



## Sylvia And Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation

### **Benefactor history - Charles Viertel: 1902 - 1992, Sylvia Viertel: 1904 - 1980**

Charles Viertel was born in Queensland and was one of eleven children born into a poor family, with a German father and English mother. An achiever since childhood, he graduated dux of the Brisbane Central Technical High School, received a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Queensland and later became an accountant and company director. Charles was an astute investor, and at his death in 1992 he was one of Queensland's most successful share market investors.

Despite accumulating significant wealth and true to Charles' legendary frugality, he was more comfortable in a hand-knitted beanie, cardigan, shorts and slippers than being dressed in a suit and tie.

He gave quietly during his lifetime, without expectation of public recognition. He established the Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Queensland shortly after the death of his wife Sylvia, who had severely impaired vision. In 1982 Charles was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his charitable work.

Sylvia Viertel was a quiet, gentle person who preferred home life to the corporate world in which her husband revelled. Sylvia and Charles married when they were both in their 40s and she remained in the background as a home maker and keen gardener.

### **Beneficiaries**

Charles Viertel established the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation in his will. The Foundation was established to benefit organisations or institutions involved in medical research into diseases, and the alleviation of hardship of the aged and the sick. Charles also directed that money be given to charities with low administrative expenses.

The Foundation was established with an initial bequest of approximately \$60 million. Today the Foundation is worth around \$150 million, making it one of the largest charitable foundations in Australia. Through the Foundation's grant programs, almost \$9 million is given each year to charitable causes in Australia.

In addition, Charles named three Queensland organisations in his will: The Salvation Army (Queensland) Property Trust, Council Cancer Queensland (formerly Queensland Cancer Fund) and Prevent Blindness Foundation.

Mr. George Curphey, Justice Debra Mullins, Mr. Rex Freudenberg and ANZ Trustees are the trustees of the Foundation.

## **Trust achievements**

As well as its long term partnerships with the three named organisations, the Foundation has been a significant supporter of medical research, the disadvantaged, the homeless, and the elderly.

- A key achievement of the Foundation has been its investment in young medical researchers, particularly through its highly competitive, sought after, and prestigious medical research grant programs. The Foundation's flagship program is the Senior Medical Research Fellowships worth \$975,000 over five years to support outstanding researchers to establish a research career in Australia.
- The other medical grant program is the Clinical Investigatorships for younger clinicians starting their careers. Recipients are selected with the assistance of the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board.

In just over a decade, the Foundation has already made a significant difference to medical research in Australia, with nearly 100 researchers having been able to further their careers.

## **ANZ Trustees**

ANZ Trustees are specialists in providing full granting advisory services and specialist investment services to the charitable sector, with over 100 years of successfully managing funds for private charitable foundations and not-for-profit organisations. We currently manage over \$1.3 billion on behalf of charitable foundations, trusts and not-for-profits, with funds ranging in size from less than \$50,000 to over \$150 million.

Our focus is on growing funds that can be distributed to charitable organisations and community projects to support lasting positive social change. Whether you're an individual wanting to create a lasting legacy or a not-for-profit with a goal for the future, ANZ Trustees can help you bring your vision to life, through our investment approach, charitable services and unparalleled granting expertise.

ANZ Trustees is a co-trustee and provides governance, investment and granting services for the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation.

**For Further Information please contact ANZ Trustees on:**

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