

## Small grant funding – funded projects

The Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) Forced Adoption Support Services provide small grant funding for projects to support people impacted by past forced adoption policies and practices.

We are pleased to share details of new and past funded projects below.

Visit [www.rav.org.au/small-grant-funding](http://www.rav.org.au/small-grant-funding) for details of upcoming funding rounds.

### Current projects

Congratulations to the latest round of small grant recipients.

Date funded	Project summary
November 2024	<p><b>ARMS: Oral History - Mothers</b> This project will provide ARMS members with the opportunity to engage in a performance-based therapeutic process with a group of their peers.</p>
November 2024	<p><b>ARMS: Events Project</b> To assist ARMS to organise significant events in a professional and timely manner, to enhance the experience for their members. These events are a particularly important part of ARMS' members' lives and are a meaningful way of sharing experience with others affected by adoption, and those in the broader community.</p>
November 2024	<p><b>VANISH: Oral History Project</b> This project will provide opportunity for Victorian adoptees from the closed-records/forced adoption era to engage in a performance-based therapeutic process, designed to build self-confidence in a supportive environment with a group of their peers.</p>

## Past projects

Date funded	Project summary
October 2023	<p><b>ARMS: Events Project</b> To assist ARMS to organise significant events in a professional and timely manner, to enhance the experience for their members. These events are a particularly important part of ARMS' members' lives and are a meaningful way of sharing experience with others affected by adoption, and those in the broader community.</p>
October 2023	<p><b>ARMS: Digitisation of ARMS' history – Part 2</b> The aim of the project was to complete the digital storage of the remainder of ARMS hard copy documents. Part 2 will enable ARMS to collect all the material held by past office bearers, sort it into the existing categories and then have all of it scanned. The aim of the project is to improve storage, protection, access and security of the extensive organisational history of ARMS, ensuring it is available into the future.</p>
November 2022	<p><b>VANISH: Art as therapy workshops</b> This project involves delivering therapeutic art workshops to target the needs of individual affected by past and forced adoption; one for adoptees and one for mothers. These workshops are designed and delivered by VANISH (the Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self Help).</p>
November 2022	<p><b>VANISH: Writing as therapy workshops</b> This project involves delivering therapeutic writing workshops to target the needs of individual affected by past and forced adoption; one for adoptees and one for mothers. These workshops are designed and delivered by VANISH.</p>
November 2022	<p><b>VANISH: Common threads workshop</b> This project involves delivering therapeutic textile workshops to encourage expression and creation, targeting the needs of adoptees. This workshop is designed and delivered by VANISH.</p>
November 2020	<p><b>ARMS: Digitisation of ARMS' history</b> A project to secure the history of ARMS (Victoria) and ensure it is available into the future by digitising their extensive organisational history. Digitisation has also improved storage, protection, and access to the vast amount of documentation that ARMS holds.</p>
November 2020	<p><b>VANISH: Supporting fathers affected by past and forced adoption</b> This project was expected to deliver two therapeutic writing workshops to target the needs of individuals affected by past and forced adoptions; one for adopted people and one for natural parents. Unfortunately, workshop delivery could not proceed due to the impacts of COVID-19 on many factors including attracting a sufficient number of participants. The remaining funding will be used to support projects approved during the November 2022 funding round.</p>
November 2020	<p><b>VANISH: Mental health and diversity training</b> VANISH staff and volunteers received customised training on mental health first aid, self-care, and LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse) awareness.</p>



December2019	<b>VANISH: Writing as therapy workshops</b> Therapeutic writing workshops to target the needs of individuals affected by past and forced adoptions; one for adopted people and one for natural parents.
December2019	<b>ARMS: 'Taken Not Given' memorial statue booklet</b> Publication of a booklet including photos and speeches from the 2018 unveiling event of ARMS's statue, 'Taken Not Given'. This project aims to include and connect with the many ARMS members who were not able to attend the unveiling in person.

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December 2018	<p><b>ARMS: Victorian Regional Outreach Support Groups</b> The delivery of outreach support groups in Ballarat and Traralgon.</p>
June 2018	<p><b>ARMS: Mildura Outreach Advocacy – Mildura Outreach Support Project continuation</b> A project to increase advocacy and support to women in the north-west of Victoria affected by past forced adoption policies and practices. ARMS facilitated 4 support groups and worked to increase local awareness.</p>
February 2018	<p><b>VANISH: Art therapy course</b> The delivery of a course specifically designed to target the needs of adoptees.</p>
November 2017	<p><b>ARMS: Self-healing event</b> A one-day event featuring speakers and a therapeutic activity, held for women who have lost children to adoption.</p>
November 2017	<p><b>ARMS: Information and support platform updates</b> An IT consultant was employed to update the organisation's website, construct a social media presence and train members in maintaining these platforms.</p>
August 2017	<p><b>Adoption Origins Victoria Inc: Facilitated retreat</b> A facilitated retreat to build individual and organisational capacity via the development of an organisational plan in a team strengthening environment.</p>
June 2017	<p><b>Adoptee Round Table Think Tank (ARTT)</b> A 2-day gathering of adoptees to discuss their support needs for the future.</p>
June 2017	<p><b>Connections UnitingCare: Mental health first aid training</b> The delivery of training to equip staff providing adoption programs with the skills to better meet the mental health needs of those affected by past forced adoption policies and procedures.</p>
June 2017	<p><b>VANISH</b> Raising awareness of the effects of past forced adoption policies and practice in Mildura and Horsham regional areas, including facilitating regular support groups in Mildura.</p>
June 2017	<p><b>VANISH</b> New and existing support group facilitators of metropolitan and regional support groups attended training to improve their skills in group work facilitation.</p>
May 2017	<p><b>VANISH</b> Two events were held to commemorate the State and National Apologies for Forced Adoption, in October (2016) and March (2017) respectively.</p>
May 2017	<p><b>VANISH (lead agency) and ARMS</b> Initiatives were undertaken to increase awareness of existing, jointly run regional support groups.</p>
May 2017	<p><b>ARMS</b> A project to develop the skills of existing support group facilitators so that they are able to better assist attendees.</p>

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May 2017	<p><b>ARMS</b></p> <p>Two ARMS publications were updated and reprinted; An information pamphlet and a booklet marking the 30th anniversary of ARMS with the aim of increasing community awareness of the loss and trauma of adoption.</p>
March 2017	<p><b>Independent Regional Mothers (IRM) (Auspiced by Wellington Shire): Cherished memorial</b></p> <p>A bronze statue memorial was installed in Sale, Gippsland to record the 2013 National Apology and the 2012 Victorian State Apology to people affected by forced adoption or removal policies and practices.</p>
January 2017	<p><b>Lauren Howe (Auspiced by Lyrebird Community Centre): Understanding Adoption Peer Support Group</b></p> <p>Monthly peer support and information group for adult adoptees were held to increase support options for adult adoptees in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.</p>
June 2016	<p><b>Anglicare</b></p> <p>A project to digitise over 2000 catalogued photographs of babies, children and children's homes; to improve storage, protection and access to archival material.</p>