



Embassy of Ireland
Canberra

Press Release

Emigrant Support Programme Grants in Australia and New Zealand

The Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, Noel White, has announced the decision of the Government to allocate financial support to 15 organisations across Australia under the Emigrant Support Programme.

Total funding this year for organisations in Australia alone amounts to over AU\$590,000, an increase of over AU\$100,000 on that provided in 2012.

Ambassador White commented:

“I am delighted that the Emigrant Support Programme funding to Irish community organisations in Australia has been maintained, and indeed increased this year, despite the economic challenges at home.

Supporting Irish communities overseas, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised members of those communities, is a priority for the Government.

The Emigrant Support Programme continues to be an important and practical expression of the Government’s commitment to Irish communities abroad.

The funding provided will help to ensure ongoing delivery of services for vulnerable members of the Irish community through frontline welfare organisations and it will help foster Irish identity within our community.

I welcome proposals for support under the Emigrant Support Programme and I would encourage Irish community organisations to visit the website (www.dfa.ie) where the criteria for funding are set out.

The Consul-General, Caitríona Ingoldsby added:

“I am very pleased that funding has been approved again this year to support the work of the Irish Australian Welfare Bureau in Bondi. I am also delighted that a grant has been approved for the Dictionary of Sydney to develop a Sydney Irish Walking Tour mobile phone app, building on the great work undertaken by a group of local Irish historians last year for the Consulate’s ‘Greening of the Dictionary of Sydney’ project.

Note for Editors

Since 1984, the Irish Government has given financial support through its Emigrant Support Programme to voluntary agencies providing advice and welfare services to Irish emigrants overseas. A dedicated unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinates the provision of support to communities abroad and administers the programme.

The main focus for funding under the Emigrant Support Programme remains the frontline welfare service providers that support the elderly, and other vulnerable Irish emigrants. In more recent years the programme has also recognised the importance of strong and active Irish communities more generally, funding projects which foster a sense of community, promoting vibrant networks and a sense of Irishness among the Irish abroad.

Organisation Name	2013 (AUD)
Irish Australian Welfare Bureau and Resource Centre, NSW	160,000
Australian Irish Welfare Bureau, Melbourne	138,132
Canberra Irish Club	10,000
Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland, Brisbane	81,990
Sydney, St Patrick's Day Organisation	20,000
Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce	32,700
St Patrick's Day Parade, Brisbane	5,000
The Claddagh Association, Perth	17,000
Irish Australian Association of South Australia	10,000
Dictionary of Sydney	29,000
Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee	10,000
Friends of St Brigid's Association, Victoria	8,000
Irish Language School Sydney	2,000
Melbourne Irish Festival	2,000
Queensland Gaelic Football and Hurling Association	65,000