



## Media Release

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### **Burwood Academy marks \$2 million milestone with ANZ**

A Christchurch charity dedicated to improving the lives of people with serious injuries has received a milestone grant of \$5000 from the ANZ Staff Foundation, marking \$2 million given in community grants by the Foundation since 2000.

Hon Jo Goodhew, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, presented the Burwood Academy of Independent Living (BAIL) with the cheque this afternoon at an event in Christchurch.

Since its inception in 2000, the ANZ Staff Foundation has been involved in the distribution of \$2 million in community grants to over 350 charities and community projects nationwide.

"It is a privilege to be giving out the 2 millionth dollar raised by the Staff Foundation to an organisation that makes such a difference to the lives of people in this community," says Felicity Evans, ANZ General Manager Human Resources.

"It's also a proud moment for the hundreds of ANZ staff who give regular amounts from their wages and salaries to the Staff Foundation. Doing their part to help charities and non-profit organisations means a lot to our people."

ANZ is one of New Zealand's leaders in payroll giving, with 1300 staff contributing. These contributions are matched dollar-for-dollar by ANZ, and distributed in community grants through an application and approval process.

"Most of our grants are small – less than \$10,000 – but they make a big difference," says Ms Evans.

In the past three years, ANZ has donated close to \$55,000 to projects in the Canterbury region, including to the Cancer Society, Women's Refuge, Cholmondeley Children's Home, and the Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Society among others.

ANZ also gives staff one paid day's volunteer leave a year. "Last year ANZ donated 16,000 volunteer hours (or 2230 days)," says Ms Evans. "Staff get involved in all sorts of activities, from collecting for charities or packing food parcels, to offering skills-based support in areas such as accounting and IT."

The milestone grant to BAIL will be used to fund the translation of a breakthrough new book: 'Living with Spinal Cord Injuries' from Swedish into English.

Dr Debbie Snell, Academic Director, says their lead researcher Anne Sinnott will travel to the Spinalis Foundation in Sweden to work on the text.

ANZ New Zealand is the country's largest financial institution and one of the nation's largest companies. Its brands include ANZ Bank, National Bank, UDC Finance, OnePath, EFTPOS Bonus Bonds, and Direct Broking. Around one in two New Zealanders has a financial relationship with ANZ New Zealand.

"This will be an incredibly useful resource for patients and families on how to cope living with an impairment.

"The wonderful thing about this grant is that it will benefit people living with spinal injuries in English-speaking countries all over the world, not just in New Zealand."

The grant came about after Kevin Hawthorn, Sales and Service Manager at ANZ Hornby and Chair of the ANZ Staff Foundation, supported the application.

Hon Goodhew also presented a second grant of \$5000 to Home and Family Society Christchurch, who provide supported accommodation to families who may be facing the possibility of having their children removed by CYFS.

The Society provides housing for a few weeks to teach mothers skills to parent in an effective and safe manner. Manager Lynne Trowbridge says for many clients this is the most stable family environment they have ever experienced.

"We're teaching them things like how to run a household, regular mealtimes and routines for children, and effective parenting techniques through role modelling, parent education and support."

The programme has proven outcomes, with 90 per cent of families able to stay together after participating in the accommodation.

The grant from the Staff Foundation came about after Libby Ormsby, Assistant Manager at ANZ The Palms, supported the application. Libby had supported a similar application in 2009-10 when she visited the accommodation house.

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**Further detail on the grants and print quality professional photographs are available on request.**

**For more information, please contact Jessamy Malcolm Cowper, External Communications Manager, ANZ New Zealand, ph 09 2523261 or 027 2752 834.**