Westfield
Local Heroef
2019

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and grants program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people who connect and enrich their local communities across

Australia and New Zealand.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2019 nominees for every Westfield centre. In total, we are recognising 121 Westfield Local Heroes across Australia and New Zealand in 2019.

# Westfield Local Heroef

Each of the affiliated organisations of the Westfield Local Heroes have received a grant to support their work. Westfield will award 121 grants across Australia and New Zealand – totalling \$1.2 million.

We congratulate all the 2019 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make to improving social wellbeing in their local areas.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes westfield.co.nz/local-heroes



### Innaloo

WA

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"I believe each person has within them something great to contribute to this world and I am passionate about helping people realise their worth and reach their potential," says Amanda.

# Forging a better life and dignity through HOPE

#### **Amanda Ellerby** — HOPE (Helping Out People Everywhere)

Passionate, Selfless, Driven

Social worker Amanda Ellerby is passionate about helping people who are homeless or at-risk to forge a better life.

As a coordinator with HOPE (Helping Out People Everywhere), she ensures her team offers clients dignity as well as practical help such as sleeping bags, showers, food and toiletries. They also assist with some of the financial costs associated with obtaining and maintaining suitable accommodation.

"I believe each person has within them something great to contribute to this world and I am passionate about helping people realise their worth and reach their potential," says Amanda.

She feels humbled to be named a Westfield Local Hero. "It's an honour to be recognised by the local community. People haven't been aware of the extent of our work, so this means we can reach a lot more people who can benefit from the work that we do."

Last year, HOPE provided food relief to over two thousand families. This year the aim is to move beyond practical assistance and provide clients with skills and mentoring to help them succeed in life, an approach Amanda has used in more than fourteen years of working in the homeless sector.

"In my years of work, I've seen grown men break down in tears after sharing that they've had enough of years of daily drug use and I've had the opportunity to provide them with the tools to start making changes in their life," she says. "I've had a young girl call me each time she thought

she'd used too much heroin, just to have someone on the other end of the phone."

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation.

HOPE's grant means it can meet more of the demand for help. It will also be able to upskill volunteers and further develop life skills workshops for clients.

"This grant means we can start implementing many of the things I've had a vision for but not had the funds or resources to do so," says Amanda.



"At the moment there is no easy way for them to play together on equipment. This will allow them to just be together as friends and will provide stimulating play for all children, including those in wheelchairs," says Rebecca.

# Helping to give a voice to children with special needs

## **Rebecca Watson** — Holy Rosary School Doubleview Parents and Friends Association

Inclusive, Dedicated, Inspiring

Rebecca Watson became a champion for children with special needs when her daughter Marlee was diagnosed with Rett syndrome.

The little girl was unable to communicate verbally until she received an eye-gaze computer that speaks the words as she looks at them on the screen.

With Rebecca's help, teachers and aides at the Holy Rosary School Doubleview are helping her daughter and other special needs children use the devices.

"The more Marlee's aides learned, the more expressive she became. It allowed her to be seen and share her thoughts," Rebecca says.

She is excited to be voted a Westfield Local Hero as it means more people will be aware that people who can't talk or gesture can still communicate.

"It's just amazing when you see people realise others can understand them.

"Once people believe someone understands what they are saying, they treat them differently and involve them in so many more things," she says.

Rebecca has now changed careers to help children who use communication devices at other schools, which she describes as the most rewarding job she has had.

Rebecca and Marlee have presented their journey at conferences and workshops to spread awareness about what is possible with the right support.

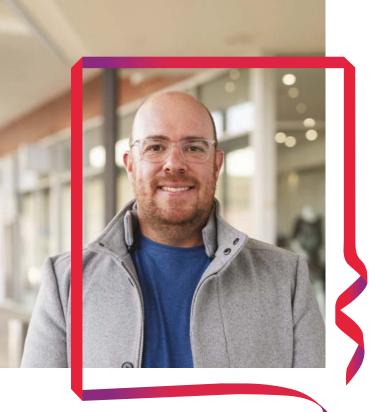
"I am passionate about demonstrating how children living with complex communication needs and severe body movement disorders just want to learn and do what their friends do," says Rebecca. "These children can make great friendships, be stimulated and learn age appropriately."

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The Holy Rosary School Doubleview Parents and Friends Association will use its grant to fulfil a long-held dream to purchase a Sway Fun Glider that allows children in wheelchairs and their friends to play together.

"At the moment there is no easy way for them to play together on equipment. This will allow them to just be together as friends and will provide stimulating play for all children, including those in wheelchairs," says Rebecca.

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Hayden's infectious enthusiasm for changing the youth alcohol and party culture has won the praise of past school leavers and the police. And he has also pioneered Red Frog teams in Malaysia, Singapore and India.

# Spreading the word about responsible partying to keep school leavers safe

#### **Hayden Glass** — Red Frogs Australia

Remarkable, Generous, Leader

For the past 18 years, Hayden Glass has been keeping an everincreasing number of young people safe in Western Australia.

He is the coordinator of the WA branch of Red Frog, which promotes healthy partying behaviours.

Hayden leads the volunteer teams and is responsible for their pastoral care, ensuring they are well enough to serve others without it taking a toll on their own mental health.

He also engages with the community and in 2018 spoke to fifteen thousand school leavers about making healthy choices about alcohol and other intoxicants.

Hayden has grown the number of volunteers in WA from 20 to 200 and has expanded the program beyond the school gates to music festivals, sporting events and universities.

"Our presence at events means young people know there are a group of people who have their back if something goes wrong," he says.

Hayden says it's a little overwhelming to have been voted a Westfield local hero.

"It's a massive privilege and an honour to be recognised by the community for work that I do that I love."

Hayden's infectious enthusiasm for changing the youth alcohol and party culture has won the praise of past school leavers and the police. And he has also pioneered Red Frog teams in Malaysia, Singapore and India.

While Red Frog's primary target is young people, they are not the only ones who benefit, says Hayden.

"We allay parents' fears when they know we will be present at festivals, and we contribute to the safety of all attendees at events." One security manager told him that every Red Frogger is worth two security quards.

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation. Red Frog will use its grant to extend its outreach to more schools and student housing organisations in the Perth CBD and at Edith Cowan University.

"We'll be able to provide pastoral care, event planning and a listening ear to help students living away from home offset feelings of loneliness and isolation," says Hayden.

## **Your 2019 Finalists**

#### **Ken Raine**

#### Lifeline WA

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Ken Raine enjoys dressing up as different comic characters, but he has his youngest son to thank for his transformation into a fundraising superhero. The inspiration came at Comic-Con when Ken and his sons were swamped by people wanting photos of them in costume. His son mentioned they could raise money for charity if they charged a dollar per photo and Ken leapt into action, setting up the WA Team of Charity Heroes (WATCH) Network. "We donate our time to bring happiness to sick or less fortunate kids and raise money for good causes," he says.

#### **Carilyn Holmes**

#### Rebound WA

Carilyn Holmes was thrilled when the Australian wheelchair basketball team won gold at the Beijing Paralympics. A long-time volunteer with Rebound WA, she was there when many members of the gold-medal team first sat in a basketball wheelchair. Rebound has been helping people with a disability to live more active, fuller lives for 60 years and Carilyn has been volunteering for the state and national wheelchair basketball teams for 36 of those. "Being a small part of their mental and physical development, and even watching some of them achieve Paralympic success is something I'll never forget," she says.

#### **Lesley Cangemi**

## Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services

Lesley Cangemi is so dedicated to helping women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that she stayed on as a volunteer when her paid job was lost due to funding cuts. Despite fragile health, the retired nurse and social worker seldom never misses a day's work at Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Service. The all-women organisation offers clients culturally appropriate health and wellbeing services as well as vital help with navigating organisations such as Centrelink. "Watching the women grow, be empowered and build their capacity to develop social and employment skills is hugely satisfying," says Lesley.

INNALOO, WA

# Recognising all of our 2019 Nominees



Mettle Women Inc

**Eleana BREDEMEYER** 

**Ability Centre** 

**Kirsten BUTTON** 

Saba Rose Button Foundation

**Lesley CANGEMI** 

Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services

**Peter CARLINO** 

Balcatta FC

**Katie DUNKLEY** 

RSI WA

**Amanda ELLERBY** 

HOPE Inc

**Charles FEDOR** 

Western Australian Debating

League (WADL)

Janet GARCIA-WEBB

Girl Guides Western Australia Inc

Hayden GLASS

Red Frogs Australia

Kishani GREEN

Westside BMX Club Inc

Carilyn HOLMES

Rebound WA Inc

Rebecca JOHNSON

Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre

**Veronica JOHNSTON** 

Make A Wish

**Kevin KENNEALLY** 

Western Australian Gould League

**Monique KERR** 

Allergy Support Hub

Robert (Bob) KING

Pelican Point Sea Scouts

Hilary MacWILLIAM

St Mark's Anglican Church,

Bassendean

**Tommy O'DONOVAN** 

Story Dogs

**Ken RAINE** 

Perth Childrens Hospital Foundation

**Emma ROSCOE** 

Stirling Women's Centre -

City of Stirling

**Rebecca WATSON** 

Holy Rosary School Parents

and Friends

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#### If you or anyone you know would like more information on what support is available:

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 MensLine: 1300 78 99 78 Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Lifeline: 0800 543 354

Suicide Crisis Helpline: 0508 828 865

Kidsline: 0800 54 37 54

Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757

Samaritans: 0800 726 666

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450

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