



Impact Report

Organisation name

GG's Flowers & Hampers

Your name and position

Nip Wijewickrema - Co-Founder

Please tell us a short story about someone who has benefited from this funding.

Patrick is a 21 year old young man that has Aspergers. He is a committed young man who truly goes above and beyond every day. Prior to joining GG's, Patrick worked for a different organisation that took advantage of his disability and chronically and illegally under paid him and took advantage of him & his car.

Since joining GG's, Patrick has been working for award wages, provided with a safe, compassionate and caring workplace AND has not had to use his own car or petrol for deliveries. He has enjoyed working for GG's and representing the brand but also supports and mentors a lot of our other employees that have intellectual disabilities.

Patrick has well and truly come out of his shell over the last few months and social situations that otherwise used to intimidate him, have become much more bearable. Patrick is young and has a life full of employment ahead of him - we are confident that Patrick is ready for mainstream employment and will be able to stand up for his rights.

Please describe the impact that the specific TFN funding has had.

GG's has been able to continue to scale its hamper operations nationally and continue delivering beautiful flowers locally. Over the last financial year, GG's has employed over 20 people with special needs and provided them with meaningful employment and a greater sense of purpose. GG's has grown from strength to strength and has been proudly paying award wages AND running a sustainable and profitable business model whilst also only employing people with special needs.

Please provide a quantitative breakdown of how TFN funds have been used

All money was used to purchase the delivery van and an extra \$15k was committed from GG's for the rest of the payment and branding.

Describe any ways the funding was used that differs from that described your original pitch

We ordered a vehicle from Renault Australia which was the van we pitched for on the night of TFN. Sadly after lengthy delays, Renault Australia couldn't import the vehicle in. So we purchased a Volkswagen Caddy. This was more expensive than the Renault but GG's covered the gap. It's still pink, automatic and has branding.

How many people have been affected by programs or activities that were supported with TFN funding?

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What measures did you use to assess the impact?

- Numbers on the GG's Payroll
- Amount that pay takes the pressure off the welfare system
- Healthy P & L
- Employee wellbeing, engagement and retention

Describe three ways that your organisation has changed in the last 12 months since the event

1. Increase revenue by about \$200k per year through hamper sales
2. Move into a pro-bono warehouse
3. Pack over 3,000 gift hampers.

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any additional financial support from anyone you met through TFN?

No

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any goods in-kind and/or pro-bono services from anyone you met through TFN?

No

How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives this year?

We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources you did not meet through TFN?

No

What were some of the other benefits of participating in TFN?

Sharing the GG's story to the Canberra philanthropic community who actually never had heard the entire story. They had only really seen GG's growing in the background and we were able to rally around us. It was GG's first dose of philanthropy.

Do you have any other comments or feedback on the TFN experience or funding process?

It was such an incredible experience. It was also great to have Tommy in Canberra to see our work in play.

One piece of feedback I have is - I tried to reach out to funders from the night, but I think what would have been great would be to link up with corporates in terms of procurement. GG's has a different model to other organisations that pitch. A little more support in linking up with corporates to sell our hampers would have been super beneficial but totally understand you can't do it for everyone. So nothing negative here - just perhaps a suggestion as I feel there's greater impact that can come out of social procurement vs funding. Obviously we are grateful for the funding and couldn't work without it but in order to keep up our great work - we need clients to sell our hampers too. TFN has a wealth of connections so perhaps a few introductions would be awesome. :)

I also love that you did your due diligence, checked our P & L etc - that gave me a lot of confidence in the process, and also our worth. :)