



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Community foundations argue for regional philanthropic change

Australia's community foundations – who between them have over \$450 million under philanthropic management - have urged the House Select Committee on Regional Australia in Canberra to change the game for regional communities by supporting Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) 1 status for these foundations.

Community foundations are place-based, community-led philanthropic organisations. More than 80 per cent of Australia's 40 community foundations are based in rural and regional Australia, and philanthropic investments through the foundations are directed to benefit the local community each foundation serves.

Sally Gamble chairs Tomorrow Today Foundation in Benalla, in Victoria's north-east and says community foundations focus on place.

"They exist for community benefit in their specific location. These foundations are custom-built for their place," she said.

"Opening the door to DGR1 status for community foundations would clear administrative hurdles that currently significantly restrict philanthropy from being able to quickly and transparently put donor funds to good purpose in regional Australia."

Ms Gamble is also a director of Australian Community Philanthropy, which led the group invited to attend the Committee hearing. The delegation included representatives from community foundations in regional South Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales.

The House Committee heard that a clear pathway to DGR1 endorsement for community foundations would increase resilience and regional community wellbeing by better meeting urgent community needs, address longer-term demands, and create better emergency response and mitigation in ways that are built for a specific place and the needs of its people.

Committee members acknowledged local community foundations as jewels in the crown of their local communities.

For more information, see <https://www.australiancommunityphilanthropy.org.au/>

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