

MEDIA RELEASE

9th December 2009

Chris Boys from SVA Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

The Stanford Australia Foundation has awarded its 2009 Dyson Scholarship to Chris Boys, the Director of Venture Development at non-profit champion Social Ventures Australia.

The Stanford Australia Scholarship provides an opportunity for Senior Executives in the Australian non-profit sector to undertake further study at the Centre for Social Innovation at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Mr Boys will undertake the Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship in June 2010 at the prestigious Stanford University campus in Palo Alto, California (aka Silicon Valley). The scholarship will cover travel and tuition for Mr Boys to participate in a program designed for the complex challenges facing leaders in establishing and growing non-profit organisations. Stanford Graduate School of Business is recognised as a global leader in management education.

Kathy Hoyt, the Stanford Australia Foundation Director who led the 2010 scholarship process, said “We received many scholarship applications from extremely talented, innovative and committed non-profit leaders. We are grateful to the Dyson Bequest for funding this scholarship, and we hope to be able to increase our investment in future to meet the demand for management education from the non-profit sector.”

The non-profit sector accounts for more than eight per cent of the workforce in Australia, and controls billions of dollars of assets. While the management challenges are often more complex than those facing private sector leaders, there are limited professional development options available and often little appetite for investment by non-profit donors and boards.

Mr Boys said “Social Ventures Australia (SVA) believes fresh thinking is needed if we're to help those Australians trapped in the cycle of disadvantage. That's why we support innovative non-profit ventures that are doing just that. This Stanford Australia scholarship provides SVA with the opportunity to learn from non-profit leaders and hear about new approaches being taken around the world. I am very much looking forward to the experience and sharing new ideas with SVA's venture partners upon my return.”

Ian Clarke, the Chair of the Stanford Australia Foundation, added “We launched the Foundation to allow Stanford alumni in Australia to make a contribution to the broader Australian community, while sharing the educational opportunities we were fortunate to experience. This scholarship will help extend the leadership capability of the non-profit sector in Australia as it faces the increasingly challenging demands of the future

“In making the 2009 Dyson award to Chris, we found a talented and committed executive who has chosen to contribute to the Australian community via the excellent work of Social Ventures Australia. We think the Stanford program will give him tools, ideas and a new network to allow an even greater impact on the Australian non-profit sector in future.”

-Ends-

About SVA

Social Ventures Australia (SVA) works with innovative non-profit organisations to increase their growth and impact and drive transformational social change. It focuses on three areas - supporting a portfolio of non-profit organisations, consulting to the broader non-profit sector and developing social sector partnerships.

Media contact

Lynn Anderson
Director Marketing and Communications
Ph 02 8004 6738
Email landerson@socialventures.com.au

About the Stanford Australia Foundation

The Stanford Australia Foundation is an initiative of the Stanford Australia Association (<http://www.stanford.org.au>), which was established in 1987 to link the substantial group of Stanford alumni in Australia. The mission of the foundation is to "Enable more Australians to share the exciting experience of a Stanford education for the benefit of the Australian community".

The Foundation Patron is Professor Robert L Joss, Former Dean of Stanford Graduate School of Business, a former CEO of Westpac, and our Trustee Directors represents a cross section of the Stanford community in Australia: Gillis Broinowski SEP '80, Ian Clarke, MBA '92, Andrew Cummins, MBA '76, Wendy Gwyn, AB '88, Kathy Hoyt, MBA '93, Greg Joffe AM '87, Hugh Morrow MBA '93, Peter Yates MS '96, Michael Zimmerman, MBA '94

Media contact

Ian Clarke
Ph 02 9253 4900
Email ian.clarke@pacstrategy.com.au

About the Dyson Bequest

Jane and Bruce Dyson established the Dyson Bequest in 2000, to provide grants for General Charitable Purposes in Australia, particularly Victoria, with an emphasis on charities with a large volunteer contribution. The current advisors, John Dyson and Rose Gilder, value the intentions of the donors and strive to continue their legacy while at the same time shaping the Bequest into a relevant, flexible granting entity that can respond to contemporary community needs. The Dyson Bequest is part of ANZ Trustees Foundation and ANZ Trustees provides governance, trustee, investment and granting services.