

MEDICINES  
*Australia*

SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND



## Message from Will Delaat AM

FORMER MEDICINES AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN

At the Medicines Australia Parliamentary Dinner in 2010, I proudly launched our Special Purpose Fund as the Chairman of Medicines Australia. I spoke of the industry's commitment to improving Indigenous health outcomes, and to help close the life expectancy gap that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

I was privileged to announce the inaugural funding programs: the Jimmy Little Foundation *Thumbs Up!* healthy eating program and the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation Mobile Renal Dialysis unit – the Purple Truck.

Shortly after the launch of the Special Purpose Fund, Medicines Australia made a third announcement, proudly supporting two Indigenous students of medicine at the University of NSW, through the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Residential Scholarship Program.

Two years on from announcing our combined funding of over \$1m to the Jimmy Little Foundation and the Western Desert Corporation, these projects are now concluded.

The Special Purpose Fund and its projects are a great legacy of the industry's contribution to assist in *Closing the Gap* in Indigenous health.

Upon my retirement as Chairman, I was confident in handing over the work begun under my auspices to Mark Masterson, Medicines Australia's present Chairman. I am sure Mark will be inspired, as I was, with the hard work and dedication of the organisations we support.

I wish the Fund and the organisations it supports continued success.

Yours sincerely,



**Will Delaat AM**

*Former Medicines Australia Chairman*



## Message from Mark Masterson

MEDICINES AUSTRALIA CHAIRMAN

One of my first roles as Chairman of Medicines Australia was to attend the State Memorial Service for Jimmy Little. This was a poignant introduction to the Special Purpose Fund and the projects we support.

Since that time, I have had the opportunity to meet with some of the people we are assisting through the Fund. I have been impressed by the commitment and dedication of the organisations helping improve the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve.

The inaugural projects announced in 2010 concluded at the beginning of 2012. This significant milestone marked the end of an era, but the beginning of another. In April 2012 Medicines Australia welcomed its fourth organisation to receive support through the Special Purpose Fund. With our assistance, Baker IDI will augment diabetes education and allied health professional services in central Australia.

In addition, the Medicines Australia Board committed to continuing its support for the Purple Truck for a further two year period; and to providing funds for a further two Indigenous students of the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Residential Scholarship Program, taking the total number of students supported by Medicines Australia to four.

Since 2010, Medicines Australia has contributed a total of \$1.72m towards Indigenous preventative health programs. Our members should be proud of this modest, yet none-the-less significant, contribution made towards these Indigenous health initiatives funded through our Special Purpose Fund.

I am pleased to be the Ambassador for such a small, yet successful, program.

Yours sincerely,



**Mark Masterson**

*Medicines Australia Chairman*





## SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND

The establishment of the Special Purpose Fund was announced at the Medicines Australia Annual General Meeting in October 2009, to support not-for-profit charitable organisations that focus on Indigenous health.

The Fund was created in response to recommendations made by the Government that one way to assist in addressing Indigenous health policy issues is through the development of Indigenous preventative health programs.

In determining what would be the most appropriate use of our funds and identifying suitable projects, Medicines Australia consulted organisations such as the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in the Federal Department of Health and Ageing and Australian Indigenous Doctors Association. A Board sub-committee was formed to develop the aims, objects and governance framework of the Fund; and to select the inaugural projects. Today, the Medicines Australia Board Finance and Audit Committee oversees the administration of the Special Purpose Fund.

On 16 March 2010, over 200 guests from Federal Parliament, industry, the health sector and the Indigenous community attended Medicines Australia's Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra to formally launch the Special Purpose Fund.

**L → R** Mr Will Delaat AM, former Chairman Medicines Australia with Marlene Spencer, Director WDNWPT; Sarah Brown, CEO Purple House; and Bobby West, Director WDNWPT.



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This Special Purpose Fund Report provides a summary of Medicines Australia Special Purpose Fund activities and achievements for the period January 2010 – October 2012.

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# Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!

In 2009, the Jimmy Little Foundation together with the Fred Hollows Foundation developed a multi sectoral program spanning the health arena, the education and arts sectors, and the food industry. The *Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!* Healthy Food Program promotes the eating of healthy food through music and education programs in schools and remote communities. The Jimmy Little Foundation pilot was conducted in four remote Arnhem Land communities of Millingimbi, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak and Ramingining in May–June 2009.

Medicines Australia's funding of the *Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!* Healthy Food Program enabled the Foundation to develop a comprehensive program of activities extending beyond the pilot, in the Northern Territory and several other states across Australia in 2010-2011. Throughout the term of the project, Medicines Australia provided the Jimmy Little Foundation with assistance in project management, capacity building and governance. In addition, Medicines Australia funded external assistance in project management and Medicines Australia member, PricewaterhouseCoopers, provided *pro bono* services.

Medicines Australia acknowledges the achievements of the program, including:

- 42 School workshops: NT, WA, NSW and QLD
- 22 songs and videos produced
- More than 1000 children actively participated
- 16 specialists engaged to deliver workshops and produce videos
- 20,000 *Thumbs Up!* merchandise distributed—T-shirts, Badges, CDs, DVDs, Bags
- Memorandum of Understanding with retail organisations, Arnhem Land Progress Association & Outback Stores, to promote *Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!* messages in stores
  - *Thumbs Up!* in stores—40 stores across NT, Qld, WA and SA
- *Thumbs Up!* website launch 15 August 2011
  - Support from NT Department of Education—now in NT schools
  - Partnerships—NT Music School and VAMP TV
- Minister Snowdon, Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, announced Local Community Campaign:
  - “Get Active! Eat good tucker—live longer”
  - \$500,000 grant awarded from Federal Department of Health and Ageing



Total cost of Medicines Australia contribution to the Uncle Jimmy's Thumbs Up! program over a two year period: **\$773,000**





## THE CHAIRMAN GIVES THE THUMBS UP!

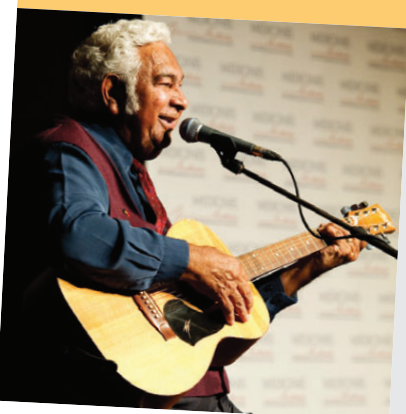
In August 2011, the Chairman of Medicines Australia, Will Delaat, visited the remote community of Beswick to see firsthand the *Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!* program.

"It was invaluable to see the *Thumbs Up!* healthy eating campaign in action. The children were engaged and having fun, receiving positive health messages through music and song; this is important because encouraging healthier food choices will go some way to reducing the terrible burden of diabetes and kidney disease in those communities", Will Delaat said.



## WEBSITE LAUNCH

On 15 August 2011, The Jimmy Little Foundation launched its *Thumbs Up!* website. The website was funded through the Medicines Australia Special Purpose Fund as part of the *Thumbs Up!* program, and supported by the Northern Territory Government. Developed in partnership with the NT Department of Education, the website includes a teacher section outlining lesson plans which align with the Northern Territory and draft national curriculums, particularly through the Remote Schools Curriculum and Assessment Materials. The launch of the website at Milliner Primary School, Darwin NT, was attended by the Hon Dr Chris Burns, Northern Territory Minister for Education and Training.



## VALE JIMMY LITTLE AO

Medicines Australia was saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmy Little on 2 April 2012. Jimmy was not only a legendary talented musician and entertainer, but also a passionate advocate for Indigenous health initiatives.

While his passing is extremely sad, the Jimmy Little Foundation is a fitting monument to a lifetime devoted to helping other Indigenous Australians. Medicines Australia is proud to be part of that story.

A State Memorial Service was held for Jimmy Little AO on 3 May 2012.



## The Purple Truck

In 2000, the Pintupi people painted pictures of the Ngurra (country), Tjurkurrpa (dreaming) and Walytja (family) to raise funds to establish the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT) and the Purple House.

A dialysis clinic offering services to patients with end stage renal disease, the Purple House greatly improves the lives of families forced to leave their country for dialysis in Alice Springs. The life-long dialysis treatment takes these patients many hundreds of kilometers from family, community and traditional country. In addition to the personal dislocation and despair felt by the patient and their family, the removal of community Elders has a significant impact on community and culture.

Medicines Australia's support for a mobile renal dialysis unit—the Purple Truck—has meant people can return to communities and re-engage with Elders, family and traditional country and culture. The Purple Truck visits remote communities according to an itinerary negotiated between WDNWPT staff, WDNWPT committee members and patients.



*Medicines Australia total contribution:*

*Building the Purple Truck: **\$383,000***

*Ongoing maintenance over a two year period: **\$100,000***

*Medicines Australia also acknowledges the following organisations:*

*Fresenius Medical – Dialysis equipment • Papunya Tula Artists – Artwork*







## POWER TO THE PURPLE!

### THE PURPLE TRUCK CONNECTS PEOPLE AND CULTURE IN THE WESTERN DESERT

The Purple Truck is a dream come true for the communities of the Western Desert and the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation. It is a symbol of family connectedness and ownership and enables dialysis patients to proudly return home to their communities.

The Purple Truck was launched in Alice Springs on Monday 12 December 2011. The Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, officially launched the truck on behalf of Medicines Australia and the WDNWPT, handing it over to the communities of the Western Desert, where it is now dialysing patients throughout that region and beyond.

Adorned by the artworks of significant Papunya Tula artists, the Purple Truck links the history of the WDNWPT to the stories of the Ngurra (country), Tjurkurrpa (dreaming) and Walytja (family). In this way, state of the art health services can continue to be presented and delivered in a culturally sensitive way. "The importance and cultural significance of its exterior livery cannot be underestimated; the Purple Truck expresses the hope of the peoples that will use this service", said John Latham, Chair of the Medicines Australia Finance and Audit Committee.

Will Delaat expressed his support for the Truck and the Purple House, "Medicines Australia is pleased to be part of the Truck's story. It is a great symbol of connecting family and bringing people back to country. The truck's 'deadly' livery has a positive impact—one of pride for the communities of the Western Desert. It is a wonderful achievement to be part of."



### THE PURPLE TRUCK ARTWORK

**Patrick Tjungurrayi, *Rockhole Site of Nyirrimarlur*, 2005, acrylic on linen, 153 x 122 cm**

Applied to the passenger side of the Purple Truck, Patrick's painting features a large concentric rectangle representing a small lake nearby the rockholes of Nyirrimarlur, west of Jupiter Well depicted by the small concentric squares. The jagged lines depict the path of a large group of ancestral Tingari Men that camped at the site before continuing their travels further south. These ancestral stories form part of the teachings of the post initiatory youths today as well as providing explanations for contemporary customs.

**Ningura Napurrula, *Rockhole Site of Wirrunga*, 2005, acrylic on linen, 183 x 153 cm**

On the driver's side of the Purple Truck is a reproduction of Ningura's painting of the Wirrunga rockhole site. It features a large roundel depicting Wirrunga, a rockhole site among a small rocky outcrop, east of the Kiwirrkura in Western Australia. Wirrunga is associated with birth and lines adjacent to the roundel symbolise the extended shape of a pregnant woman of the Napaltjarri kinship subsection who gave birth at the site. From Wirrunga the women continued their travels north east gathering large quantities of the bush food known as kampurarrpa or desert raisin. The small circles in this painting depict the kampurarrpa.

**Morris Gibson Tjapaltjarri, *Soakage Site of Patjantjanya*, 2010, acrylic on linen, 153 x 122 cm**

Reproduced on the rear of the Purple Truck is Morris Gibson's painting depiction of the Patjantjanya soakage site, west of Lake Macdonald. Large concentric squares show a series of soakage waters and the smaller squares represent the Tingari Men camped at this site digging for water in the soaks. The site also relates to a story concerning two ancestral snakes of the Tjungurrayi subsection who passed through the site as they travelled towards the north. Since events associated with the Tingari Cycle are of a secret nature no further detail was given.

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Artists Pty Ltd  
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# The Purple Truck

## SENDING OUR SORRYS

The launch of the truck was a great day of pride and excitement for all at the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation, but it was also tinged with sadness and regret as the people who had died before this truck became a reality were remembered.

We pay our respects to the following families who have all lost loved family members in the past few years while waiting for their dream:

Bell • Butler • Eddy • Kantamarra • Kantawarra • Kulitja • Laurie • McDonald • Mitchell Nolan • Reid • Smith • Tolson • Tonkin • Wallabi • Watson • West • Yamin • Zimran

## FOLLOW THAT TRUCK!

### THE PURPLE TRUCK

The day after the launch, the Purple Truck went on its maiden voyage to Papunya. Since then it has travelled to Warburton—Australia's most remote community—Mutitjulu, and Docker River, to name a few.

You can follow the *Purple Truck* on Facebook →  
[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Purple-Truck/210851532327936](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Purple-Truck/210851532327936)

## THE PURPLE POWERHOUSE

In January 2010, Chairman, Will Delaat, first travelled to Alice Springs to meet Sarah Brown, CEO, and her hard working team at the Purple House; and was impressed with their compassion, commitment and dedication. Medicines Australia is not the only organisation to notice this outstanding performance: in 2011, the Purple House won the "Team Excellence Award" at the HESTA Primary Health Care Awards and was a finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission Human Rights Awards (community organisation category); in 2012, the Purple House is a finalist in the Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance Awards.





## Diabetes care in remote communities

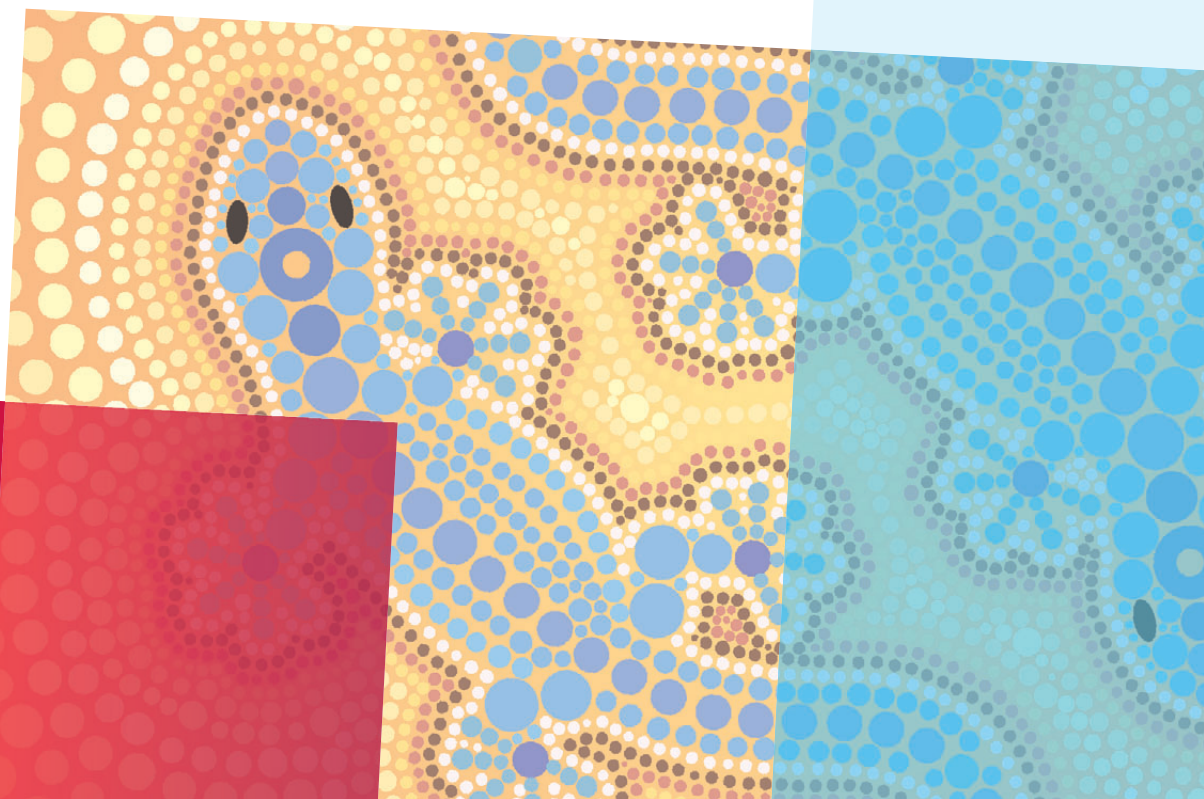
In April 2012, Medicines Australia welcomed Baker IDI—the final organisation to receive funding through the Special Purpose Fund. Baker IDI has had a presence in Alice Springs since 2007, when the former Baker Institute established a research hub under the leadership of Professor Alex Brown, an Indigenous doctor with research interests in cardiovascular disease and diabetes. In partnership with the Flinders University of South Australia, a research facility opened in 2010 that provides a focal point for medical research activities in partnership with the hospital and local communities; it houses a clinical care team to support service delivery in remote communities for complex diabetes patients; and facilitates the transfer of knowledge for the improvement of health services to Aboriginal people in the Centre at risk or suffering from heart disease and/or diabetes.

With support through the Special Purpose Fund, Baker IDI conducted its fourth Health Care Education symposium in Darwin, 19-20 October 2012, aimed at: expanding knowledge-based care options for health care workers in the Top End; reviewing what care and preventative health program initiatives are feasible in remote communities; and to creating local champions for the management and treatment of diabetes.

Medicines Australia funding will also provide for a full time chronic disease and diabetes screening nurse to work in the Alice Springs town camps in conjunction with Tangentyere Council. This will augment the federally funded government program of diabetes clinical service delivery by Baker IDI in remote areas of the Northern Territory, which is primarily designed to fund visiting doctors in remote communities. Best practice diabetes care includes regular support from supporting care providers, including diabetes nurse educators and allied health professionals which can be directly linked to a reduction in the progression and complications of diabetes.



*Medicines Australia total contribution to Baker IDI:*  
**\$165,000 over two years**



# Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Residential Scholarship Program

In 2010, Medicines Australia announced its sponsorship of two Indigenous medical students through the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Residential Scholarship Program. In 2012, Medicines Australia announced the funding of a further two students.

The long-term aim of the program is to increase the number of Aboriginal health professionals who will work in Indigenous communities and help improve their health outcomes. The program results from collaboration between Shalom College, the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, Nura Gili Indigenous Programs and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW. It commenced with one student moving into Shalom College in January 2005. It has grown rapidly since then and, in 2012, has 24 Indigenous students living at Shalom College under Shalom Gamarada scholarships.

## **Laura Fitzgerald** 2010

*A member of the Muruwari People*

Laura said, "I grew up in Canberra, but my family comes from Muruwari country in Northern NSW and Southern QLD. Attending UNSW is a significant opportunity for me as my siblings and I are the first generation of our mother's family to go to University. The Shalom Gamarada Scholarship has made this achievement possible. Without this scholarship I would not have been able to live on campus and I would have struggled to complete my studies." In 2011 Laura completed her ISP (Individual Study Program), which involved setting-up a follow-up clinic for trauma patients at St George Hospital and evaluating how effective this was for patient outcomes.

## **Brendan Phillips** 2010-2011

*A member of the Gumbayngirr People*

Brendan attended Coffs Harbour High School, where he served as Vice Captain. While at high school, he was involved in student leadership for Koori kids. As Brendan is continuing his medical degree at the UNSW Coffs Harbour Medical School, he is no longer a resident of the Shalom College. Medicines Australia sponsorship of Brendan ceased in 2011.

## **Brylie Frost** 2011

*A member of the Awabakal People*

Brylie graduated from St Catherine's School in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. She received an Indigenous scholarship and resided there as a full time boarder. She won numerous leadership and academic awards and played competitive hockey. Brylie hopes to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. She is the only one in her family to have completed her HSC.

## **Luke Walker** 2012

*A member of the Wiradjuri People*

Luke was elected school captain of Narromine High School from which he graduated in 2011. He also received the Citizen of the Year Award. Luke's dream is to become a GP specialist and strive "...to remove the inequality around health care in rural/remote areas to Indigenous people."







**L → R** Mr Will Delaat AM, former Chairman Medicines Australia; Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, School of Public Health & Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine UNSW; students Brendan Phillips and Laura Fitzgerald; Dr Brendan Shaw, CEO Medicines Australia; Professor Terry Campbell, Senior Associate Dean Faculty of Medicines UNSW; and Dr Hilton Immerman OAM, CEO of Shalom Institute & Shalom College.

### Maiysha Craig 2012

*A member of the Gumbaynggirr People*

Maiysha began studying nursing in her home town of Coffs Harbour, but soon discovered that her real passion was for medicine. After working for a period to save some money she made the move to Sydney. Maiysha says "I have a strong connection with my Indigenous heritage and I'm passionate about Indigenous health issues. I have spent the last six months working with the local Indigenous Elders of Coffs Harbour area, so I have seen firsthand just how shocking Indigenous health is. After graduating in medicine, I hope to gain an internship and residency in a rural area, then go on to specialise in general practice and work in rural and remote areas and especially in Indigenous communities."



**Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana**  
we walk together as friends  
**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Medicines Australia total contribution to the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Scholarship Program: \$300,000 over five years**



### SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

On 28 June 2010, Medicines Australia announced its support for two Indigenous students of medicine through the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Residential Scholarship Program. The students, Laura Fitzgerald and Brendan Phillips, were joined by representatives from industry, the University of New South Wales and the Shalom College. Laura and Brendan addressed guests, giving a personal account of why the scholarship is important to them and thanked Medicines Australia for its support.



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