



PRINCIPLES FOR PHILANTHROPY AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN POLICY MATTERS

May 2019

1. Introduction

Philanthropy Australia exists to advance philanthropy and giving and serves a community of funders, social investors and social change agents working to achieve positive social, cultural, environmental and community change by leveraging their financial assets and influence.

Philanthropy Australia's purpose is to serve the community to achieve more and better philanthropy and it does this in through:

- advancing philanthropy as the peak body for philanthropy; and
- serving members.

This policy outlines Philanthropy Australia's role, approach and process in undertaking each of the above roles, in relation to participating in public policy matters, making public policy statements and advocating a public policy agenda.

Philanthropy Australia will represent the philanthropic sector in policy and legislative matters which might affect the sector directly or indirectly. Philanthropy Australia's aims as the peak body, in participation in policy issues are:

- 1.1 To encourage and promote giving in Australia
- 1.2 To encourage the creation of incentives for giving and the removal of impediments to giving
- 1.3 To ensure that members have the opportunity to inform themselves on regulatory and policy changes and to participate in the consultation process
- 1.4 To encourage all levels of Government in their understanding and support of, and engagement with, the philanthropic sector
- 1.5 To ensure that the regulatory environment remains positive and that any regulatory changes are positive for the philanthropic sector
- 1.6 To seek solutions that are evidence based, improve government policy, encourage clarity and efficiency, and focus on long term sustainable outcomes
- 1.7 To shape and promote an agenda that advances philanthropy in Australia

- 1.8 To only contribute to broader policy issues affecting giving and the not-for-profit sector if a philanthropic perspective will add significant value.

Philanthropy Australia will assess whether - and if so how - it will participate in policy matters on the basis of how such involvement will affect the broad philanthropic sector or a significant portion of it.

Philanthropy Australia will also make relevant public policy statements beyond matters which affect the sector, where:

- they pertain to its values as an employer, and / or
- they pertain to matters of national policy significance, such as issues raised through a national referendum or a plebiscite.

In forming and shaping its public policy views, comments and approach, Philanthropy Australia will canvass member views and input and circulate its views to members to ensure transparency and enable members to participate in the consultation process.

2. Policy Review

This policy is endorsed by the Board of Philanthropy Australia and the Board reserves the right to alter and amend it at any time.

Philanthropy Australia seeks to play a leadership role in the broad and diverse philanthropic sector in Australia, but it is not Philanthropy Australia's role to act as mediator or arbitrator where members have conflicting views or interests. However, Philanthropy Australia remains responsive to contact from members and those in the broader sector who wish to express views on policy matters.

Philanthropy Australia will make a decision about whether and if so how the organisation will participate in specific policy issues based on the principles outlined above.