



---

## TPG Telecom Foundation announces 2022 charity partners

*Over \$1 million awarded in grants to ACON, Infoxchange, headspace, MissingSchool, Guide Dogs Australia, Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Starlight Children's Foundation*

**Tuesday, 10 May 2022** – TPG Telecom has awarded over \$1 million in grants to seven charities creating opportunities to improve the health, wellbeing and education of Australian communities in need in 2022.

Funding for projects using innovative and scalable technology solutions, this year's Foundation partner charities are ACON, Infoxchange, headspace, MissingSchool, Guide Dogs Australia, Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Starlight Children's Foundation.

"We are proud to be supporting the ingenuity and innovation of our 2022 Foundation partners, as they continue to positively impact the lives of Australian communities," said TPG Telecom Foundation Chair and TPG Telecom Group Executive People Experience, Vanessa Hicks.

"Whether combatting mental health issues and domestic and family violence, supporting critically ill children and people living with disability, or enabling important medical research and innovations, these unique projects will make a genuine positive difference."

Celebrating 20 years in Australia, the Foundation (formerly known as Vodafone Foundation Australia) has donated more than \$26 million to date to charitable causes and organisations using mobile technology to improve the health of all Australians.

### **TPG Telecom Foundation partners 2022**

[ACON](#), Australia's largest health organisation specialising in community health, inclusion and HIV responses for people of diverse sexualities and genders (LGBTQ+ people), will expand its '[TransHub](#)' nationally. This platform provides localised, accessible and evidence-based information and resources to support the health and wellbeing of trans people, their allies and health providers.

[Infoxchange](#), a not-for-profit social enterprise that aims to tackle the biggest social challenges through technology, will continue to extend and scale its '[Ask Izzy](#)' platform, which the Foundation first funded in 2019. This free and anonymous web-platform provides access to over 350,000 services that support people experiencing disadvantage across a range of needs, including services for victims/survivors of family and domestic violence, First Nations Peoples, mental health and wellbeing, housing, addiction, and people living with disability.

[headspace](#), Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12–25-year-olds, will develop and implement a technology solution which will automatically establish a headspace online account when a young person first visits a headspace Centre. This will allow a young person to take advantage of helpful, evidence based mental health

---



---

resources and services online whilst they wait for an in-person appointment, significantly reducing the impact of current wait times for face-to-face clinical support.

[MissingSchool](#), a not-for-profit dedicated to addressing the educational and social isolation faced by children who miss school because of serious medical conditions, will scale its 'Seen&Heard' platform. 'Seen&Heard' will drive school inclusion on a national scale for critically ill and injured children through telepresence technology, and support their parents, peers and teachers to enable continued learning and social connection in their school community.

[Guide Dogs Australia](#), which delivers essential services to Australians who are blind or have low vision, will extend its [CatchUp](#) project. This free, interactive, and accessible online platform, connects Australians with low vision or blindness to opportunities to socialise, learn and gain support through a personalised and accessible online experience.

[Cerebral Palsy Alliance \(CPA\)](#) provides family-centred therapies, programs, equipment, research, advocacy and medical, technological and wellbeing support for people with cerebral palsy and their families. CPA will expand Australia's first disability tech start-up accelerator, [Remarkable](#), so it can support earlier stage projects, providing the tools and guidance needed to progress start-ups that improve the wellbeing, independence and inclusion of people with disabilities.

[Starlight Children's Foundation](#) will launch its 'Virtual Starlight Express Room' program, which enables sick kids to access its 'Captain Starlight' program virtually. The Virtual SER is a digital platform that provides children with live, interactive engagement and connection designed specifically for the hospital context. The platform is accessible 24/7 from any mobile device and in any hospital across Australia, including to children admitted in regional and remote hospitals.

The Foundation's 2021 funding round saw it grant funds to the Garvan Institute for Medical Research (Garvan) for a 12-month project called Genomics in the Cloud. This project is aimed at building a new database of genetic information that is more representative of Australia's cultural diversity so researchers can better understand the genetic and cellular basis of disease.

The TPG Telecom Foundation also awarded two grants to Infoxchange in 2021 for two 12-month projects. The first project, 'Connected Communities', works with people in remote and disaster-prone areas to co-design community solutions and digital tools to improve disaster preparedness and community resilience. The second project, 'Ask Izzy Connect', will develop the training and tools needed to support frontline staff in retail and call centre settings to effectively recognise and respond to people in crisis.

---ends---

**About TPG Telecom:** TPG Telecom is an Australian telecommunications company which is home to some of Australia's most-loved telecommunications brands including Vodafone, TPG, iiNet, AAPT,

---



---

Internode, Lebara and felix. As the second largest telecommunications company listed on the ASX, TPG Telecom has a strong challenger spirit and a commitment to delivering the best services and products to its customers. [www.tpgtelecom.com.au](http://www.tpgtelecom.com.au)

**Media enquiries:**

Claudia Phillips

External Communications Coordinator

[claudia.phillips@vodafone.com.au](mailto:claudia.phillips@vodafone.com.au)