

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR A POST COVID-19 AUSTRALIA

August 2020

It will be some time before the COVID-19 health and economic crisis is over. We need to incentivise and stimulate more giving to support Australia's critical charitable sector which:

- Delivers an extensive range of essential services and community support
- Employs 10% of Australia's workforce
- Represents 8% of GDP

There is still a need for further support to assist charities to get through this crisis. At the same time, we need to think about the kind of policies that can spur additional giving and provide more support to charities and their work as we recover, rebuild and adapt to the changed environment.

For this reason, in advance of the Australian Government's Budget to be handed down in October 2020, Philanthropy Australia has released its Policy Priorities for a Post COVID-19 Australia.

Recommendations

2 actions the Australian Government can implement to address the immediate and ongoing impact of COVID-19 on charities and giving



Establishing a specialised not-for-profit loan fund, in partnership with philanthropy



Implementing a temporary increased charitable gift deduction

7 initiatives to support giving and charities in a post-COVID-19 Australia

Creating the culture and tools to grow giving:



Introducing a 'Living Legacy Trust' structure to grow giving



Encourage legacy giving from superannuation



Launching a 'National Giving Campaign' to build Australia's culture of giving



Supporting the Social Impact Investing Taskforce recommendations

Removing barriers to giving:



Fixing Australia's complex and outdated fundraising laws



Cutting red tape to support the vital role of Australia's Community Foundations



Reforming Australia's Deductible Gift Recipient framework

4 commitments to retain what works:



Maintaining existing refundable franking credit arrangements



Maintaining the existing uncapped tax deduction for donations to deductible gift recipients



Preserving an effective and responsive ACNC



Protecting advocacy by charities