





2025 Annual Review

PHILANTHROPY
AUSTRALIA





As the nation's peak body for philanthropy, we work to mobilise generosity with purpose and impact.



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Acknowledgement of Country

Philanthropy Australia acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



QLD supporters come together for PA's 50th celebrations

A message from the Co-Chairs

2025 was a significant year for Philanthropy Australia.

It marked the beginning of our 50th year, the conclusion of our 2022 to 2025 Strategic Plan, and laid the foundations for our future strategy. It was a year of transition, reflection and renewed ambition.

In a complex and often uncertain economic environment, Philanthropy Australia continued to perform strongly and to play a leading role in Australia's philanthropic ecosystem. We strengthened our organisation, deepened our connections across the sector and helped build the conditions for greater impact in the years ahead.

The Philanthropy Leadership Summit in August was a defining moment in the year. It brought together 440 leaders from philanthropy, the for-purpose sector and government in Canberra for frank, timely and forward-looking conversations about leadership in a period of profound social, economic and environmental disruption.

This national gathering was complemented by a full calendar of convenings and webinars, including more than 1,400 member representatives attending meetings of our 13 funder peer networks throughout the year. We also grew our digital reach, connecting almost daily with tens of thousands of people interested in philanthropy and social impact.

Advocacy and policy reform remained at the heart of our work. A long-sought new DGR category for community foundations commenced; the Unlock DGR campaign gained national traction; and progress continued across charitable bequests and advocacy protections. These reforms reflect persistence, collaboration and a shared commitment to a stronger enabling environment for giving.

We also continued to support stronger practice across philanthropy. Our partnered initiatives – NEXUS Australia and the Foundations Group for Impact Investing – built stronger followings. We published reports that deepened knowledge of the sector, including valuable new data from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Funders Survey, the Better Philanthropy Telescope and the Philanthropy Compass.

Late in the year, we began celebrating 50 years of Philanthropy Australia, gathering more than 800 people at events across the country and sharing stories from our history. These celebrations continue into 2026 alongside the launch of Strategy 2033 and our national conference in Brisbane.

Internally, we made important investments in leadership, capability and culture. The appointment of a new Executive Director, Membership and Engagement, followed by a Deputy CEO, completed a refreshed Executive structure aligned with our future direction. Ongoing engagement supported a cohesive and purpose-driven culture. Our staff engagement survey result of 82 per cent favourable reflects the commitment and care our people bring to their work and to one another.

As Philanthropy Australia starts to bring Strategy 2033 to life, we are inspired by what giving can achieve when guided by purpose, collaboration and courage. 2025 also concludes our terms as Co-Chairs, and this annual review is a moment to say thank you. It has been a privilege to serve Philanthropy Australia at such a pivotal time.

The work that has been achieved over this period reflects the collective effort of so many, and none of it would have been possible without the generosity and trust of our national and state funders and donors, whose commitment has enabled ambition to be matched with action.

We are deeply grateful to our fellow Board members, to the Philanthropy Australia team, and to our members and partners across the country for your trust, insight and commitment. We leave confident in the organisation's leadership, direction and potential, and with great optimism for the next chapter of Philanthropy Australia and for the future of giving in Australia.

As we conclude our terms as Co-Chairs, we are pleased to welcome Darrell Wade, who steps into the role of Chair with deep commitment to philanthropy, strong sector insight and a clear alignment to the ambitions set out in Strategy 2033. We wish Darrell every success in leading Philanthropy Australia through its next chapter and look forward to supporting the organisation, its Board and leadership as it continues to serve and strengthen Australia's philanthropic ecosystem.



Lisa George

Lisa George
Co-Chair



Amanda Miller

Amanda Miller OAM
Co-Chair

2022–2025
Our vision

A generous
and inclusive
Australia

2022–2025
Our purpose

To inspire more
and better
philanthropy

2025 marked a pivotal
transition year for
Philanthropy Australia.

As we closed out our 2022–2025 strategic plan, we sustained momentum and impact while laying the foundations for Strategy 2033 and our evolving national role.

Even amid change, the breadth and depth of activity across the year reflected a sector that is engaged, collaborative and ready to step into what comes next.



2025 Snapshot


Celebrated Philanthropy Australia's 50th anniversary



821 Attendees 

5 Events


Launched a new membership model




Commenced Strategy 2033 consultation and development



Hosted the Philanthropy Leadership Summit



430 Attendees 

3 Days

- **Advocated** for a new Deductible Gift Receipt (DGR) category

- **Published** the Better Philanthropy Telescope

- **Consultation** commenced on the Collective Giving Report

- **Launched** the Philanthropy Compass

- **Collaborated** with Justice Connect on the Unlock the DGR campaign





Published Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Funder Reporting Survey

Co-launched the Asia Pacific Working Group of WINGS



Savvy Giving Roadshow



178 Attendees 

7 Events

Delivering the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan

The 2022–2025 strategic plan was delivered in a context of growing national wealth and increasing community need.

Over this period, we focused on inspiring more giving, expanding and deepening engagement with the sector, and influencing major sector policy reform.

Overview

- Grew our membership base and deepened engagement with the sector
- Contributed to significant policy reform and national momentum on giving
- Created tools, guidance and education for more effective giving
- Secured multi-year funding that lifted organisational capability, systems and partnerships



Inspired more giving

- National conferences in Sydney and Adelaide were sold out, with record-high attendance
- The 2023 Philanthropy Meets Parliament evolved into the highly successful Leadership Summit in 2025
- PA's 13 peer networks became mainstay knowledge exchange forums, including new networks for First Nations funders and more than lean funders
- Membership grew to 800 individuals and organisations, serving a network of more than 6,000 professionals across Australia
- Introduced a simplified membership model
- The WA, SA and QLD philanthropy ecosystems expanded
- PA's digital audience expanded to more than 30,000 Australians, providing a powerful platform for our narrative storytelling

Advocated for better giving

- In partnership with others, secured a new Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) category for community foundations: the outcome of more than two decades of sector advocacy and sustained collaboration
- Initiated and supported Justice Connect's "Unlock DGR" campaign
- Shaped the Productivity Commission inquiry Future Foundations for Giving (2024)
- Developed accredited education resources to support professional advisers to engage clients in giving
- Introduced a First Nations Governance Committee into our governance framework
- Published a Reflect RAP
- Conducted successful study tours to the USA and UK
- Contributed to the creation of the Centre for Social Impact's The Giving Academy

Deepened knowledge and engagement

- Led sector-wide learning initiatives, such as the Climate Lens roadshow with Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN), the Bequests roadshow with JBWere's John McLeod, and the Savvy Giving roadshow with Dr Genevieve Timmons, Adjunct Professor at Swinburne University
- Guides, tools and research were developed that reflected the needs and pressures of our members and collaborators
 - Pay What It Takes series (2022)
 - Guide to Giving (2023)
 - Cultural Diversity in Philanthropy (2023)
 - Strategic Roadmap for Community Foundations (2023)
 - Participatory Grantmaking (2023)
 - The Telescope (2023 – 2025)
 - Advancing Education (2024)
 - Bequests Promised vs Bequests Realised (2025)
 - First Nations Funding (2025)
 - Philanthropy Compass 2025
 - Collective Giving Research (commenced 2025)
- The Foundations Group for Impact Investing (FGII) was seeded and launched
- PA became the host partner of NEXUS Australia (next generation philanthropy)
- Nurtured the development of the Learning & Evaluation for Australian Funders (LEAF) network
- Global relationships for international knowledge exchange were elevated
- Published two volumes of *Inspiring stories of giving*

Key Achievements 2025

In 2025, our work spanned significant reforms, national advocacy campaigns, international engagement and deep member consultation.

Momentum built steadily across the year, with early policy wins setting the foundation for further progress.



February

After decades of advocacy from Philanthropy Australia, Community Foundations Australia and others, a [new Deductible Gift Receipt \(DGR\) category](#) for community foundations commenced, allowing them to receive donations from giving funds and fundraise for grassroots community groups lacking DGR status.

Our third annual [Better Philanthropy Telescope](#) identified that members were focused on collaboration across the sector, peer learning and sharing, and the impact of changing political context.



March

The [Bequests Promised v Bequests Realised](#) research – aka the Missing Gifts Project – was published by Philanthropy Australia and Include a Charity, revealing that millions of dollars are being lost to the not-for-profit sector because gifts in wills are not reaching their intended charity.

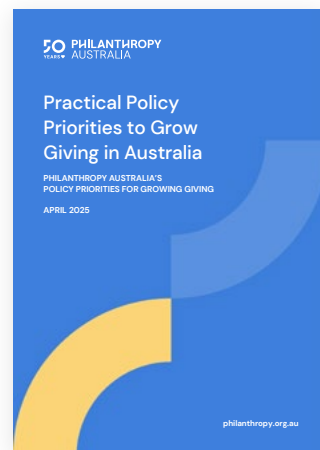
A new [membership model](#) launched, creating clearer pathways for engagement across the Impact, Engage and Connect levels.

Member and sector [consultation to inform our future strategy](#) commenced, comprising surveys, interviews and focus groups nationally and internationally.



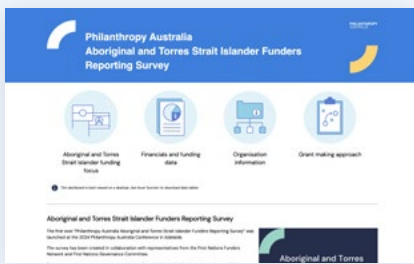
April

Ahead of the 2025 Federal Election, we published the [Practical Policy Priorities to Grow Giving in Australia](#), prioritising DGR reform, First Nations led philanthropy and simplifying superannuation bequests.



May

We published our findings from [Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Funders Reporting Survey](#), establishing a vital benchmark and identifying key challenges for the sector.



June

The [Savvy Giving](#) roadshow kicked off in Perth. Over five months, Dr Genevieve Timmons hosted workshops in seven cities, providing practical tools and concepts to support impactful giving and insight into how philanthropic roles are evolving in a shifting landscape.



August

The first [Philanthropy Leadership Summit](#) convened more than 400 leaders in Canberra to unpack how philanthropy, the for-purpose sector, civil society and government can work together to tackle the interconnected challenges facing the world. Former Prime Minister Hon. [Julia Gillard AC opened the program](#), which also included Canadian Professor Thomas Homer-Dixon, Hugh de Kretser (Australian Human Rights Commission), Dr Cassandra Goldie AO (ACOSS), Anjali Sharma (teen climate activist), Anna Brown OAM (Equality Australia) and Associate Professor Bhiemie Williamson (Monash University).



The Summit was well-organised, insightful and offered rich networking opportunities. I left feeling inspired, informed and more connected to leaders who share similar goals for community impact.

We entered our final [submission](#) to the Australian Government's consultation on possible changes to the regulation of giving funds.

September

A major research initiative into [Collective Giving](#) launched, led by Philanthropy Australia, Minderoo Foundation and a group of advocates. The resulting report, to be published in 2026, will provide insights into how collective giving has evolved, highlight the opportunities and challenges, and help identify how we can develop the infrastructure and resources needed to support its growth.

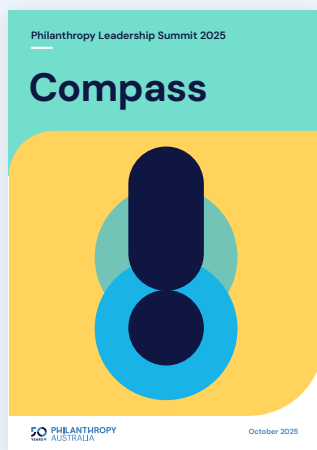
CEO Maree Sidey and Co-Chair Lisa George led a delegation of Directors and members to the [Asian Venture Philanthropy Network](#) conference in Hong Kong. At the event, Maree co-launched the Asia Pacific Working Group of WINGS, the only global network of philanthropy support and development organisations.



October

[Philanthropy Compass 2025](#), an enduring document capturing the insights of the Philanthropy Leadership Summit, was published. It is a guide to philanthropic practice in a time of crisis, shaped by sector ideas and aspirations.

In a landmark session in the Victorian State Parliament, the [first treaty with First Peoples and government in Australia](#) was passed into law after a decade-long journey. Philanthropic backers played roles as allies and funders of the movement.



November

The [Unlock DGR campaign launched](#). Initiated by Philanthropy Australia, led by Justice Connect and supported by Minderoo Foundation, it brings together neighbourhood houses, First Nations organisations, community gardens and advocacy groups seeking a government commitment to modernise the Deductible Gift Recipient system.

Darrell Wade, travel entrepreneur and philanthropist, is [appointed Chair designate of the Board](#), marking the close of a significant period of co-leadership under Amanda Miller OAM and Lisa George, whose tenure ends in February 2026.



December

Our 50th anniversary celebrations begin. A curated [series of storytelling projects](#) is published, including a timeline, historical archives and an interview with 104-year-old co-founder Lady Meriel Wright. More than 800 members, supporters and alumni gather at [celebratory events across the country](#) to honour our legacy and see the first look at our future strategy.



The occasion was not only a celebration of longevity, but of the transformative power of philanthropy.

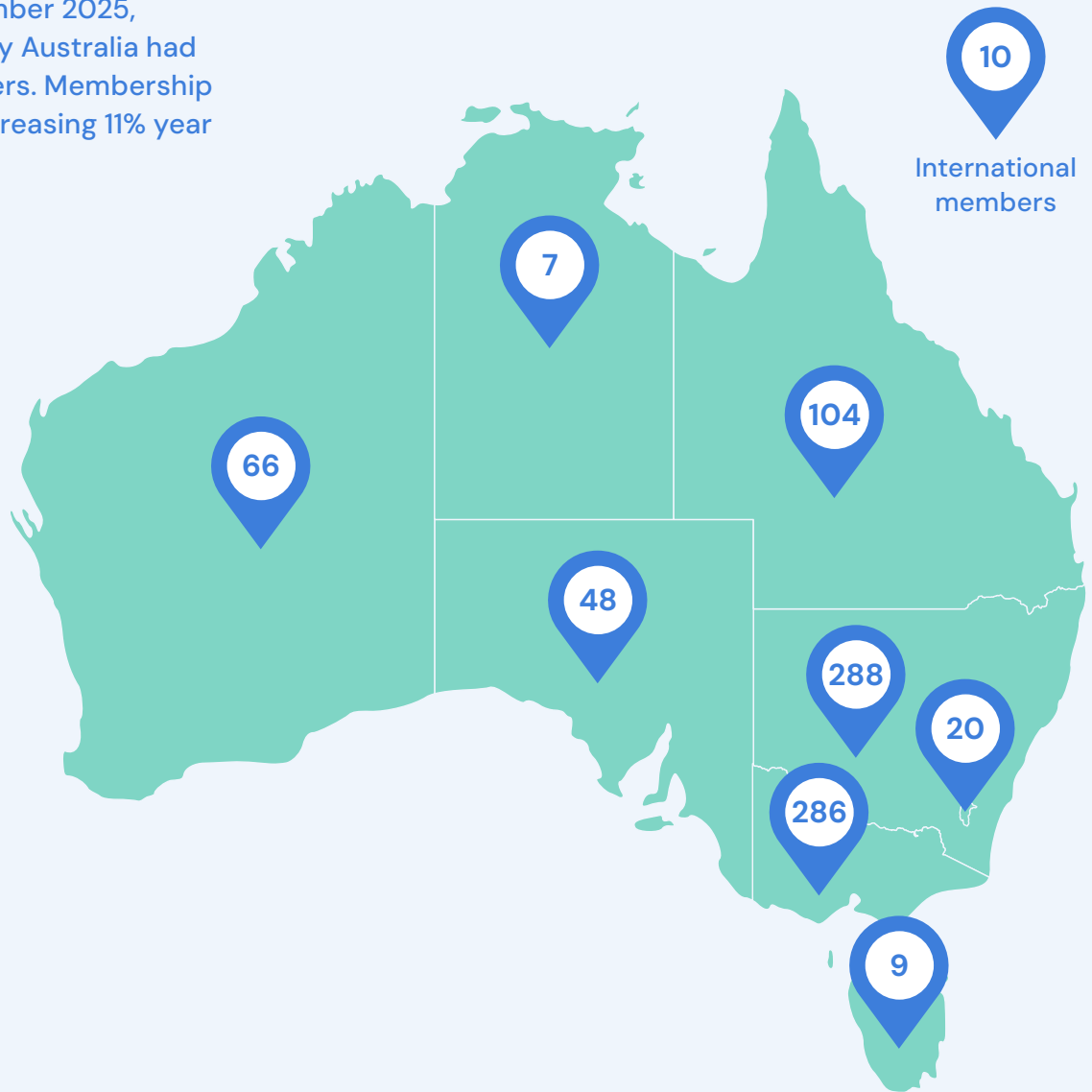


Leadership Summit 2025



Membership

At 31 December 2025, Philanthropy Australia had 838 members. Membership revenue increasing 11% year on year.



Financial summary 2025

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Income	1,735,383	5,556,550	7,291,933
Expenditure	1,723,012	5,776,593	7,499,605
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	12,371	(220,043)	(207,672)

Patrons, Life Members, Board and Committee members

Patrons

Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE

Lady Southey AC

Life members

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC
DBE (1909 – 2012)

Dr Michael Liffman AM

Emeritus Professor Myles
McGregor Lowndes

Lady Southey AC

Mr Ben Bodna AM
(1935 – 2008)

Mr Charles Goode AC

Mr Darvell Hutchinson AM
(1930 – 2022)

Ms Jill Reichstein OAM

Ms Meriel Wilmot-Wright

Ms Patricia Feilman AM
(1925 – 2008)

The Stegley Foundation

Mr David Gonski AC

Ms Gina Fairfax AC

Mr Tim Fairfax AC

Ms Paula McLean

Mr Robert McLean AM

Ms Ann Johnson

Mr Alan Schwartz AO

Board members

Amanda Miller OAM, Co-Chair

Lisa George, Co-Chair

Alex Dimos

Brian Wyborn

Dr Catherine Brown OAM,
appointed 21 May 2025

Darrell Wade, appointed
26 November 2025

Georgina Byron AM

Jo Taylor,
retired 7 May 2025

John McLeod,
retired 21 May 2025

Kirsty Allen,
retired 21 May 2025

Kristen Stevenson

Liz Gillies,
retired 21 May 2025

Michael Graf

Nayomi Kannangara,
appointed 21 May 2025

Roxanne Moore,
appointed 21 May 2025

Stacey Thomas

Tyson Fenay

Finance audit risk and compliance committee

Michael Graf, Chair

Ben Carroll

Jon Cheung

Kristen Stevenson

Pearce Delphin

Tyson Fenay

Asha Puvan

Governance committee

Amanda Miller OAM, Co-Chair

Lisa George, Co-Chair

Georgina Byron AM

Kirsty Allen,
retired 21 May 2025

Stacey Thomas,
appointed 17 June 2025

Membership and engagement committee

Alex Dimos, Chair

John McLeod

Michael Graf

Nayomi Kannangara,
appointed 17 June 2025

Policy and research committee

Catherine Brown OAM, Chair,
appointed 17 June 2025

Alex Dimos,
appointed 17 June 2025

Glen McCrea

Jo Taylor,
retired 7 May 2025

Professor John Daley AM

Libby Ward-Christie

Liz Gillies,
retired 21 May 2025

Sacha Edema

Stacey Thomas

Tabitha Lovett

Alexandra Williamson

First Nations governance committee

Stephanie Harvey, "Bidjara",
Co-Chair

Brian Wyborn, "Torres Strait
Islander and Papua New
Guinea man", Co-Chair

Leah Armstrong, "Ancestry
from Boigu Island in the
Torres Strait"

Mundanara Bayles,
"Wonnarua/Gweagal/
Gungalu/Wiri"

Robert Brittain, "Ballardong
Noongar/Gija Man"

Jessica Bulger, "I am Wiradjuri
from Tumut and Brungle"

Kim Collard, "I am Ballardong/
Whadjuk man of the Noongar
Nation (Noongar the people
of the southwest of WA)"

Warren Miller, "Wirangu,
Kokatha and Mirning"

Roxanne Moore,
"Noongar person from
Wooditjup Bilya (Margaret
River) in Western Australia",
appointed 17 June 2025

Michelle Steele,
"Kamilaroi/Gomeroi Nation
from Moree NSW"

Phil Usher, "My mob
is Wiradjuri"

Kirsty Allen,
retired 21 May 2025

Stacey Thomas,
retired 17 June 2025

Jon Cheung,
retired 17 June 2025

Thank you to our 2025 partners

National partners

Paul Ramsay Foundation
Minderoo Foundation
Perpetual
Equity Trustees
Greater Melbourne
Foundation
Snow Foundation
An anonymous philanthropic
organisation

Champions

Collier Charitable Fund
Graf Family Foundation
Lisa George
Macquarie Group Foundation
McLeod Family Foundation
Sidney Myer Fund and
The Myer Foundation
Snow Foundation
The McLean Foundation
The Ross Trust
The William Buckland
Foundation
Trawalla Foundation
Vincent Fairfax Family
Foundation

State partners / champions

Western Australia

Lotterywest
Bass Family Foundation
Spinifex Trust
Stul Family Foundation
The Stan Perron Charitable
Trust
Wind Over Water Foundation
Ungar Family Foundation

Queensland

Hand Heart Pocket
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

Victoria

Helen Macpherson Smith
Trust

Office partners

Adelaide: The Wyatt Trust

Brisbane: Hand Heart Pocket

Sydney: Paul Ramsay
Foundation

Corporate information

Pro bono partners

Herbert Smith Freehills

Chapter Groups, hosted projects & initiatives

Mannifera

Australian Jewish Funders

Job & Skills Network

NEXUS Australia

Foundations Group for Impact Investing

She Gives

Collective Giving Initiative

Pay What it Takes

Learning & Evaluation for Australian Funders

Knowledge partners

Alliance Magazine

Centre for Social Impact

Charities Aid Foundation

The Giving Academy

Seer Data & Analytics

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Hobart / Nipaluna

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