



WHERE TO IN THE

future?

Approach B Should the trust funds be distributed to former residents through support agencies based on new priorities?

This option proposes that instead of Forde Foundation funding going directly to individual applicants, trust funds are channelled by the Forde Foundation through support agencies to former residents.

Advantages

- Supports sustainable life changes
- Targets the funds in line with a personal case management or a support plan managed by a service provider
- Provides greater accountability for the funds distributed as they are targeted at needs
- Requests would be consistent with the priorities set by the person and the support agency
- Reduce the workload for the Board Secretariat and streamline the application process
- Access to funding is not restricted to grant rounds
- Process of engaging with a support agency is more personal than a grants process

Disadvantages

- Applications would no longer apply directly to the Forde Foundation
- Some potential applicants might not be linked into support agencies
- Some potential applicants might not wish to choose this as an option

Approach C - Should the trust funds be distributed to former residents through a combination of Approach A and Approach B (as discussed above)?

Please comment as to how you think the Forde Foundation could combine Approach A and Approach B to distribute trust funds.

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE FORDE INQUIRY

Since the Forde Inquiry, the Queensland Government has been working on a more integrated response to helping former residents. These initiatives provide 'longer-term post care services' for former state wards and residents of Queensland children's institutions and detention centres.

1999	2000/2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2006/2007
Aftercare Resource Centre established & funded. Counselling & support services.	Forde Foundation established & funded. Small monetary grants trust fund.	Historical Abuse Network established & funded. Peer support services and advocacy.	Esther Centre funded. Crisis and outreach support services.	HAN meets monthly and bi-monthly with Ministers for Communities and Child Safety.	Lotus Place established & funded. One-stop shop service centre.	Redress Scheme funded. Ex-gratia payments scheme.

YOUR VIEWS – Have your say

There are four ways to make your views known to the Forde Foundation Board of Advice:

- Complete the 'Have your Say' Feedback Sheet and post in the reply paid envelope
- Attend a consultation meeting (See attached pink sheet for times and locations)
- Contact Lotus Place on telephone 1800 035 588 or 07 3844 8804 and request a telephone interview with the review team
- Make a written submission to: Forde Foundation Review: Reply Paid 3449 SOUTH BRISBANE Q 4101

The way the Forde Foundation operates is being reviewed. This document explains the issues the review needs to look at.

The Forde Foundation wants to know what you think about these issues.

To have your say:

- attend a consultation meeting (see attached pink sheet for times and locations)
- complete the 'Have Your Say' Feedback Sheet and post it in the reply paid envelope
- make a written submission to: Forde Foundation Review, PO Box 3449, South Brisbane Q 4101
- contact Lotus Place on telephone 1800 035 588 or 07 3844 8804 and request a telephone interview with the review team.

It has been almost 10 years since the Forde Inquiry. A lot has changed during that time. There have been many steps taken to rebuild the lives of former residents.

I am pleased that the Forde Foundation has initiated a review process to look towards where it is going in the future.

I encourage all of the former residents to take this opportunity to participate in this review. It is a genuine attempt to build on the efforts so far.

I look forward to being informed of the outcomes of the review process.

Mrs Leneen Forde AC
(Patron of the Forde Foundation and Former Chair of Board of Advice)

The Forde Foundation Board of Advice is committed to responding to the changing needs of former residents.

The Board has commissioned an independent review to guide us in looking at options for the future.

It is important that former residents have their say about the future of the Forde Foundation. We invite former residents to come to a public consultation meeting and/or provide your views through the other review processes.

Terry Sullivan
(Chairman, Forde Foundation Board of Advice)

Why is there a review?

The Forde Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions took place in 1998. This Inquiry, headed by former Queensland Governor Mrs Leneen Forde AC, was an important milestone in many people's lives and exposed the terrible suffering of former residents in Queensland institutions.

One of the recommendations of the Inquiry was to set up a trust fund to help the former residents who had been wards of the state, or had lived in a Queensland institution as a child. This trust fund is called the Forde Foundation. The trust fund is administered by the Public Trustee, who is advised by a Board of Advice. Since its commencement in 2000, more than \$1.6M has been distributed in grants to former residents.

The Board of Advice has asked for this review as it wants to make sure the trust funds are distributed in a beneficial way and to have a clear direction for the future particularly in light of major changes which are taking place, including the Redress Scheme which commenced 1 October 2007. The Board of Advice will present the outcomes of the review to the Minister for Communities, the Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr MP.

The review of the Forde Foundation is being run by a team of independent consultants, the Spall Watters Group. Between them, Pamela Spall, Shirley Watters and Paul Testro have over 75 years experience in working in human services. The team will consult with:

- former residents
- support groups and networks (such as Historical Abuse Network, MICAH Projects and Aftercare Resource Centre)
- government and non-government workers
- other interested persons or agencies.



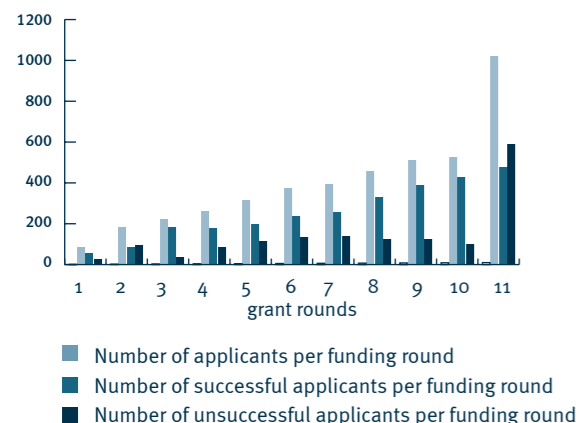
MAJOR CHANGES TAKING PLACE

The Board of Advice has identified major changes which are affecting how the Forde Foundation is able to operate.

The Trust Fund has a limited amount of funds and the Public Trustee usually distributes only the earnings on the investments. In recent times, the number of applications has grown rapidly, but the funds available to share have remained about the same. This means that more people are missing out on receiving a grant.

Given this the Board has identified a range of key issues which need to be considered in this Review.

Number of applicants, both successful and unsuccessful



- There was a constant increase in the number of applicants applying from Round 1 to Round 10
- By Round 11 there were 1018 applicants, a 50% increase over Round 10
- The number of successful applicants is starting to even out and might start to decline in future funding rounds
- The number of unsuccessful applicants rose greatly in Round 11
- The size of the grant per applicant remained about the same. In Round 11 the average grant was \$505 per applicant.

REDRESS SCHEME

While the Forde Foundation is totally separate from the Redress Scheme, many former residents are involved with both schemes.

The State Government (not the Forde Foundation) operates the Redress Scheme which is providing up to \$100M for ex-gratia payments to former residents who experienced abuse in institutional care. All of the applicants to the Redress Scheme are also eligible to apply to the Forde Foundation.

Because this has implications for the future of the Foundation in terms of the number of people seeking assistance, it may be necessary to consider changes to the grants administration process.

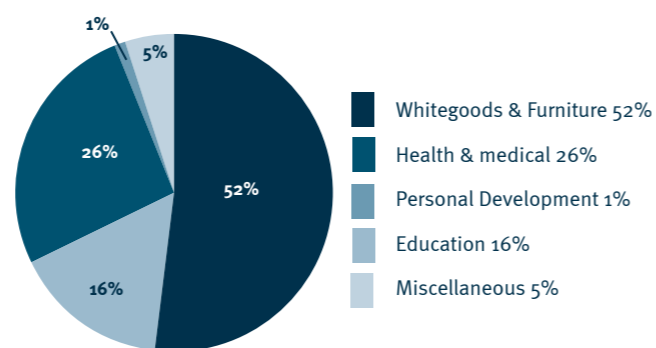
A “HANDOUT” OR A “HAND-UP” APPROACH

The purpose of the Forde Foundation is to help former residents, many of whom have had negative experiences in care, to establish a better life. The grants should help people achieve their long-term life goals. The Board of Advice has noted that more and more of the grant funds are being used for the one-off purchase of whitegoods

(such as refrigerators or washing machines) rather than for long-term benefits such as education or self-improvement.

Here are some facts –

Distribution of Funds in Round 11



The Forde Foundation was not set up as an emergency and crisis relief program but rather to improve the quality of life for people. Grants to buy whitegoods are more like a short-term “handout”. On the other hand, a “hand-up” program with the aim of long-term personal improvement, provides a lasting benefit for former residents by:

- creating independence so that, over time, former residents can access appropriate services and support leading to improved health, education and housing that help in rebuilding their lives
- being part of a planned support strategy rather than a one-off initiative.

This has implications for determining the priorities of the Foundation in terms of a “handout” or “hand-up” approach.

THE NEEDS OF THE APPLICANTS ARE CHANGING

The Board of Advice wants to ensure that funds benefit former residents. As there is a huge variation in the out-of-home care experiences and in the ages (25 to 80 plus years) of people applying to the Foundation, making decisions about what is most helpful to people is becoming more difficult.

Currently, eligible items for funds from the Forde Foundation include:

- education and learning (such as fees for TAFE)
- assistance with health issues (such as dental and optical services)
- items or services for self development or improved quality of life
- family reunification
- basic life necessities.

It may be necessary to revise the guidelines as some of these items may not be the best way to give former residents a hand up to rebuild their lives.

In light of these issues, the Review needs to consider what the future priorities and direction of the Trust Fund should be.

POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS FOR CHANGE

In considering these issues, the Board of Advice believes that some changes to the operation of the Forde Foundation will be necessary.

Finding solutions that meet everyone’s needs will not be easy. People will have different views about the best way forward. The discussion below may help you think about which direction forward could be best. You might have ideas about other options and will want to suggest these as well.

The Board sees the Forde Foundation’s future based on the aim of promoting independence for former residents, and supporting individuals to achieve better life outcomes within the funds available. The Trust Fund would be available to:

- Assist applicants to achieve their personal goals
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of former residents
- Provide opportunities for personal development

Within this framework, there are a number of questions about priorities which need to be considered, including:

- **Who should have priority in receiving funds? Are there specific target groups?**

Identifying a target group would mean that the Foundation could focus on different groups depending on priorities set by the Board (e.g. should priority be given to people with continuing education needs? Or to older people? Or to younger Former Residents?).

Advantage: Provide greater clarity about what the Foundation’s priorities are in each funding round.

Disadvantage: Some people may see this focus as reducing the benefits available. It could lead to competition between potential target groups.

- **What should funds be used for – especially to encourage a “hand-up”?**

This could mean a change to the items that can be applied for and would ensure that the Foundation’s focus was more in line with what the Trust Fund was originally meant to be – a hand-up program.

Advantage: Help the Foundation to manage the limited amount of money in the trust fund and avoid duplication with other funded programs.

Disadvantage: Some people may feel unhappy about losing access to funding for ‘hand-out’ items such as whitegoods.

- **Should the amount of funds allocated to any applicant over time or at each grant round be limited?**

This could mean a change to the size of the maximum grant available each funding round (for example, a maximum of \$500 per person might be set) and the overall total for all grants that a person could receive over their lifetime (for example, this could be set at \$2,000).

Advantage: More people would receive grants and the funding would be shared more equally. It would also decrease the workload and complexity in administering the grant applications.

Disadvantage: Some people may see this as reducing the benefits available to them. A successful grant may cover only part of the cost of an item, rather than meeting its full cost.

- **Should an end date be set for the Trust Fund? Should all of the Trust Funds be distributed over a set period, e.g. over five or ten years?**

Advantage: This would acknowledge the good work of the Foundation and recognise that its original purpose has been achieved.

Disadvantage: Former Residents who apply to the foundation may feel disadvantaged if the fund is ‘wound up’ before they receive the assistance they want.

There could be three main approaches for how funding could be managed by the Board.

Approach A Should the trust funds be distributed to former residents through individual applications to the Foundation based on new priorities?

Advantages

- Continuation of the process of individual applications to the Board
- Provides greater clarity about the Foundation’s priorities
- Targets the highest needs as evidenced in applications

Disadvantages

- May require the Board to identify a target group and priorities for each funding round
- Administratively complex and time consuming
- Potential to set up competition between applicants
- The needs for funding may not coincide with the timing of the funding round