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## Powerful support for local charities

Ergon Energy's innovative safety program, Power Aid, has come to the fore again to help local charities continue their vital work in the community.

General Manager Operations Steve Leighton said in the latest round of funding from the program, \$4,740 had been provided to Angel Flight, Rockhampton Horse Riding for the Disabled and the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane respectively.

Receiving a \$1,580 donation, Rockhampton Horse Riding for the Disabled Association Secretary Mark Kennedy said the funding was very much appreciated and would be used to replace the Club House fencing and safety gates to provide a safe and secure environment for riders.

"Apart from the sheer exhilaration and enjoyment, the experience (horse riding) provides our riders with therapeutic benefits as well" he said.

"We certainly thank the Ergon staff for thinking of us."

Angel Flight Australia Director and Operations Manager Terry McGowan said Ergon Energy had over the years, through the Power Aid program, been great supporters of Angel Flight and this donation of \$1,580 was yet another example of how the Program provides direct benefit to local community charitable groups.

"Their front line troops really do a fantastic job in our community and gestures like this really highlight just how much Ergon Energy supports the community in such a tangible way" he said.

"This donation will ultimately benefit our patients and help Angel Flight continue the great work our volunteer pilots and their aircraft do. It will help offset the cost of fuel associated with patient transfer from regional and country centres to medical services in metropolitan centres."

Mr Leighton said it was a great effort by staff in the Regional Services Group who made these donations possible and showed a sincere commitment by them to support the valuable role charities perform in the community.

"This is an outstanding achievement and I am especially pleased that the staff have put such a focus on safety in the work place and delivered an excellent outcome for very worthwhile local charities at the same time."

"Power Aid is linked to health and safety in our workplace and is administered by local workplace health and safety committees. Workgroups are recognised and rewarded for their safe work practices by having funds made available to donate to a local charity of their choice."

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“It’s great to see our people actively promoting a safe work place and at the same time benefiting the community through these charitable donations” he said.

The Power Aid initiative launched by Ergon Energy in 2004 is a simple concept that involves work teams accruing points, which Ergon Energy then converts to cash. Each work team gets to nominate a local charity of their choice to which they can donate their accrued Power Aid cash.

According to Ergon Energy General Manager Health and Safety, John Cass, the Power Aid scheme had proved a winner for both Ergon Energy and the community.

**Since its introduction Ergon Energy’s Power Aid program has donated over \$1.4 million to charities throughout Queensland with over \$420,000 of this going to worthy charitable organisations throughout the Central Region.**

“Power Aid has been enormously effective in promoting safety in our workplaces throughout Queensland with the added bonus of the tangible benefits flowing to the needy in our regional communities,” Mr Cass said.

“Points are earned for staff demonstrating positive and proactive health and safety behaviours to Always be Safe at work, and that means both working safely and reporting any incidents that may result in injury or harm.”

“This scheme is assisting us in reaching our target of a zero injury workplace.”

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