

# JOHN SKIPPER KELLY FUND

Providing leadership opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds

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To everyone who has supported the JSK fund in 2012,

I am writing on behalf of the JSK Fund to express Kelly family's deep appreciation for the support you have given to the JSK Fund in 2012.

We are very proud to continue the legacy of John Kelly: reaching out to young people from diverse backgrounds in a quest for social justice and environmental sustainability.

We have included in this report details of the programs we have supported in 2012 and the outcomes they have achieved.

We hope this report provides transparency and insight into the work of the JSK and encourages you to continue your involvement in the JSK Fund. We will also provide details on the annual JSK Fund cocktail event on Dad's birthday and the Running for JSK City2Surf team.

Kind regards,

Ben Kelly.  
Trustee of the JSK Fund.

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## Preamble

John Skipper Kelly was a leading commercial lawyer at Malleson Stephen Jaques and 2IC of Allco Finance Group's Commercial Aircraft Leasing Business. After navigating the difficult sale of the Aircraft Leasing business (now 'HKAC') to HNA-Bravia, John left the commercial world in order to pursue his passion for working with young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. To this end, he worked closely with Activate Australia and OzGreen.

In late 2010, John Skipper Kelly passed away in a tragic climbing accident. The family, supported by John's colleagues and friends, set up the JSK Fund to harness John's network and continue the work he started in the social sector.

The vision of the JSK Fund is to create opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds. To this end, it had partnered with Activate Australia and OzGreen to underwrite programs that harness the potential of young people to enrich their own lives and their communities.

## JSK Funding Allocation Process

Consistent with John's approach to and engagement in philanthropy, the JSK Fund applies a disciplined approach to the allocation of funds. It reviews a range of opportunities consistent with the fund's charter of seeking to support programs which encourage young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their potential, and focuses on those programs which have an evidence base for their work, and are disciplined and accountable in their operations. This will be evidenced in clear program proposals and reporting. Assisting the family in managing the funding proposal are three trustees who each bring deep experience to support the decision making process. All were close personal and professional friends of John Kelly:

John Atkin is Chief Executive of The Trust Company, (a respected publicly listed company with a 100 year track record of providing quality advice to trusts and foundations, responsible for disbursing over \$20 million of grant funding). Under John's leadership The Trust Company has implemented a highly focused and strategic approach to its philanthropy, and John's experience and networks have been extremely helpful to the JSK Fund, including in the provision of relevant trustee services.

Michael Traill AM is Chief Executive of Social Ventures Australia (SVA) and Vice Chair of GoodStart Early Learning. SVA is recognised as a leading player in the Australian non-profit market, with a highly talented national team of 53 people which brings the best of business disciplines to providing support and services on a targeted basis to the non-profit world. Michael brings his own and SVA's deep experience in having allocated over \$20m in a 10 year period on

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a selected and targeted basis to 40 outstanding social programs drawn from over 1,000 which have been reviewed. Where appropriate and fitting the JSK Fund focus area SVA supported ventures have been recommended recipients of JSK Fund support.

Rowan Russell, former senior partner Mallesons Stephens Jaques. Rowan is a respected business leader and company director with a deep and practical involvement in philanthropy, including as one of the practice leaders driving Mallesons extensive work in the community.

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## Report from Activate Australia



### About the Organisation

Activate Australia (Activate) is a not-for-profit organisation, that delivers leadership development programs for young people who have experienced disadvantage. Activate's mission is to recognise, develop and activate the personal and community leadership potential of young people from disadvantaged communities. Activate believes that to address disadvantage, we must invest in the leadership potential of those who live in these communities. By developing new leaders and role models in communities such as these, Activate seeks to enable them to address local and personal issues and activate positive change through achieving personal, educational and vocational goals - whilst building stronger communities.

### Objective

Activate Australia, in partnership with the Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association (HICSA) is developing a leadership program for young people from the Koorie community. The program is being developed to provide a pathway for young people to re-engage with education, employment and their community. The original Activate Australia Leadership Program format forms the base which has been adapted to be more culturally specific and relevant to young people from within the Koorie community.

A draft of the more culturally specific leadership program has been developed as a basis for further adaptation. To ensure that the program meets the needs of the young people and the community, we are proposing a group of young people come together for a series of pre-program consultation sessions to form a leadership council. These sessions would be a guided facilitation to distill the important outcomes that young people would want to achieve over the course of the programs. It would ensure that young people have a voice and feel a sense of ownership over the program and give rise to the types of opportunities they would like to be linked into during and after the program – be it further educational, training, work experience or personal development opportunities.

It is envisaged that this first stage of the four-stage leadership program will also incorporate a literacy program as many young people are leaving education early because of low levels of literacy.

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After consultation and the program being fully developed – the young people that take part in the first stage of the program - would be the first participants in the inaugural leadership program. It is proposed that after full development and board approval, the generous funding support from the JSK Fund and Hong Kong Aviation Capital (HKAC) will be put toward the first stage and contribute to the second stage of the program pathway (please see the following for an explanation of the pathway). It is envisaged that the program will begin in 2013 with the commencement of the school year.



## PROPOSED STAGES OF ACTIVATE'S INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS\*

### Stage 1

The first stage of the program pathway focuses on providing a literacy program to assist and encourage young people to stay engaged with education as opposed to what is currently happening with young people feeling overwhelmed because of low literacy levels and ultimately disengaging from education. This stage will also incorporate a leadership council which will see young people contributing to plans for what they want for their future, communities and how the next stages of the pathway can assist them to achieve these goals and reach their full potential.

### Stage 2

The Activate Australia Leadership Program (AALP) is a week-long residential with a mixture of seminars and outdoor activities. The focus is on personal leadership and the development of leadership, work and life skills. The program has been adapted to be more culturally specific and relevant to indigenous young people. This program will potentially be held at a culturally specific venue – Camp Jungai.

### Stage 3

Re-Activate is a 12-month follow-up program in the local community. It builds on the work done during the AALP and further develops participants' leadership, life and work skills. Young people are supported to achieve the personal and community goals set at the AALP. Activate will seek to hold culturally appropriate and significant activities. Eg heritage walks and a continuation and expansion of the activities begun on the AALP.

### Stage 4

Young people lead community projects developed during Stage 2. Activate will seek partnerships with indigenous and non-indigenous organisations that will assist in opening up opportunities for young people in education, training and vocation. Graduates are given opportunities to volunteer on the first and second stages of the program.

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**It is proposed that the donation received from the JSK Fund will support the first stage and contribute toward part of the second stage of the program pathway.**

## Expected Qualitative and Quantitative Outcomes

The Indigenous Specific program that is being developed with our partner HICSA, will be the first program of its kind and is based on Activate's original program format (which has been running for 8 years). As such, hard qualitative and quantitative data is yet to be gathered for the newly developed program. It is however expected that during the first stage of the program approximately 15-20 (or more once recruitment is completed) young people will receive assistance through the literary program and will form the leadership council.

Of this group, 12 young people will be moved through to the second stage of the leadership pathway, the Activate Australia Leadership Program, and then through to the following program stages. Through experience, it has been established that a group of twelve participants taking part in the leadership program is the ideal number for maximum benefit. The other young people participating in the initial stage will be taken through to the following stages once ready.

In terms of qualitative outcomes, I have included the details of two speeches made by former graduates of Activate's programs (including Sarah, who spoke at the JSK Fund event earlier this year) about their experiences of the Activate Australia Leadership Program. In addition I have included a letter from our partner HICSA about our partnership and the program we are developing. Please find the letter attached and please see details of each speech following:

### Adham

*Hi everyone, I'm Adham. I'm here to talk about my personal experiences working and being part of Activate Australia. But first, I'll just give some information about myself. I'm 19 years old and currently in second year of social work at La Trobe University. The reason I chose to study social work is probably the same as everyone else in my course, and it's kind of become a sort of cliché. But that's because it's true. We want to help people, especially the ones who can't help themselves, either because they physically can't or because they don't have the necessary skills or confidence levels.*

*The first time I became aware of Activate Australia was in Year 10 when they organized a leadership program for a group of students in my year level. I was one of the students who were chosen to attend. At first, I was a bit apprehensive and nervous and wasn't sure about going because I didn't know what to expect. But eventually I did go and I was glad I did because I made a lot of new friends and left being more confident in myself and less shy. I still am pretty shy but I was even more shy back then and couldn't even speak in front of groups like I am now.*

*I've been on three leadership programs. My first two were as a student but my most recent one*

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*was as a leader. And we're also planning another one later this year so we're excited about that. Another thing I like about Activate is that it's a training organization (until 2011), so far I've completed certificates in Work Preparation, Community Services, and at the moment I'm working on a certificate in Training and Assessment.*

*What I hope to do in the future is to continue and finish my course at university, and then apply those skills with my work with Activate. And eventually down the track, we hope we can expand the organization, run more programs, create more community workshops and initiatives and hopefully make a difference.*

Sarah

*I got involved with Activate Australia when I was fifteen. I am twenty-one now and at the time I had no idea how much of an impact being a part of this program would have on my life. I never expected I would make such close friendships or have such memorable experiences.*

*Before joining Activate Australia, I was a very shy and insecure person. I'm not saying that there isn't a part of me that isn't still like that – but the Activate programs have helped me improve my self confidence by providing a safe and encouraging environment to develop public speaking skills, leadership skills and the opportunities to use these skills to assist the wider community in which I live.*

*Each young person who participates in the program gets very different things out of it. I've witnessed kids on the leadership program who are initially apathetic and indifferent, but by the end of the program their outlook has changed and they really engage with the activities with each other and the staff - For some of my fellow graduates - it helped them move away from influences that were constantly getting them into trouble. Some were even getting into serious trouble with the law. The programs helped them to make better decisions and gave them the opportunities to see that there were other, more positive pathways. For me, the program was about building confidence, improving my social skills and allowing me to open up and speak up more.*

*I got involved with the Re-Activate program after coming back from the first leadership program. During this program, my fellow graduates and I decided that we wanted to develop a project that would assist the community in dealing with racist attitudes that would eventually decrease the tension and fights that were occurring among students at my old school. We met each month and developed an 'Anti-Racism' program that we presented to the high schools in the district. It was received very well - and teachers at the school were interested in us coming back and hoped it would be repeated in the coming years. This was really encouraging for us – to think that the work we put in would have such a positive impact.*

*After Re-Activate – I decided that I wanted to continue to be involved to support the activate staff and help the younger kids. I now volunteer on the Leadership Programs as an advanced leader*

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*along with five fellow graduates. I think it helps the younger kids see that there is a positive pathway to follow and that we came from exactly the same place that they did. Having recently come out of High school they can relate to us and our experiences and can see the steps that we took and that we're still part of it six years later. I think this helps them to want to stay connected.*

*When I was asked to speak at this occasion, I was initially a little reluctant because as I mentioned I am pretty shy and not a natural public speaker. I quickly got past those feelings though, As I mainly felt very privileged to have this opportunity to speak about my experience with the programs and the fact that the support given from you is helping other young people as I was helped – and the effect it will have on the community in the long term. I met John on a program I volunteered on. I know he initially thought I was pretty quiet and shy but I was grateful that he saw beyond my shyness – and made it clear to me that he knew I had a lot to offer. For a young person – that kind of support from an adult makes a huge difference. That was another reason it was important for me to be here tonight – as I feel really honoured to be asked to speak at this event for John. And I would like to thank his family for the opportunity.*

## **Estimated Cost and impact of JSK Funding**

Based on previous estimates the rough figures for the information you're after for the report are as follows:

Stage 1 cost \$10,000 (approx)

Stage 2 cost \$25,000 (approx)

Of the whole 4 stage program, the JSK Fund donation will make up around 45% of the whole program (all four stages).

The funding from the JSK Fund will enable the partnership to begin the program (after board approval) and with HICSA the partnership will have greater access to jointly apply for funding allocated to Indigenous-specific programs. Activate is also awaiting a decision around multi-year funding regarding this project. Additional sources of funding will come through networks including in-kind donations to assist in bringing costs down.

## **Conclusion**

Activate Australia would like to convey our deepest appreciation to the JSK Fund for their continued and generous support. As mentioned above, once the program has received board approval, Activate proposes the generous donation made by the JSK Fund will support Stage 1 and part of Stage 2 of the program pathway. The program will begin with the commencement of

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the school year in 2013. We look forward to keeping you updated about the progress of the program.

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JSK

The Trust Company Foundation. John Skipper Kelly Fund. ABN 59-958-929-347

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## OzGreen report

### Brief Description of OzGREEN

OzGREEN is an independent not-for-profit that operates nationally in Australia and overseas in India, East Timor and Central America. Established in 1992, OzGREEN programs have involved hundreds of thousands of people who go on to take sustainably leadership roles in their schools, communities and workplaces.

OzGREEN's mission is to build a movement of inspired leaders who are tackling sustainability challenges (such as climate change and water) and becoming leaders of positive social change. We accomplish this by focusing on youth, emerging leaders and "early adopters", strengthening their capacity for leadership and social innovation.

OzGREEN has won numerous awards, including the Eureka Prize, Banksia Awards, UN Media Peace Awards and Best Practice Case Study for the Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW). OzGREEN's CEO and Co-Founder Sue Lennox was named as one of Sydney's Top 100 Most Influential People by The Sydney Magazine.

### JSK Fund Support for Youth Leading the World

JSK Fund is supporting OzGREEN's major youth initiative "Youth Leading the World" (YLTW). In particular the grant from JSFK supports Facilitator Training for young people (usually students) who would not otherwise be able to participate. Over 90% of YLTW Facilitators are volunteers.

**Youth Leading the World** (YLTW) is a bold initiative that is taking our multi-award winning Youth LEAD program to scale, by training local people to run the initiative in their own region. The 3-day youth leadership congress is then run simultaneously in multiple locations, connected by social media.

OzGREEN piloted Youth Leading Australia in 7 locations in 2009. In 2010 it grew into **Youth Leading the World** (YLTW) in collaboration with over 100 local and regional organisations in 18 regions across Australia and globally (50 facilitators trained). In 2011 we further expanded to 25 regions, training 90 facilitators to run the program in their own local area.

In 2012 we are on track for 50 locations participating across Australia and globally, training a further 120 YLTW Facilitators. Each congress involves 30-50 youth participants.

The impact of YLTW is exciting. Participants rate the most significant outcomes as:

- Increased understanding of climate change and sustainability (from 3/10 before to 8/10 after);
- Increased personal confidence and leadership capacity (from 4/10 before to 9/10 after);

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- Increased connections with other change makers locally and globally (from 2/10 to 9/10 after);
- Reduction of personal eco-footprint (range 30-75% in 12 months).

YLTW Facilitators consistently report the most significant impact is to see that they are able to empower others.

*For me as a YLTW facilitator it's knowing I've changed people .... that's pretty big. It's been life-changing, eye-opening and changed the way I look at everything.* Chris Rowlands (age 20), [YLTW Swan Hill](#)

Chris first participated in YLTW in 2010. In 2011 he stepped into Facilitating YLTW in Swan Hill. He is now studying environmental science at LaTrobe University. In 2012 he has successfully enrolled LaTrobe University to host a new YLTW program in Bendigo, and recruited 4 new volunteer facilitators to run the initiative.

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[Youth Leading the World](#)  
27-29 November 2012

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## Conclusion

The JSK Fund is proud to report on the outcomes that stem from our partnership with OzGreen and Activate. The work we have begun, training young environmental leaders through OzGreen and Aboriginal youths through Activate Australia, will continue for years to come.

The JSK Fund is profoundly grateful to all those who have donated to the JSK Fund for their support in this endeavour. Our relationship is one based on the memory of a great man and a vision for social justice; and we hope to build this relationship in the future.

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