

Foundations for Giving

Why and how Australians structure their philanthropy



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THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR PHILANTHROPY AND NONPROFIT STUDIES

The full *Foundations for Giving* report is freely available for download via eprints. This one page snapshot gives an overview of the report's four key themes and findings.

About the report

Considered, ongoing giving through formal structures can support nonprofit organisations over time, provide carefully targeted funds, and underpin productive and creative partnerships.

Knowing more about the motivations and choices made by the individuals, families and companies that establish philanthropic trusts and foundations will give their future beneficiaries better opportunities to engage and work with them.

The report includes a snapshot of the thinking and actions of 40 people involved in structured, formalised philanthropy who contributed through in-depth interviews.

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I was probably about halfway through my useful working life...I've been incredibly blessed by people and opportunity... So what was I going to do with that?

The report offers many quotes from individuals expressing their views on multiple matters to do with their giving. The richness of the research is in these direct quotes, which are thick with detail, analysis and often emotion. Findings are accumulated into four themes so readers can easily access the areas of most interest or consult a section as it becomes relevant to their own activities and decisions.

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Knowledge impact

01 WHY DOES PHILANTHROPY HAPPEN?



Reaching a turning point in life



Feeling an obligation to 'give back'



A sense of already having enough

Other drivers and related values: religious reasons, values about children, family and inheritance, perpetuity and being part of a community of givers.

02 DECISION MOMENTS WHEN SETTING UP A PHILANTHROPIC STRUCTURE

What choices arise when the decision to create a formal giving structure is made?



peer leaders



the role of advisors and intermediaries



taxation influences



donating through a structure vs less formalised giving



commitment and time decisions



single tipping points



giving other than money



choices of structure type

03 PROCEDURAL AND OPERATIONAL DECISIONS



What decisions and actions need to be considered?

- ✓ board trustees and governance
- ✓ grantmaking policies
- ✓ staffing
- ✓ nonprofit grantee relationships
- ✓ education and training for grantmakers
- ✓ fundraising/seeking donations
- ✓ grantmaking evaluation
- ✓ co-funding/collaborative funding

04 THE ECOSYSTEM AROUND GIVING - KEY MESSAGES FOR NONPROFITS

- Turning points are critical
- Referral points count
- What dollars can do is what really matters
- The next generation is learning about giving
- Sources of giving vary
- Perpetuity and the endowment concept

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