

MEDIA RELEASE

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GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT INSPIRES AT CROWDFUNDING EVENT IN CANBERRA

Local community members, philanthropists, members of parliament and business leaders come together to raise over \$125,000 to support local grassroots non-profits dedicated to breaking cycles of disadvantage and reducing inequalities for communities across the ACT.



**KEY FOCUS AREA:
LOCAL
COMMUNITIES**

On a Tuesday night in September, over 100 passionate Canberrans gathered at the Alastair Swayn Theatre for an inspiring evening of giving and community empowerment at a crowdfunding event hosted by The Funding Network (TFN) with support from The Snow Foundation and local partners. The atmosphere in the room was electric as three community-driven organisations - Tender Funerals Canberra, Women's Justice Network, and Fearless Women - each shared their powerful stories of impact.

Led by dynamic co-hosts Jacinta Parsons and Wayne Herbert, the evening was filled with heartfelt moments, laughter, and an overwhelming sense of solidarity. Gloria Larman, CEO of Women's Justice Network, moved attendees by sharing how their "Healing from Within" program would provide incarcerated women in the Alexander Maconochie Centre the tools to rebuild their lives. "Thanks to your generosity, these women now know that their community cares about them - and that belief in themselves is possible," she said. Glenda Stevens, CEO of Fearless Women, spoke passionately about their mentor program, which empowers young girls and women to become confident, independent, and resilient. "These donations are an investment in a future where girls can lead fearless lives, where they are not just surviving, but thriving," Glenda emphasised.



(L-R) Glenda Stevens of Fearless Women & Catherine Prosser of Tender Funerals

The funds pledged connected some of the Territory's brightest changemakers to people and organisations who can help them grow and build their capacity to deliver greater impact. For Catherine Prosser, General Manager of Tender Funerals Canberra, this funding support will have a transformative impact on grieving families. "This funding support will relieve the burden of debt from families in their darkest hours, allowing them to focus on healing," Catherine shared.

The success of this event is a testament to the strength of collaboration within Canberra's community. Led by the Snow Foundation, the event was supported by a network of dedicated local partners including Accenture, Aspen Medical, Canberra Airport, Clayton Utz, John James Foundation and The Property Collective. The event showcased the incredible impact that can be achieved when individuals, businesses, and community organisations unite for a common cause. Together, these partners helped amplify the event's reach and ensured that over 120 people experiencing disadvantage in the region will benefit from vital support.

"The Canberra event was a great platform for grassroots organisations to showcase their community impact," confirms Georgina Byron, long-time TFN supporter and CEO of event partner the Snow Foundation. "Often facing resource challenges, the event provided a unique chance for Fearless Women, Tender Funerals Canberra Region and Women's Justice Network to connect with philanthropy, business, and the wider community. Snow Foundation values these opportunities to unite people and reflect Canberra's generous spirit. The connections will enhance collaboration and support for vital local work."



Georgina Byron, CEO of the Snow Foundation, giving her welcome

The evening showcased the profound impact that collective giving can have on local communities and underscored TFN’s ongoing commitment to supporting grassroots changemakers. Since 2018, TFN has hosted 4 crowdfunding events in Canberra, catalysing over \$385,000 into the region and creating better outcomes for communities experiencing entrenched disadvantage. “The Funding Network has created a giving model that channels resources to small charities on the front lines of social issues,” observed Alicia Payne MP, Federal Labor Member for Canberra who attended the event. “They empower small charities to grow, and work to engage the broader philanthropy community.”



Celebrations in the audience

Over the next 12 months, TFN will collaborate with these three non-profit organisations to keep individual funders and event partners updated on the impacts of their support. Together, the generosity of the local Canberra community has ensured that more lives will be touched, more hope will be spread, and that the voices of local social entrepreneurs will continue to be uplifted.

Ends

About The Funding Network:

The Funding Network Australia (TFN) is a pioneer in finding and funding exceptional grassroots non-profits and social enterprises.

Through dynamic live crowdfunding events that inspire collective giving and ongoing capacity-building programs, TFN is a catalyst and amplifier of more than 300 emerging charities and 2,000 changemakers.

Over the past 10 years, TFN has facilitated \$29 million in critical funding through the collective generosity of more than 20,000 people.

To find out more visit thefundingnetwork.com.au



About The Snow Foundation:

The Snow Foundation was founded in Canberra by brothers Terry and George Snow in 1991 to make a difference to people's lives. Terry and Georgie had a pretty straightforward view – if you see someone struggling, you give them a helping hand.

The Snow Foundation is committed to long-term and engaged partnerships with a focus on minority, vulnerable and neglected groups. The Foundation has become one of the largest philanthropic organisations in Australia, funding more than 470 organisations and 620 individuals.

To find out more visit snowfoundation.org.au



For further information, imagery or to set up an interview, please contact:

Rabia Lockwood,

Marketing & Communications Manager

The Funding Network

☎ 0422 067 649

✉ rabia.lockwood@thefundingnetwork.com.au