



## Media Release

For Release: 08 July 2015

### ANZ supported career and education planning program has positive impacts on disadvantaged youths and their families

ANZ and Blue Dragon Children's Foundation today announced the successful completion of ANZ *Kickstart* - a year-long program which has positively impacted over 120 disadvantaged youths and their families in Vietnam.

The program aims to help young adults improve their career and education opportunities via career orientation workshops; life skills training; individual counselling; field trips to work places; opportunities for job placements and vocational training.

In addition to financial assistance, ANZ also provided extra support with delivery of its flagship financial literacy program – MoneyMinded, Mentorship and other volunteering activities by its staff. A total of 458 participants took part in all sessions under the ANZ *Kickstart* Program.

ANZ CEO, Vietnam, Dennis Hussey said: "We believe in making longer-term impact to children's lives by focusing on education and providing a fairer start for vulnerable young people, who without the program, would not have had access to these experiences, knowledge and skills. ANZ *Kickstart* was made possible by our partner Blue Dragon's dedication and by the terrific commitment and energy of the young people in the program."

"We are committed to the economic empowerment of young people in Vietnam, and look to support similar programs with Blue Dragon in the future," Mr Hussey added.

CEO of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, Julianne Carey, said: "ANZ's support has been crucial to our success in building better futures for children at Blue Dragon, ensuring they have the tools they need to choose and pursue economically-sustainable and rewarding careers. Every participant has their own success story: from one 17 year-old hearing impaired boy whose field trip to a café led to a permanent job, to a girl who gained the confidence to apply for a place at university. The impact of these individual successes on disadvantaged communities in Vietnam is priceless."

"As a pilot program, we will build on ANZ *Kickstart*'s success to develop a fully comprehensive Career Preparation Program compulsory for all youth 15 years and over at Blue Dragon. We will work hand-in-hand with ANZ staff, whose commitment to mentoring and transferring their own skills during *Kickstart* was inspiring to all participants."

ANZ Vietnam and Blue Dragon have been working together since 2012 and formally established a MoneyMinded partnership in 2014, under which, 10 of Blue Dragon's staff were trained and accredited to be MoneyMinded facilitators by ANZ.

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### **Note to editors:**

ANZ *Kickstart* Program's summary of activities:

#### **Activities**

#### **Topics and details**

Career Preparation workshops

- World of Work
- Understand yourself, your needs and career interests
- Career workshop for children living with disabilities
- Job searching, preparing your CV
- Job interview skills

Life Skills workshops

- Self confidence
- Conflict management skills
- Setting goals and time management skills
- Communication and teamwork skills

Field visits

- Visits to offices and work places in Hanoi including ANZ Hanoi office

Job placements and vocational training

- Individual counselling
- Individual vocational training
- 5 successfully secured jobs

MoneyMinded program

- 143 young people, parents and carers received MoneyMinded training by ANZ staff

Mentorship program

- 5 Blue Dragon's staff members received mentoring from ANZ senior managers.