

# Community Foundations in Australia

Activities Address Areas Art Assistance Benefit Build Canada Care Catalyst Cause Change  
Charitable Citizen Civic Connect Conservation Create Cultural  
Culture Customs Develop Development Distribute Donor Economic  
Education Educational Effective Elder Encourage Endowment Engagement  
Enhance Enrich Environment Fund Future Generation Gift Giving Good Grant  
Grantmaking Greater Health Help Historic Human Improve Include Individual Initiative  
International Issues Land Leadership Life Live Local Make Manage Meet Nature  
Need New Nonprofit Opportunities Organizations Partnership People Permanent  
Philanthropic Philanthropy Preservation Program Project Promote  
Provide Public Purpose Quality Region Research Residents Resource  
Scholarship Science Serve Service Social Sport Strengthen Student  
Support Traditional Training Understand Welfare Work Youth



**Australian  
Community  
Philanthropy**

# Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP)

Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP) is the peak organisation for community foundations in Australia, assisting them to establish, grow and achieve their goals.

ACP was founded by a group of community foundation practitioners as a means of offering much needed support to the voluntary boards and professional staff of new and established community foundations.

As the community philanthropy movement grew, the group recognised the value of collective effort, collaborative practices, and shared resources; they realised that from unity comes strength. ACP was incorporated and endorsed as a Charitable Organisation in 2008 and exists to connect, support, represent and guide the community foundation movement and to strengthen its resources and impact.

Unlike other peak bodies in the philanthropic sector, ACP is formed exclusively by and for community foundations and actively works to:

- build the capacity of community foundations; providing networking, professional development opportunities, information and educational resources
- raise the profile and increase understanding of community foundations within the community, the broader philanthropic sector, business and government
- help identify and create the optimum operating environment for the growth of community foundations in Australia and assist members to meet the challenges of an ever changing philanthropic sector.
- work with other organisations and peak bodies to identify effective practice, bring world renowned programs such as Vital Signs to Australia and ensure the interests of community foundations are on everyone's agenda
- advocate for structural and tax reforms around critical issues such as DGR status for community foundations, portability of assets from private ancillary Funds to public ancillary Funds and corpus distribution requirements for public ancillary funds

# Community foundations the global context

Australian community foundations are part of a thriving global sector. The first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1914; today there are more than 1,800 Community Foundations, forming a network spanning the US and Canada, the UK, Europe and Russia, India, Africa, and of course Australia and New Zealand. Collectively they hold US\$63.1 billion in financial reserves and granted more than US\$5 billion dollars last year. In the past 14 years, the number of community foundations in the world has almost doubled.

The global network of community foundations is supported at a national level by a series of peak bodies which represent the interests, and build the capacity of community foundations within their respective regions. These peak organisations communicate and collaborate with each other and, in turn their member foundations, exchanging knowledge, best practice and contributing to the shared value of the global community foundation movement.

A defining characteristic of community foundations, regardless of where they are in the world, is a commitment to

the importance of accountability to local people. Community foundations are highly regarded responsive organisations, dedicated to catalysing development and building social capital.

The 2014 Community Foundation Atlas, a report on the global community foundation movement, ranked the significance of the following activities and objectives to the missions of community foundations, in descending order of importance.

## Money in

community foundations are place-based, independent, community embedded philanthropic vehicles. They work with a range of donors to build endowment funds as long-term community assets

## Much more than money out

they make grants to local organisations and initiatives; and they bring people together to build social capital and strengthen their communities

# The Australian Context

‘Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Community foundations empower local philanthropists and communities’

In 2013/14 Australian Community Philanthropy, the national peak organisation for community foundations, mapped Australian community foundations. The report identified, for the first time, the considerable size, reach and resources underpinning community foundations in our region.

Since the first Australian community foundation was founded in 1923, Australian community foundations have granted over approximately \$100 million within their communities. Collectively, Australia’s 36+community foundations:

- hold more than \$310 million in funds under management
- granted at least \$21 million within their communities (2013)
- each year, support hundreds of projects and initiatives within their communities through their grant and community building programs.

Most importantly, as independent placed based philanthropic, locally embedded organisations, community foundations represent a sustainable and resilient source of ongoing support for their communities.

Community foundations work in partnership with their communities acting, as the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation articulates it, ‘an honest broker with no agenda other than what is best for our community’. Community foundations engage with their constituents as donors, advisors and volunteers, generating strong community ownership, transparency, accountability, and creating community knowledge.

Whilst grant programs are a highly visible activity for almost all community foundations, most foundations are equally engaged in supporting their communities by:

- facilitating and brokering partnerships
- leading and encouraging community development initiatives
- building the capacity of local community groups and organisations
- facilitating community dialogue
- identifying needs, issues and opportunities within their communities.

## Governance and Regulatory Structures

The majority of community foundations have established a corpus and utilise a Public Ancillary Fund structure, are registered as charities with the ACNC and are either incorporated associations or companies limited by guarantee. The complex regulatory framework, particularly with respect to granting from PuAFs to DGR endorsed organisations, creates challenges for many community foundations, especially those in rural communities. Australian Community Philanthropy is working with other key sector organisations on this issue and is hopeful that the outcome will be a reduction in the unnecessary and onerous regulations for community foundations.

## People Power

Community foundation people – board members, staff and volunteers – are experts in their region with local knowledge and understanding of the strengths, needs and opportunities in their communities. As community leaders many of them wear several hats, professional and voluntary.

# Map of Australian Community Foundations

- Australia has 36 community foundations and 2 community foundations managed by public trustees.
- Whilst the first Australian community foundation was established in 1923, the vast majority were founded from 2000 onwards.
- More than half of all community foundations have 1 member of staff or less EFT. All community foundation Boards are voluntary.
- Australian community foundations hold more than \$310 million in funds under management.



# Australian Community Foundations

Albany Community Foundation	WA	<a href="http://www.acfwa.com.au">www.acfwa.com.au</a>
Australian Communities Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.communityfoundation.org.au">www.communityfoundation.org.au</a>
Ballarat Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.ballaratfoundation.org.au">www.ballaratfoundation.org.au</a>
Bass Coast Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://bccf.org.au">bccf.org.au</a>
Border Trust : The Community Foundation for the Albury Wodonga Region	NSW	<a href="http://www.bordertrust.org.au">www.bordertrust.org.au</a>
Broken Hill Community Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.bhcf.org.au/content">www.bhcf.org.au/content</a>
Buderim Foundation	QLD	<a href="http://www.buderimfoundation.org.au">www.buderimfoundation.org.au</a>
Casey Cardinia Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.cardiniafoundation.com.au">www.cardiniafoundation.com.au</a>
Community Foundation for Central Victoria	VIC	<a href="http://www.communityfoundationbcv.com.au">www.communityfoundationbcv.com.au</a>
Community Foundation for Tumut Region	NSW	<a href="http://www.tumutfoundation.org.au">www.tumutfoundation.org.au</a>
Community Foundation of North Western Sydney	NSW	<a href="http://cfnws.org.au">cfnws.org.au</a>
Denmark Community Foundation	WA	<a href="http://www.dcfwa.org.au/index.html">www.dcfwa.org.au/index.html</a>
Eyre Peninsula Community Foundation	SA	<a href="http://www.epcf.com.au">www.epcf.com.au</a>
Fleurieu Community Foundation	SA	<a href="http://www.fleurieucommunityfoundation.org.au">www.fleurieucommunityfoundation.org.au</a>
Foundation Barossa	SA	<a href="http://www.foundationbarossa.org.au">www.foundationbarossa.org.au</a>
Foundation Boroondara	VIC	<a href="http://www.foundationboroondara.org.au">www.foundationboroondara.org.au</a>
Fremantle Foundation	WA	<a href="http://fremantlefoundation.com">fremantlefoundation.com</a>
Geelong Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://geelongfoundation.org">geelongfoundation.org</a>
Give Where You Live Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://givewhereyoulive.com.au">givewhereyoulive.com.au</a>
Hunter Community Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.huntercommunityfoundation.com.au">www.huntercommunityfoundation.com.au</a>
Inner North Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.innernorthfoundation.org.au">www.innernorthfoundation.org.au</a>
Into Our Hands Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://intoorhandsfoundation.com">intoorhandsfoundation.com</a>
Kinglake Ranges Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://krfoundation.org.au">krfoundation.org.au</a>
Lake Macquarie Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.thelakemacquariefoundation.com.au">www.thelakemacquariefoundation.com.au</a>
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.lmcf.org.au">www.lmcf.org.au</a>
Mackay Foundation	QLD	<a href="http://www.mackayfoundation.com.au">www.mackayfoundation.com.au</a>
Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au">marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au</a>
Mirboo North & District Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au">www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au</a>
Mitchell Community Resources & Advocacy Group	VIC	<a href="http://www.mcrag.net/index.html">www.mcrag.net/index.html</a>
Mumbulla Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.mumbulla.org.au/index.html">www.mumbulla.org.au/index.html</a>
Northern Rivers Community Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.nrcf.org.au">www.nrcf.org.au</a>
Red Earth Community Foundation	QLD	<a href="http://www.redearth.info">www.redearth.info</a>
South West Community Foundation	VIC	<a href="http://www.southwestcommunityfoundation.org">www.southwestcommunityfoundation.org</a>
Stand Like Stone Foundation	SA	<a href="http://www.standlikestone.com.au">www.standlikestone.com.au</a>
Strathewen Community	VIC	<a href="http://www.strathewen.vic.au">www.strathewen.vic.au</a>
Sydney Community Foundation	NSW	<a href="http://www.sydneycommunityfoundation.org.au">www.sydneycommunityfoundation.org.au</a>
Tomorrow:Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development	VIC	<a href="http://www.tomorrowtoday.com.au">www.tomorrowtoday.com.au</a>



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