



MEDIA RELEASE

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Brisbane's Roma House benefits from \$100,000 in grants

The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AO in her capacity as Patron of the Lady Bowen Trust, today presented \$100,000 to seven organisations to assist Queenslanders who have experienced homelessness to make their life-changing move into secure accommodation and a more stable future.

Mission Australia's Roma House was one of the seven organisations to receive a grant at today's event. Roma House, which provides 24-hour, intensive care, support and accommodation for people who are chronically homeless, has received \$20,000 from the Lady Bowen Trust.

Darryl Seccombe, Chair of the Board of Advice of the Lady Bowen Trust said he felt privileged to be able to support worthwhile charities, such as Mission Australia, through his role.

"The Lady Bowen Trust partners with charities assisting Queenslanders experiencing homelessness," Mr Seccombe said.

"We pride ourselves on helping these organisations provide practical support to Queenslanders in need, and help them transition to more stable housing arrangements.

"The grants announced today mean the Trust has now provided over \$280,000 since it was established in late 2006 to assist people experiencing homelessness throughout Queensland."

The Lady Bowen Trust was established to provide funds to service providers that are flexible and practical. Prior to the Trust being established, it was recognised that the factors contributing to homeless were complex and varied, and that people needed support that was tailored to their specific needs. The Lady Bowen Trust assists organisations to meet those varied needs, by providing funding for programs that complement the already crucial work they perform within the community.

Mr Seccombe said the Trust has previously supported Mission Australia through its grants, and is once again proud to support the organisation.

"We are delighted to provide ongoing support to Mission Australia and Roma House," Mr Seccombe said.

"The range of dynamic and exciting programs offered at Roma House, which are designed to enhance a client's life skills, confidence and resilience, while also assisting them in finding secure accommodation is an innovative approach that we feel needs to be supported."

Mission Australia's Avryl Gratton said the organisation is thankful for the support provided by the Lady Bowen Trust and will put the money to good use.

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“The money from the Lady Bowen Trust grant will be used to assist and enable residents to move from Roma House into stable accommodations and to reintegrate into the community,” Ms Gration said.

“We will also put some of the funds towards our ‘Adventure Therapy Program’ which provides our current and ex-residents with an opportunity to participate in outdoor, therapeutic activities such as canoeing and kayaking down the Noosa River.

“This grant will really help make a difference at Roma House, and give our residents greater opportunities from which they can develop resilience.”

Other organisations to benefit from the Lady Bowen Trust’s 2010 grants include the 139 Club Inc, Chameleon Regional Community Housing, Children of the Dreaming – Allawah, Families Plus – Lifeline Community Care, Red Cross and Brisbane Youth Service.

The Trust was launched in November 2006 by the Queensland Government, with funding provided by the former Queensland Department of Housing and the Residential Tenancies Authority, and is managed by the Public Trustee of Queensland.

For further information, please visit www.ladybowentrust.org.au or contact the Secretariat to the Lady Bowen Trust on 1800 081 698.

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Vision and interview opportunities available. For further information please contact:
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