



MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 13th October, 2025

Mallee Family Care AGM to Celebrate 25 Years of Chances for Children

Mallee Family Care will mark a major milestone at its upcoming Annual General Meeting, celebrating 25 years of the Chances for Children Foundation and its impact on young people across the Mallee.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 October 2025, 10am–12noon at the Mildura Arts Centre, followed by a light lunch.

As Mallee Family Care's philanthropic foundation, Chances for Children has provided more than 2,250 scholarships, supporting young people to overcome financial and social barriers, pursue an education, and chase their dreams.

Established in 2000, the Foundation was built and is sustained on the generosity of donors and the local community, with no government funding.

As part of this year's AGM, guests will hear from a panel of speakers reflecting on the legacy of Chances for Children including scholarship alumni Fleur Manno and Erica Whetter along with long-time supporter, Mike Mooney.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the 25th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the Foundation's enduring impact.

"Chances for Children embodies everything Mallee Family Care stands for. It is about reducing barriers, expanding choices and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential," Ms Jayet said.

"Our AGM will be a time for reflection and to acknowledge everyone who has been part of the Chances story to date," she said.,

"This includes those who first envisioned the Foundation and worked tirelessly to turn an idea into a reality; the generous donors and supporters who have sustained it over time; and the hundreds of young people who have embraced opportunities through Chances scholarships."

Ms Jayet said the agency's 2025 AGM would also provide a chance to look ahead at how the legacy of Chances for Children continues for future generations.

The Mallee Family Care AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 from 10am–12noon at the Mildura Arts Centre. Guest panellists include:



Media enquiries

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Fleur Manno

Fleur Manno (nee Bethell) grew up in Mildura and attended Mildura Senior College before embarking on tertiary studies in Adelaide with the support of a Chances for Children Scholarship.

Fleur graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine in 2007 and was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society, in recognition of academic excellence.

She has since forged a diverse and impactful career in diagnostic pathology, infection control and public health.

In 2014 Fleur returned to Mildura and worked with Barratt & Smith Pathology followed by key leadership roles at Mildura Base Public Hospital - most notably as Infection Control Coordinator throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and later as Director of Patient Safety & Improvement.

She currently works with the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit, where she focuses on prevention and improving population health outcomes throughout the Mallee.

Mike Mooney

With no government funding, Chances for Children is sustained solely through the generosity of donors and philanthropy.

For 25 years, hundreds of individuals, community groups and businesses have supported the Foundation, enabling Chances to remove barriers and open doors for young people across our region.

Mike Mooney is one of those supporters. He and his wife Tracey have donated regularly to Chances for more than 15 years.

Mike also served on the former Chances Committee of Management, helping to guide the Foundation through periods of growth and change from 2009 to 2017.

Motivated by the opportunity to 'give back' to their community and inspired by the stories of scholarship recipients, Mike and Tracey regularly volunteer at fundraising events and support a range of local not-for-profit organisations that support others.

Mike's long-standing support reflects the spirit of community that has sustained the Foundation since its beginnings.

Erica Whetter

Erica Whetter (nee Graf) grew up in Merbein and, with the support of a Chances for Children scholarship in 2009, launched a career that has taken her onto the international music stage.

After completing a Bachelor of Music Performance in Jazz Guitar at Adelaide University, Erica co-founded the multi-award-winning band Lazy Eye with her husband, Evan. Together, they have released six albums, toured extensively across Australia and internationally, and earned recognition including two "Group of the Year" awards at the Australian Blues Awards.



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Beyond performing, Erica is passionate about nurturing the next generation, helped to establish the Adelaide Roots and Blues Association's Youth in Blues program and running a music school, You Can Play Music.

She and Evan also founded a thriving martial arts school, combining community, creativity and resilience.

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