



MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday 5th June, 2024

Support Mallee youth by donating to Chances for Children before June 30

Mallee Family Care is calling on the community to support local young people to realise their dreams by donating to the Chances for Children Foundation before the End of the Financial Year.

Chances for Children Foundation (Chances) is the philanthropic arm of Mallee Family Care. Its annual scholarship program empowers 14-25-year-olds to stay in school, undertake tertiary studies and pursue sports, music and leadership opportunities.

Over the past 24 years, more than 2,200 Chances scholarships have been awarded, thanks to the generous contributions and support of donors.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet invited potential donors to consider making a tax-deductible contribution before June 30.

“Any donation, no matter the amount, makes an impact,” Ms Jayet said.

“Cost-of-living pressures are placing enormous stress on many Mallee families, and some young people are having to sacrifice school, TAFE or university studies, because they need to work instead.”

“These costs are even further exacerbated if people need to move away from home to study. In many instances, young people are missing out, through no fault of their own.”

Securing a Chances Scholarship twenty years ago gave Fleur Manno the financial stability and breathing space she needed to continue her university studies.

The pressure of living away from home in a new city, a heavy courseload, long days travelling to and from university, no vehicle, no computer and no capacity for a part time job meant things were tough.

“I was almost at a point of giving up and returning home. Daylight hours were becoming shorter and I was struggling to get enough time at uni to complete coursework,” Ms Manno said.



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But securing a Chances scholarship in 2004 changed everything. Fleur graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine and has since forged a successful career in diagnostic pathology and microbiology.

Recently employed as the Director of Patient Safety and Improvement at Mildura Base Public Hospital, Fleur is humbled by the opportunity to support the community that helped her to study two decades ago.

“Chances provided me the opportunity to gain my degree and I’m so incredibly thankful for that endorsement. In a thriving community like ours, financial barriers should never stand in the way of a young person achieving their desired qualifications and career path.”

Ms Jayet acknowledged the many individuals, community groups and businesses whose contributions had helped fund the annual Chances scholarship program and gone on to benefit Fleur and hundreds of others.

“This would simply not be possible without the generosity of our many donors, fundraisers and community partners who recognise and value the impact education can have on a young person.”

To make a tax-deductible donation to Chances for Children visit www.chancesforchildren.com.au

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