

Dick Smith does it again – another \$1M to end suffering

Much-loved Aussie philanthropists Dick and Pip Smith have once again pledged \$1 million towards alleviating the suffering of Aussies in need.

The pledge comes on the back of Dick's initial \$1 million-dollar donation to Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. (RAWCS) in November 2016, which helped make a difference to the lives of many Australian families and individuals suffering personal hardship.

Delighted with the scope and success of projects his original donation enabled, Dick said this second pledge is a much-needed cash injection for people doing it tough in our own backyard.

"While we have always donated to a broad range of issues, the main focus of our philanthropy has been humanitarian causes, to help people who are doing it tough for whatever reason," Dick said.

RAWCS chairman John McLaren said the donation provides further incentive for Rotarians to get out there and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

"We see it all – people who, through no fault of their own, have

run into hard times, often exceedingly hard times, and their circumstances really touch your heart," John said.

"This second donation of \$1 million further amplifies Dick and Pip's belief in Australians – we as a nation do care for our mates, and Australian Rotarians are at the forefront when it comes to giving a hand."

Grants for projects will be administered by the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) via its Compassionate Grants program (RACG) and distributed to disadvantaged Australians identified by local Rotary clubs or Rotary districts as being in need. As with the initial donation, grants will be matched dollar for dollar by clubs and/or districts.

Dick said he was thrilled to see his first million-dollar donation reach a total of \$2.5 million dollars through the matched grant funding and is hoping for a similar result second time around.

"We have great confidence that

Rotary will use the money wisely and, through the grants program, effectively double it once again.

"We note that in recent times the ongoing drought is having a disastrous impact on many rural communities and we are hopeful this donation, at least in part, may be used to assist them in some way."

The donation continues Dick and Pip's ongoing relationship with Rotary. Dick has previously given a significant amount through Rotary towards the eradication of polio. He joins the likes of world-renowned philanthropist Bill Gates as a major supporter of Rotary and its various programs worldwide.

The \$1 million donation took place on August 7 in Sydney, when Dick and Pip were acknowledged for their tremendous humanitarian work with the presentation of RAWCS Humanitarian Service Awards and commemorative plaques.

