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Macquarie researcher and social entrepreneur awarded over \$80,000 in AMP Tomorrow Fund grants

[Dr Adam Martin](#) of Macquarie University's Dementia Research Centre and [Anne Thompson](#), a sustainable clothing supplier supported by the Macquarie Incubator, are among 37 amazing Australians set to make a positive impact through AMP's annual \$1 million [Tomorrow Fund](#).

Since 2014, the Tomorrow Fund has provided \$6 million in grants to hundreds of Australians who are working to make a difference in our community. Adam will use his \$38,000 AMP Tomorrow Fund grant to advance his dementia research while Anne is using her \$42,400 grant to grow her Sustainable Schoolwear business.

Adam, a research chemist and science communicator, has developed an innovative way to grow neurons in order to discover the origins of Alzheimer's disease. Until now, these neurons have been notoriously hard to grow in 3D, but the approach taken by Adam and his team at Macquarie University's Dementia Research Centre may change that.

By growing primary neurons on brain-mimicking 3D scaffolds, Adam aims to provide an insight into Alzheimer's progression and facilitate the next generation of dementia drug testing. This work may also one day enable doctors to test for dementia many years before it adversely impacts a person.

"It is predicted that by 2050, close to 1 million Australians will be living with dementia," Adam said. "Currently, there is no effective treatment strategy to combat the progression of any dementia, so improving the clinical translation of drugs used to treat dementia is vital."

Anne founded Sustainable Schoolwear in the belief that children can change the world. If just 10% of Australia's 4.5 million students wore one sustainably made school item, they could save 2 billion litres of water and 2.7 million plastic bottles from landfill.

Through Sustainable Schoolwear, this Macquarie Incubator participant provides school uniforms that are sustainably and ethically made, affordable and durable. The small business sells a quick-dry polo shirt, which is made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. Anne's next step is to start a circular program for schools that will reduce textile waste by collecting well-worn uniforms and recycling the fabric.

"The fashion industry is the second largest polluter in the world," Anne said. "We propose to build knowledge and understanding about recycling and being sustainable in how we utilise clothing. Doing this in a high-volume school market is a global first that will drive real change."

Helen Liondos, Head of Sustainability and the AMP Foundation, said:

"Six years into this program, it's apparent that there is an inexhaustible supply of innovative, community-minded Australians who are working with small budgets to make a big social impact.

“Award winners can use their grants to fund a wide range of items that will help them achieve their goal - whether it’s a vital piece of equipment, training or travel. We know from experience that a well-timed boost can make all the difference to a project’s success.”

For the full list of 2019 Tomorrow Makers visit ampstomorrowfund.com.au.

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About AMP’s Tomorrow Fund

AMP’s Tomorrow Fund is an initiative of the AMP Foundation, which is AMP’s philanthropic arm. The annual grants program aims to support determined individuals who are working hard on a project that will benefit the community but need help to take it to the next level.

Each year, AMP’s Tomorrow Fund awards grants of up to \$100,000 for a wide range of activities, including training, travel costs, living expenses, research or small business funding. So far, 267 grants have been awarded.

For more news about the grants program and this year’s inspirational AMP Tomorrow Makers, as well as our past recipients, follow Twitter @ampfoundation and Facebook.com/ampaustralia.

About the AMP Foundation

The AMP Foundation is the main vehicle through which AMP invests in the community. Since 1992, it has distributed \$100 million to the community.

Its goal is to help create a better tomorrow for everyone - especially those facing challenges accessing education and employment opportunities.

The AMP Foundation strives to achieve this in two ways. It helps people to help themselves by supporting non-profit organisations that give disadvantaged Australians life-changing learning and work opportunities.

It also helps people to help others. It supports AMP employees and financial advisers to share their time, skills and resources with those in need, and back amazing Australians doing great things in the community through our AMP Tomorrow Fund grants.