

Media Release

Young Australian Leo volunteers recognised for life saving community service

- *Lions' Leo clubs bring together thousands of young Australian volunteers between the ages of 12 and 30 fostering leadership skills and community service*
- *The Cathedral School Leo Club wins inaugural Leo Club Project of the Year Award with 'Birthing Kits for PNG' project*

Millennials are often labelled as screen obsessed and self-focused but there's a growing number of young Australians making a big difference in the community.

Lions' Leo clubs bring together Australians between the ages of 12 and 30 provide an opportunity to foster leadership skills and make a difference in the community. There are now over 120 clubs and 2000 Leos volunteering across Australia guided and supported by Australia's largest service organisation, Lions Australia.

Over the past 12 months hundreds of projects have been conducted in communities across Australia and this week, the winner of the inaugural Leo Club Project of the Year Award has been announced.

Cathedral School Leo Club in Townsville has taken home the award recognised for its '*Birthing Kits for PNG*' project.

In 2019, the group of 40 young volunteers from Cathedral School Leo Club partnered with Zonta to make an undeniable impact on international communities by creating and sending birthing kits to Papua New Guinea.

The birthing kits are small packages loaded with vital supplies to assist pregnant women give birth in poor conditions. The volunteers gathered in a sterilised room and neatly packed medical supplies, including scalpels, gauze and gloves, a plastic sheet to lay on, and a piece of string to tie the umbilical cord.

Club Vice-President Charlotte Anderson said that it has been a very rewarding experience and encourages more young people to consider getting involved with Leos.

"Being part of Leos and being involved like projects like this is such a rewarding experience," says Charlotte.

"It is amazing to realise that such basic supplies can make a huge difference to the survival rates of mothers and babies in developing countries. It made us grateful for the high standard of medical care we generally take for granted and it was so rewarding to know we were helping women deliver their babies safely in poor conditions," Charlotte says.

"For any young people out there who are looking to make a difference, consider joining Lions or your local Leo Club," Charlotte adds.

Lions Australia Leo Chairperson Toni Lanphier says the judging panel was very impressed with the high standards of projects conducted by Leo's across Australia.

"It was a tough task for the judging panel trying to choose a winner for the award. We were so impressed with the incredible work these young volunteers are doing across Australia. Thanks to the

input from the Lifesaver Foundation, a decision was made and the inaugural prize goes to The Cathedral School Leo Club who are making such a difference to so many lives in PNG,” says Toni.

Cathedral School Leo Club will receive a trophy and \$500 prize money donated by the Australian Lions Lifesaver Foundation.

Since the first club was formed in Australia 70 years ago Lions has grown dramatically in size and impact with over 1300 Lions Clubs now in Australia. Some Lions are on a mission to cure childhood cancer and diabetes, others are committed to assisting those impacted by drought and floods and many are simply working together to help people in need in their local community. One thing all Lions have in common is together they are making an incredible difference.

In addition to Leo Clubs and the thousands of community service and support projects each year, Lions support a range of other major research projects and support programs including medical research, environment work and emergency disaster relief. Some Lions foundations include Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation, Australian Lions Children’s Mobility Foundation, Lions Eye Health Program, Lions Hearing Dogs, Australian Lions Drug Awareness Foundation.

100 per cent of funds donated to Lions go towards funding Lions projects.

For more information on Lions and to find out how you can get involved in Lions or Leos visit <https://lionsclubs.org.au/>

Media Contact: Sari-Elle Kraemer on 0407284457 or skraemer@alphaconsulting.global

About Lions Australia

Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion. Lions Australia is Australia’s largest service organisation with more than 1300 clubs in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Lions Australia promotes youth, support medical research, provide aid to people with disability, community service and disaster relief.

Lions are friends, family and neighbours who share a core belief: community is what we make it.

For more information, please visit <http://lionsclubs.org.au>