



THE STAR

## MEDIA RELEASE

27 April 2020

### THE STAR SYDNEY HELPS LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DURING COVID-19

Despite being temporarily closed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, The Star Sydney has found an opportunity to provide some much-needed financial support to local community and business groups impacted by the pandemic.

As the last instalment of its community grants and giving program until returning to full operation, The Star will donate more than \$50,000 to two groups whose members are experiencing difficulties due to COVID-19 impacts.

Indigenous group Innari Inc., which assists families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the Sydney Local Government Area, will receive funding. So too will the Pymont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce, which works with small, medium and large businesses, local traders, and educational facilities in the area.

Kellie Wright, Aboriginal Homelessness Support Worker at Innari Inc. said it was crucial to increase the resourcing for Aboriginal controlled services that support Aboriginal people access accommodation and help them whilst in accommodation due to their vulnerability to COVID-19.

“We’re thankful to The Star for their support. It will ensure we can deliver much needed food and shelter to over 125 vulnerable members of our community while also helping them return to Country to reunite with family during these uncertain times,” Ms Wright said.

The Star has supported Pymont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce for over a decade – including as inaugural and ongoing principal sponsor of the Pymont Festival, hosting networking events, and funding initiatives that champion and promote the Pymont Peninsula.

“We are appreciative of The Star’s support in these difficult times, and we will use their funding over the next 2-3 months to implement a Local Business Program to provide support to businesses and the community during the current COVID-19 crisis,” said Lawrence Gibbons, Pymont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce General Manager.

The Star Sydney’s Chief Operating Officer, Damian Quayle, said he was appreciative of the City of Sydney for raising awareness of Innari Inc’s need for funding, and that The Star was pleased to find a way to support both groups.

“We were thrilled to work with City of Sydney and welcomed their recommendation of such a valuable grassroots organisation, while also reaffirming our commitment to the Pymont community.

“Last financial year The Star Sydney donated nearly \$250,000 to local community groups and events, so while this will be The Star’s final contribution until we can re-open, we look forward to reigniting our support when restrictions are lifted,” Mr Quayle said.

#### For more information contact:

Nehad Kenanie, Media Manager, The Star Entertainment Group, 0402 271 142