



EMPOWERING CHANGE



Equity Trustees

Incorporating



Australian Executor Trustees



OVERVIEW

The Empowering Change program exists because of generous and visionary philanthropists.

Annually, the program distributes approximately \$14.5 Million to the for-purpose sector from approx. 200 Trusts.

The program has five granting pillars:

- Ageing Well
- Animals & Environment
- Children & Young People
- Equity & Empowerment
- Medical Research & Health.

VISION

A future where effective philanthropy supports a prosperous, equitable and sustainable world for all.

MISSION

Our commitment to trust-based philanthropy aims to create meaningful impact.

We achieve this by collaborating with and listening to those around us. We work closely with the for-purpose sector; we understand that they're the experts and we are led by them.





EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT



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OVERVIEW

We know that nothing happens in isolation and that people are more than their challenges, their deficits, or their disabilities.

The Equity and Empowerment portfolio aims to fund better futures, not just immediate needs, so we grant to organisations that are working in new ways with longer term outcomes and visions.

We like to kick start conversations and hold space for those most impacted by inequities. We're up for exploring ambitious, bold ideas and supporting leaders who are pushing for systemic change. We want to reduce the admin burden on organisations, giving them more time to make a difference where it is most needed.

We are uniquely placed to provide risk capital. We value evidence and data and we know that this comes in different forms. We are prepared to back leaders with a clear vision; strategic thinkers and robust ideas. We know they won't all work, but we're learning along the way.

We believe that focussing on grants that support women and girls and First Nations expertise and knowledge will lead to a fairer and culturally richer society for everyone. We acknowledge the critical need to respond to the changing climate, given the burden is often most heavily felt by the most vulnerable members of our community.

This is the backdrop for the Equity and Empowerment Portfolio.

VISION

We envision a more equitable future, where more people live more fulfilling lives.

MISSION

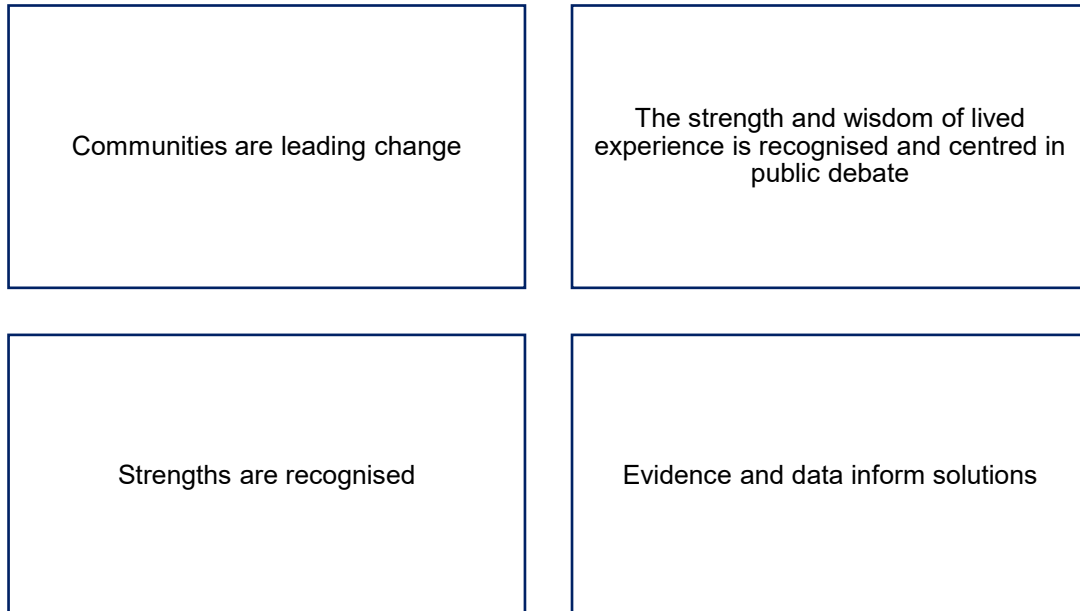
We aim to achieve this vision by funding organisations that are working in new ways to challenge disadvantage.

Positive change requires:

1. Learning from and listening to people experiencing multiple disadvantages and
2. The ability to fund the movements/organisations/collaborations that are leading people-centred solutions.



APPROACHES



PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

Our attitude and actions are underpinned by key values:

- Listen deeply
- Trust
- Challenge assumptions
- Learn adapt and share
- Acknowledge history.

We don't always get it right, but we try to:

- Bring other funders on board to amplify the change
- Seek out new things to learn, better ways to work and share what we're learning along the way
- Reduce the burden on organisations by keeping it simple with an iterative application process, targeted rounds, multi-year grants and untied funding.



OUR INTENDED IMPACT

Equity and Empowerment for:

(1)

First Nations Australians
Listening to and backing the knowledge and expertise of First Nations people to fund the future they want.

(2)

Women and Girls
Investing in programs that empower and amplify the voices, expertise and solutions of women and girls.

(3)

Climate
Supporting communities working together to respond to the climate crisis.

Equity and Empowerment can only be achieved if the people, organisations and collaborations in the for-purpose sector tackling deep rooted problems are supported to develop, deliver, test and refine their own strategies; have the agency to take informed risks; the resources to learn and grow and the trust to change.

This is our mission.

Sustainable Development Goals





1. First Nations

Program Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-determination for First Nations people.
Priority Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous led organisations lead change and share their knowledge of what works and what needs to be done• Organisations in the for-purpose sector are better placed and resourced to drive the social change necessary to shift inequitable systems.
We will prioritise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for organisations led by, and for, First Nations people that create opportunities for empowerment and self-determination• Increased connection to culture and cultivating a healing process that acknowledges current and historical truths and harm so we can move forward together creating a better future for all Australians• Strengths-based approaches to improve positive outcomes in education, health, family and justice.

Current funding



The Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) Foundation Ltd launched a new social pilot called the Aboriginal Women's Research Assistant and Evaluation (AWRAE) Training Project. The funding will provide ongoing on-country employment for at least 18 of the 24 women who undergo training, plus an increase in Indigenous Data Sovereignty for these three communities.



Australian Progress' Passing the Message Stick is the result of a two-year research project to find messages that are effective in building public support for First Nations self-determination and justice.



Djirra walks together with Aboriginal women on their individual journeys to safety and wellbeing. They find solutions by sharing stories and supporting each other in our strength, resilience, and self-determination. They deliver holistic, self-determined and culturally safe specialist family violence services, including early intervention and prevention programs. Djirra amplifies Aboriginal women's voices and experiences.



First Australians Capital supports Indigenous enterprises to grow their businesses through access to finance, networks and market opportunities. Their purpose is to accelerate the Indigenous economy through unlocking capital and supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs to grow sustainable enterprises.



2. Women and Girls

Program Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equitable access to opportunity for women and girls.
Priority Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women and girls can exercise power, agency and leadership• Organisations in the for-purpose sector are better placed and resourced to drive the social change necessary to shift inequitable systems.
We will prioritise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting organisations led by, and working with, women, girls and people of diverse genders across the areas of: Environment, Animals, Children & Young People, Medical Research & Health and Ageing Well.• Organisations or projects working at the intersection of gender, First Nations and or Climate solutions.• Projects for First Nations Women and Girls.

Current funding



Safe and Equals' Family Violence Philanthropy Collaboration Project brings together philanthropic and corporate funders, government stakeholders and family violence sector representatives to 'grow the philanthropic pie' to support systemic change and improve family violence outcomes for all Victorians.



Social Ventures Australia's 'Older Women's Housing' project draws on SVA's expertise in designing impact funds to develop a housing model that focuses on the needs of older women.



3. Climate

Program Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All humans are stewards and caretakers of the Earth, working together to respond to the climate crisis.
Priority Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective collaborations create more connected movements, leading to more people connecting with nature• Indigenous led organisations lead change and share their knowledge of what works and what needs to be done• Environmental leaders are empowered to lead change.
We will prioritise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for collectives and organisations that are working together in new ways to create different outcomes• Initiatives that recognise and honour First Nations People's connection to the land and their role as caretakers and custodians• Women and girls leading climate and nature solutions• Increased access to data and information to inform and embed change.

Funding



Regen Melbourne is an engine for ambitious collaboration, in service to our city powered by an alliance of over 180 organisations, we are the host of bold projects for a regenerative Melbourne. Reimagining and remaking Melbourne, together.

EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT



CURRENT	STRATEGIC RESPONSE	FUTURE	IMPACT
First Nations Australians do not have a voice on many of the decisions that are made about them.	Support First Nations vision for the future. Celebrate cultural knowledge developed over 65,000+ years and the role of truth telling in creating a better future.	Self-determination for Indigenous led organisations.	Just, equitable and sustainable systems.
Programs affect women and men differently, even those that seem gender neutral can exclude or under-serve women, perpetuating existing inequities.	Acknowledge the structural barriers faced by women, girls and people of diverse genders. Invest in programs that amplify the voices, expertise and solutions of women and girls. to create a better future.	Equity for women and girls to exercise power, agency and leadership.	
Urgent action is required by every human to address climate change.	Support communities to collaborate, creating more connected movements.	Effective communities and movements supporting people to connect with climate and sustainable solutions.	

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