current schools and expansion to at least two more schools in the area over the next three years and to include a formal evaluation. We already have government interest which is encouraging.

## PROJECTS&NEEDS



# Elevate

Elevate aims to increase school completion rates by integrating the philosophies and practices of Oakwood School into a mainstream setting. The overarching purpose is to support young people who have disengaged from school by re-engaging them with learning, support their wellbeing and set them on a positive pathway to their future.

### Funding needs

	Elevate
2022	\$200,000
2023	\$200,000
2024	\$200,000

Total funding  
required for 2022-24  
**\$600,000**



### Project snapshot

- Elevate was tried with DET funding and limited success in 2019.
- In 2020 learnings from 2019 were built into the creation of the program and things were going very well until remote learning dislodged an already very vulnerable cohort of students.
- Focus was on retaining engagement and 2021 is seeing a consolidation of the program.
- Increase in attendance rates of Elevate students from 43% during onsite learning to 68% in remote learning
- 86% of the students who were enrolled in Elevate at the start of the year are still engaged with schooling.
- The number of students engaging with the Elevate program at least twice a week has increased by 85.75% since the start of the year with another two students still in the pre transition to Elevate phase.
- In 2019 Elevate students had a timetable of 10 hours per week, this was increased to 24.5 hours per week in 2020.
- 100% of Elevate students obtained certificates for completing Literacy and Numeracy units.
- 100% of Elevate students returned to onsite classes on the first day after remote learning.



### Key Insights:

- Oakwood School philosophy and structures are challenging for a mainstream school to implement because student disengagement is a complex problem
- Student engagement is defined in three ways - behavioural, emotional and cognitive.
- Oakwood School has demonstrated the key to addressing these issues is relationships, success in learning and an orientation toward the future.
- Many students have been impacted by trauma. Teachers across the whole school need to be trained to adjust their practice in line with the current research around the impact of trauma on brain development.
- For students to be able to reengage in mainstream there needs to be consistent beliefs, understandings, processes and practices between Elevate and mainstream. Elevate has the potential to change mainstream practice and is beginning to do so.



### Future Plans

We Want to keep supporting Elevate for the next three years to continue to learn and refine this ground breaking work and build a case for scaling and replication.

# FamilySupport

MPF supports four pivotal programs in response to homelessness on the Mornington Peninsula:

## Southern peninsula Laundry and Shower (SPLaSh) –

Bi-weekly connection to any isolated people on the Rosebud foreshore;

Connected with 218 unique individuals since Jan 2019; 1,673 attendances in total;

Outcomes include connection through to case workers, stabilising health, provision of food, hygiene products and washing; sense of inclusion and validity; a step on the road to recovery.

## Southern Peninsula Assertive Outreach;

Intensive case management for people who are rough sleeping , in cars, rooming houses and other insecure situations;

56 clients since beginning program in November 2020;

Given the complexity of cases, long term, bespoke case management is required, which is the benefit of philanthropically funded support.

Mental health as well as drug and alcohol abuse appear as the primary reasons for homelessness for many clients.

## Western Port Housing and Homelessness;

Centre based case management and outreach to people experiencing homelessness or at risk;

188 clients and 138 dependents from July 1st 2019- December 31st 2020

Outcomes include: 48% now in stable housing. Outcomes differ drastically for clients who are at risk of homelessness compared to those who are already homeless. Of those who were at risk, 80% are now in stable housing. For those that are already homeless, 37% are now in stable housing. Again, this highlights the absolute need for a system of Early Intervention to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first instance.

## Private Rental Assistance

Case management for people at risk of homelessness;

123 clients and dependents between July 1 2019 and December 31 2020.

Outcomes: 76% of clients in secure housing on exit; 62% remain in secure housing at 6 months



## Future plans and budget

	SPLaSh	Assertive Outreach	WP Housing & Homelessness	Private Rental Assistance	Family Support
2022	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$60,000
2023	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

Total housing and homelessness  
**\$540,000**

In addition, MPF supports the Family Support Program at the Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre which links up with housing and education work.

# Our Founder



Ian Hicks AM founded the Mornington Peninsula Foundation in 2017 following three years of placed based funding in the region with the George Hicks Foundation.

Ian has a personal commitment to the people of the area, especially children and young people and people who are isolated and marginalised, unable to fulfil their potential through lack of access to opportunities.

Ian and his family have lived on the Peninsula for over 30 years and have had their family foundation, the George Hicks Foundation since 1965. The GHF funds the entire running costs of the MPF and has made this commitment until 2027.

Executive Director, Stephanie Exton, has more than 15 years' experience in leading place based philanthropy and brings to MPF a deep passion and genuine drive for working with people to bring about sustainable change.

## Board

- Ian Hicks AM
- Andrew Fairley AM
- Paul Thomas Hicks
- Sarah Jordan
- Tina McGuffie
- Brett Watson
- Andrew Wheeler
- Elina Wilson

## Staff and Associates

- Stephanie Exton, Executive Director
- Gitz Naidu, Chief Financial Officer
- Bethany Travers, Projects Assistant
- Pro bono Auditor JTP Assurance
- Dr Genevieve Timmons,  
Pro bono Strategic Adviser



## **THANK YOU** FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

It is exciting what we have already achieved together with these communities. We aim for even deeper and wider engagement with communities on the Mornington Peninsula to break the cycle of disadvantage. Please get in touch to discuss how you'd like to be part of it.

**info@mpf.org.au | 9656 5523**

Morningsong Peninsula Foundation Ltd is a Public Benevolent Institution with DGR Item One providing tax deductibility to all donations. All running costs are covered until 2027 by the George Hicks Foundation, so all donations are paid in full to community projects.

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