

# U.S. Foundation Funding for **Australia**

Prepared by **Foundation Center** in partnership with the  
**United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney**  
and **Philanthropy Australia**





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## Executive Summary

*U.S. Foundation Funding for Australia*, the first report of its kind, is part of a larger project involving the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Philanthropy Australia, and Foundation Center. A primary goal of this partnership is to improve awareness and understanding in Australia of the U.S. philanthropic sector, while also strengthening philanthropic ties between the two countries and demonstrating the value of transparency within the not-for-profit sector.

In the current report, we examine the priorities of U.S. foundation funding to organizations located in Australia, as well as funding for organizations supporting causes in Australia. The quantitative analysis is based on grantmaking data from among the largest U.S. foundations. The report also presents perspectives of U.S. and Australian funders on the current role of philanthropy in Australia, specific challenges and opportunities, and what is needed to achieve greater impact.





# Key Findings

## U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIA

- Between 2011 and 2013, 71 U.S. foundations awarded 393 total grants to 208 recipients totaling US\$95.1 million to/for Australia.
- Health drew the largest proportion of grants awarded to/for Australia, accounting for \$40.5 million in giving and 43 percent of total grant dollars. This was driven largely by funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which was responsible for 73 percent (\$29 million) of health-related grantmaking.
- More than half of all grant dollars (52 percent) were explicitly designated for economically disadvantaged groups.
- Almost all grant dollars in the sample (86 percent) were made directly to organizations located in Australia. Of the top 20 recipients, 16 are located in Australia and the remaining four are in the U.S. with programs focused on Australia.
- Among grant dollars awarded to recipients in Australia, organizations located in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland received roughly equal amounts of funding (around \$22 million each).
- The largest funder to/for Australia was the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, followed by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

- The top recipient of U.S. foundation funding was the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (\$9 million). The majority of the top recipients (55 percent) were universities.

## FUNDER PERSPECTIVES ON PHILANTHROPY IN AUSTRALIA

- U.S. foundations awarding grants to Australia have a variety of motivations for funding in Australia. Some have personal connections to the country, while corporate foundations are likely to invest in areas where they have offices.
- Both U.S. and Australian funders focus on a broad spectrum of key social issues, among them income inequality, climate change, education, and the challenges facing rural and indigenous populations.
- Similar to NGOs in the U.S., key challenges faced by Australian NGOs include building greater capacity to measure outcomes and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability.
- There is a dearth of information about philanthropy in Australia that limits collaboration and coordination. As funders strive to become more effective and increase their impact, many agree that greater transparency and sharing of information are important.



Sydney Opera House. Credit: Alex Wong.



# Introduction



*Dr. Bates Gill, Visiting Professor,  
United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney*

The United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney (USSC) aims to increase understanding of the United States in Australia through teaching, research, public outreach, and facilitating informative exchanges between the United States and Australia. This report promotes that mission by raising awareness and understanding in Australia of the U.S. philanthropy sector while strengthening philanthropic ties between our two countries. The USSC is proud to have conceived and helped broker and support this collaboration with Philanthropy Australia and Foundation Center.

The present report delivers a new level of understanding about the U.S. philanthropic sector by detailing past and present U.S. foundation giving in Australia, identifying important trends in U.S. philanthropy, and demonstrating the value of transparency, accountability, and information sharing within the social sector. Building on this platform, the USSC looks forward to continuing its work with Philanthropy Australia and Foundation Center to promote stronger Australia-U.S. exchanges across our philanthropic communities.





**Sarah Davies, CEO,  
Philanthropy Australia**

Our objective at Philanthropy Australia is to grow philanthropy and increase its impact. Part of this involves promoting philanthropy's contribution to the Australian community, which is why we are delighted to partner with the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and Foundation Center to publish this report, which highlights the role of U.S. philanthropy in Australia.

The report does much more than provide some interesting information—it also exposes the “data deficit” we have when it comes to Australian philanthropy. We have nothing like Foundation Center's database, which maps grants by U.S. foundations.

The fact is we know more about the granting practices of U.S. foundations and their Australian grant recipients than we do about Australian foundations. Philanthropy Australia believes that this needs to change. Bradford Smith's foreword to this report highlights the benefits of transparency and openness—they support

collaboration, increase impact, and educate the community about the role and contribution of philanthropy.

Philanthropy Australia agrees and in the coming months and years, we will be seeking to work with our Members and partners, such as Foundation Center, to develop the tools needed to better share data on Australian philanthropy so we can all take advantage of the benefits that Smith describes. Providing new insights into where Australian philanthropic investment is directed will help us all increase our effectiveness. In this regard, this report is just the beginning of an exciting and important journey.



## FOREWORD

# Transparency and Impact

Bradford K. Smith, *President, Foundation Center*

Philanthropy is one of the most important, but least understood, features of our global market economy. America has more than 87,000 private foundations that collectively control \$798 billion in assets and make close to \$55 billion in grants each year. Europe has over 140,000 “public benefit foundations” with equally impressive assets and spending. In Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, philanthropy is on the rise.

Foundations are the result of a grand public policy bargain that makes institutionalized philanthropy possible: Wealthy donors are given some form of tax incentives to create and maintain private foundations in exchange for providing a demonstrable, long-term contribution to the public good. Part private, part public, many philanthropic foundations

live in a twilight world in which their desire to have impact while keeping a low profile increasingly collides with growing public expectations for transparency. How this tension is negotiated will be crucial to the future of how private wealth contributes to the public good around the world.

The reasons why a foundation may choose to remain under the radar are understandable—including a culture of modesty and a lack of staff capacity. Still, greater transparency in today’s world is inevitable. What used to be a bilateral relationship between private foundations and government has now become a triangle with the digitally literate public. People expect to be able to get information on virtually everything—government, corporations, stores, products, celebrities, friends, enemies, and themselves—instantly through their smartphones, tablets, or watches. The modern version of the old motto “trust but verify” has been updated to “trust but Google.” You say your mission is “to improve the quality of life for present and future generations”? Great, I’m going to find how you’re doing it!





Fortunately, foundations are beginning to realize that you can't make a difference in the world without being more transparent. Achieving impact requires fully understanding the problem you are trying to solve, learning what other foundations already know, and identifying foundations with similar interests with whom you can partner to work at scale. None of this is possible unless foundations openly share information about their work, their grants, and lessons learned. More and more foundations are experimenting with social media, open data, open licensing of research, blogging, and other forms of transparency, realizing that the knowledge they and their colleagues possess may be as valuable as the money they have to give away.

This study demonstrates both the benefits and challenges of transparency. Due to the U.S. regulatory framework and a growing culture of voluntary transparency, we know more today about the role of American philanthropy in Australia than we do about that of Australian foundations. We even know more about what foundations as a whole are doing in a country like China, thanks to the work of an independent organization modeled after U.S.-based Foundation

Center, called the China Foundation Center. Australia has a rich philanthropic culture, world-class foundations, strong academic centers, and innovative support organizations like Philanthropy Australia. With the arrival of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, the quality of macro-level data on philanthropy in Australia has recently improved and will continue to improve. However, what is lacking is more comprehensive micro-level data—at the level of individual grants—which is needed to promote transparency, improve communication, and foster collaboration.

It is our hope that this first, modest study serves as a beginning in demonstrating the value of greater transparency. If markets functioned perfectly, there would be no poverty, pollution, or injustice. But they don't and never will, which is why we need to be compassionate, idealistic, pragmatic, and flexible in using all the tools at our disposal to meet the challenges of our time. We have an enormous amount to learn from each other in philanthropy's journey towards greater impact: Transparency is the first important step.



*Twelve Apostles. Credit: Ronald Woan. Creative Commons License.*





## CHAPTER 1

# U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia

### ABOUT THE DATA

This analysis is based on Foundation Center's research set, which includes all grants of \$10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations. To account for several funders known to have a presence in Australia, the set also includes data from five additional foundations.<sup>2</sup>

The set represents approximately half of the total grant dollars awarded by the universe of independent, corporate, community, and grantmaking operating foundations in the United States. The data do not include grants by smaller foundations; gifts by corporate giving programs or public charities; grants, fellowships, or awards made directly to individuals; grants paid by private foundations to U.S. community foundations (to avoid double counting of dollars); and loans or program-related investments.

Grants included in the analysis for this report include those to recipients located in Australia, as well as to organizations in the U.S. and abroad with programs targeting Australia.

All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.

1 Horne, J. (2011). *The Rockefeller Foundation and the Modern Australian University, 1926-1942*. [www.rockarch.org/publications/resrep/horne.pdf](http://www.rockarch.org/publications/resrep/horne.pdf) [Accessed 29 October 2015].

2 These foundations are Atlantic Philanthropies, Foundation for a Just Society, May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Motorola Solutions Foundation, and the Christensen Fund.

U.S. foundation involvement in Australia dates back nearly a century, marked by investments from the Rockefeller Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York to support and develop Australian universities. These investments represented a form of "soft diplomacy," opening up relations between the United States and Australia, while also helping to position Australian universities among the ranks of major research institutions internationally.<sup>1</sup>

U.S. foundations continue to provide significant funding to institutions of higher education, but they are also contributing to a wide range of other issues in modern-day Australia, from supporting rights and opportunities for Aboriginal groups to protecting the biodiversity of Australia's rich natural resources.

In this report, the first of its kind, we examine the priorities of U.S. foundation funding to organizations located in Australia, as well as funding for organizations supporting causes in Australia. This report is based on grants information collected by Foundation Center on U.S. private, community, and corporate foundations and provides detailed analyses related to issues, populations, and recipients served by U.S. foundation grants awarded between 2011 and 2013. The report also provides a breakdown of grantmaking by geography and notes top foundation funders.

### GIVING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA BY U.S. PUBLIC CHARITIES

U.S. public charities are another source of grantmaking support for Australia. Public charities typically derive their funding primarily from the general public, receiving contributions from individuals, as well as from government and private foundations. According to Foundation Center's database, between 2011 and 2013, 13 U.S. public charities distributed \$6.5 million to/for Australia. Though these figures are not comprehensive, they demonstrate the sizable contributions made by public charities.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Tides Foundation, and Give2Asia were among the largest funders. In the three-year period, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors distributed 71 grants totaling \$2.9 million. The largest grant was \$200,000 in 2013 to Lord Somers Camp, which engages young people in volunteering and community development. The contribution, made in honor of Sue Home, supported construction of an all-weather roof for the camp's all-purpose court. Tides Foundation distributed 22 grants totaling \$1.7 million, and Give2Asia allocated 36 grants totaling \$1 million.



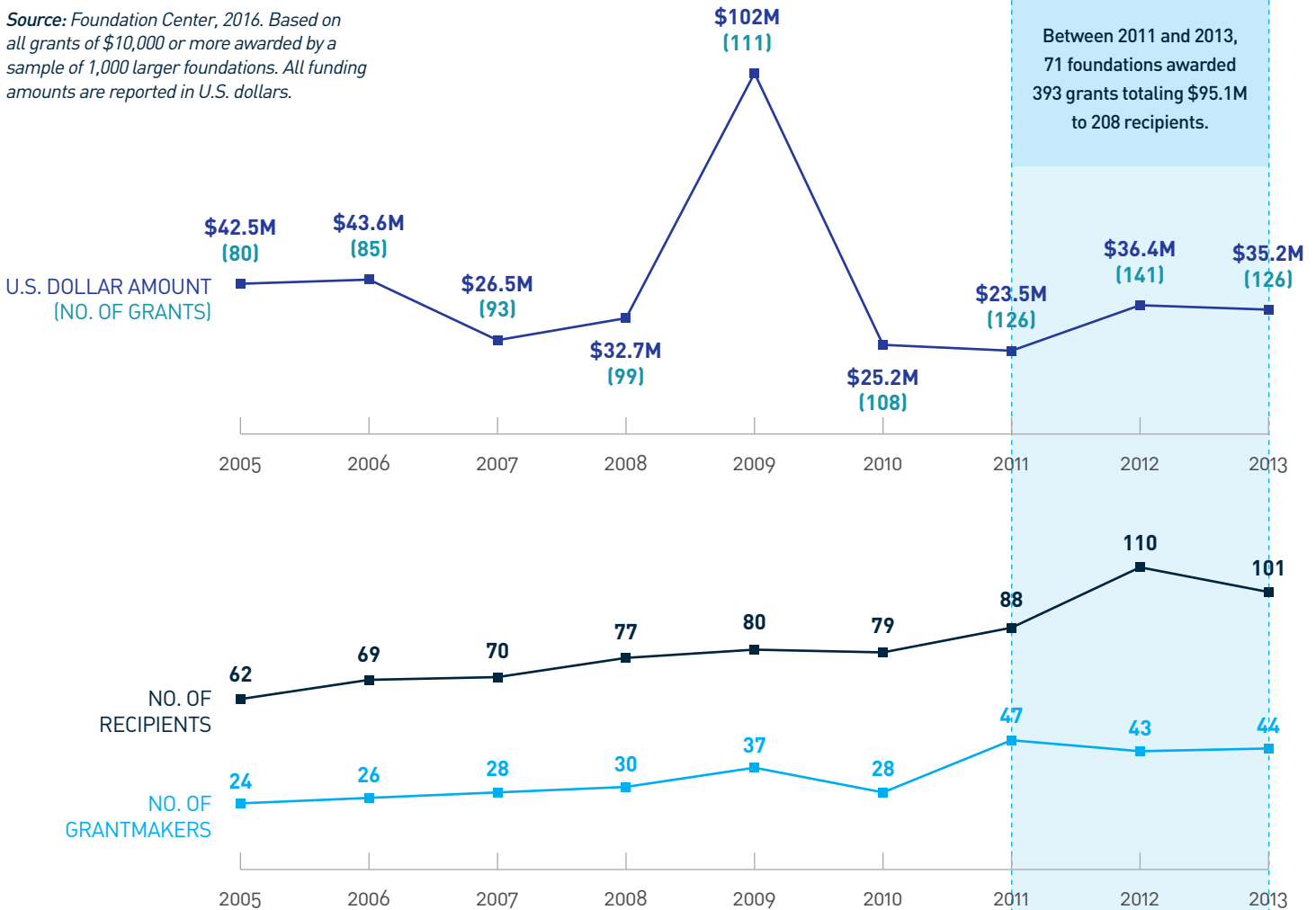
# Trends in U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia

Between 2005 and 2013 (with the exception of 2009), annual U.S. foundation giving to/for Australia ranged from \$23.5 million to \$43.6 million. In 2009, giving spiked to \$102 million, reflecting three large grants made by Atlantic Philanthropies totaling \$84.5 million. The number of U.S. foundations active in Australia in any given year increased from 24 in 2005 to 44 in 2013. Some of this growth can be attributed to an increase in the number of community foundations

contributing to Australia, but it is unclear what other factors may have contributed to this increase. Building on this broad overview of historical trends, this report takes a closer look at more recent trends, focusing on funding to/for Australia between 2011 and 2013, using the most complete and comprehensive data available. During this period, 393 grants were awarded by U.S. foundations, with a three-year total of \$95.1 million.

## U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA, 2005–2013

*Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.*



## HOW FOUNDATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD SUPPORT AUSTRALIA

While there is no comprehensive directory of global philanthropic grantmaking, Foundation Center's database contains select grants from non-U.S. foundations, including 38 grants totaling \$5.3 million to/for Australia between 2011 and 2013. These grants spanned a variety of issue areas, including the arts, human rights, and the environment.

The Geneva-based Oak Foundation gave at least \$3.6 million to Australia-based organizations between 2011 and 2013. The foundation awarded a \$1.4 million grant in 2013 to the Queensland Ballet Company to establish the Jette Parker Young Artist Program, supporting talented young dancers at the start of

their professional careers. In 2012, the Oak Foundation gave a \$1.2 million grant to the International Detention Coalition to expand the organization's efforts to prevent and limit the use of detention as a tool of migration management, instead focusing on alternatives to detention and increasing the capacity of NGOs to engage with governments.

Stichting DOEN, a government-linked foundation based in Amsterdam, also provided substantial funding through a \$663,206 grant to Embark Australia to recruit, train, and finance local energy entrepreneurs, who will set up the production of, and access to, sustainable energy.

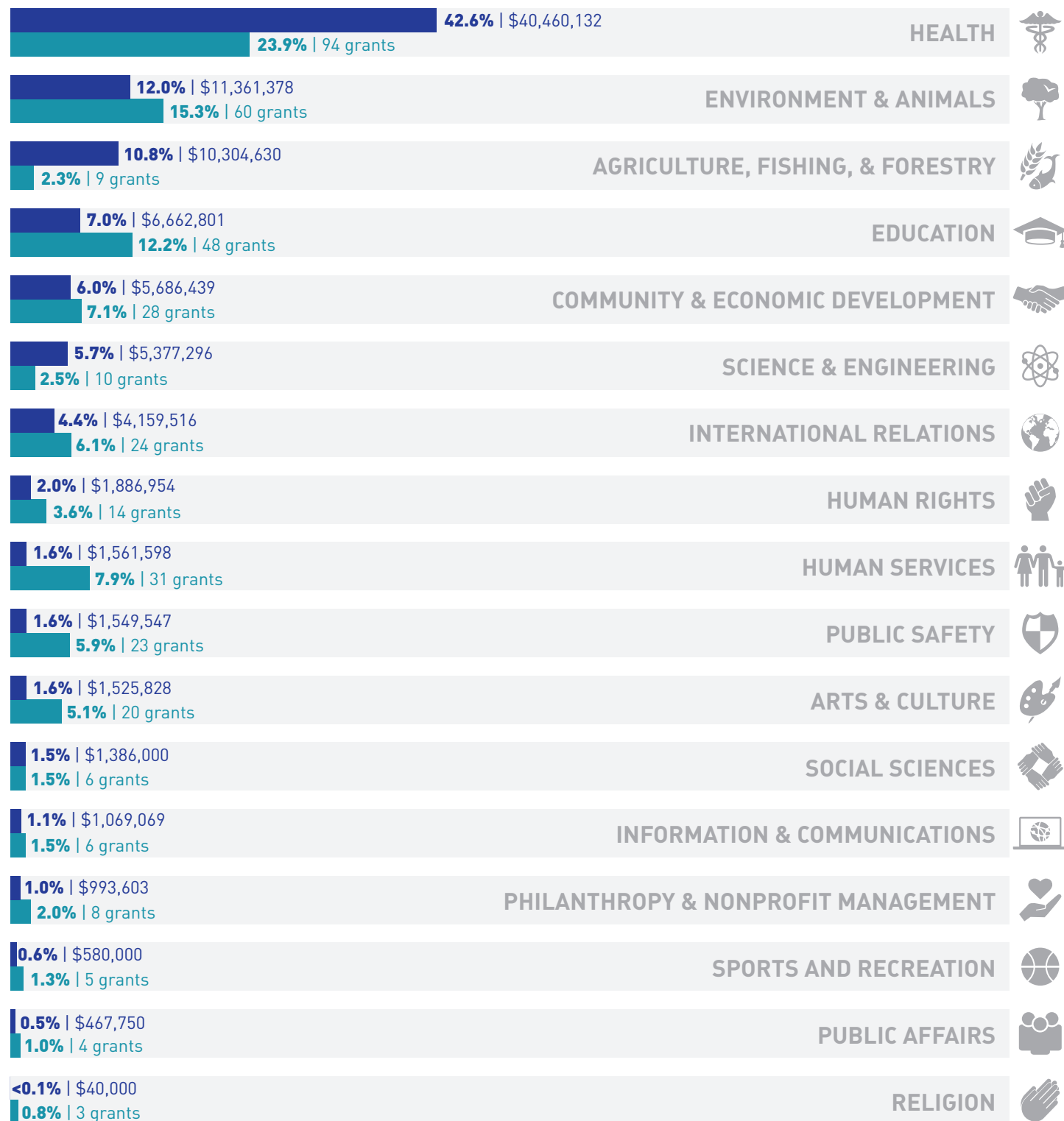


# U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia by Issue Area

Between 2011 and 2013, the largest proportion of grants awarded to/for Australia focused on health. Health-focused grants accounted for \$40.5 million in giving, comprising 43 percent of total grantmaking. Grants related to the environment and animals comprised 12 percent of grant dollars, totaling \$11.4 million, followed closely by agriculture, fishing, and forestry grants, which made up 11 percent of overall funding, totaling \$10.3 million.

A more detailed look finds that much of the health-related funding focused on grants for research related to particular diseases and conditions. This was driven largely by funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which was responsible for 73 percent (\$29 million) of health-related grant dollars. If the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were excluded from the sample, the largest percentage of grants would have been for the environment and animals (23 percent).

## U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA BY ISSUE AREA, 2011–2013













**% OF GIVING** | Amount in U.S. Dollars  
**% OF GRANTS** | Number of Grants

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100%. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.



U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA BY ISSUE AREA (Detailed Breakdown), 2011–2013

Issue Area	Total: \$	Total: Grants
 <b>HEALTH</b>	<b>Total: \$40,460,132</b>	<b>Total: 94 grants</b>
Specified Diseases & Conditions	\$24,044,662	48 grants
Medical Specialties	\$10,397,065	15 grants
Public Health	\$2,293,753	11 grants
Reproductive Health Care	\$1,399,987	5 grants
In-Patient/Out-Patient Health Care	\$565,787	3 grants
Mental Health	\$177,323	5 grants
Other Health	\$1,581,555	7 grants
 <b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; ANIMALS</b>	<b>Total: \$11,361,378</b>	<b>Total: 60 grants</b>
Natural Resources	\$5,610,407	39 grants
Biodiversity	\$2,464,108	10 grants
Domesticated Animals	\$10,000	1 grant
Other Environment & Animals	\$3,276,863	10 grants
 <b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Total: \$6,662,801</b>	<b>Total: 48 grants</b>
Higher Education	\$4,164,473	23 grants
Elementary & Secondary Education	\$1,145,228	14 grants
Education Services	\$1,015,000	6 grants
Vocational Education	\$215,000	1 grant
Graduate & Professional Education	\$36,000	1 grant
Other Education	\$87,100	3 grants
 <b>COMMUNITY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>Total: \$5,686,439</b>	<b>Total: 28 grants</b>
Community Improvement	\$932,445	5 grants
Economic Development & Employment	\$901,494	7 grants
Other Community & Economic Development	\$3,852,500	16 grants
 <b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	<b>Total: \$1,561,598</b>	<b>Total: 31 grants</b>
Youth Development	\$964,250	9 grants
Family Services	\$40,533	3 grants
Housing Services & Residential Care	\$35,000	2 grants
Emergency Assistance	\$20,000	1 grant
Other Human Services	\$501,815	16 grants
 <b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>Total: \$1,549,547</b>	<b>Total: 23 grants</b>
Disasters & Emergency Management	\$1,169,727	17 grants
Crime Prevention	\$148,000	2 grants
Courts & Legal Services	\$111,820	1 grant
Other Public Safety	\$120,000	3 grants
 <b>ARTS &amp; CULTURE</b>	<b>Total: \$1,525,828</b>	<b>Total: 20 grants</b>
Performing Arts	\$437,162	9 grants
Museums	\$411,000	4 grants
Humanities	\$158,500	2 grants
Arts (Multipurpose)	\$124,166	2 grants
Other Arts	\$395,000	3 grants
 <b>INFORMATION &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>Total: \$1,069,069</b>	<b>Total: 6 grants</b>
Libraries	\$520,821	1 grant
Media Access & Technologies	\$458,303	4 grants
Journalism	\$89,945	1 grant

 % OF GIVING | Amount in U.S. Dollars  
 % OF GRANTS | Number of Grants

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100%. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.

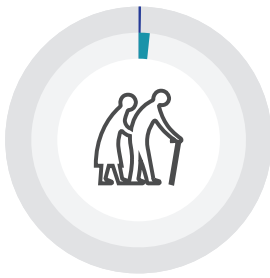


# U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia by Population Focus

More than half of all grant dollars (52 percent) were explicitly designated for economically disadvantaged groups. Importantly, many grants were for the benefit of the general public or did not

have enough description to identify a population focus—this was the case for nearly a quarter of grant dollars (24 percent).

## U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA BY POPULATION GROUP, 2011–2013



### AGING/SENIORS

0.3% | \$285,749  
1.8% | 7 grants



### CHILDREN & YOUTH

22.2% | \$21,069,677  
26.2% | 103 grants



### ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

51.8% | \$49,247,840  
27.2% | 107 grants



### ETHNIC/RACIAL IDENTITY

1.4% | \$1,284,000  
2.5% | 10 grants

#### Detailed Breakdown

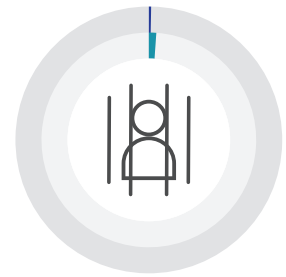
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>1.4%   \$1,284,000</b>
General	1.0%   \$980,000
African Descent	0.3%   \$304,000
Asian Descent	0.1%   \$50,000

<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>2.5%   10 grants</b>
General	2.0%   8 grants
African Descent	0.5%   2 grants
Asian Descent	0.3%   1 grant



### IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, & REFUGEES

1.1% | \$1,069,856  
2.5% | 10 grants



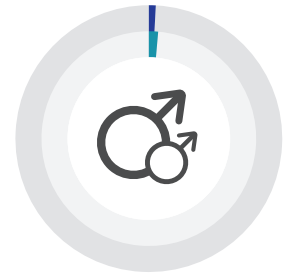
### INCARCERATED PEOPLE & EX-OFFENDERS

0.3% | \$279,874  
1.3% | 5 grants



### INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

1.4% | \$1,325,000  
4.1% | 16 grants



### MEN & BOYS

1.0% | \$964,174  
1.5% | 6 grants

**% OF GIVING** | Amount in U.S. Dollars

**% OF GRANTS** | Number of Grants



Indigenous Australians in Sydney. Credit: Günter. Creative Commons License.

### FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Indigenous Australians make up about 3 percent of the Australian population, with about 27 percent living in rural or remote areas. Due to a history of forced removal and oppression, they tend to have lower indicators of social and economic well-being. A number of foundations have focused their philanthropic efforts on improving outcomes for Australian Aborigines.





**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

2.3% | \$2,217,290

7.9% | 31 grants

**Detailed Breakdown**

<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>2.3%</b>   2,217,290
People w/ Psychosocial Disabilities	0.8%   \$772,986
People w/ Hearing Impairments	0.3%   \$315,000
People w/ Vision Impairments	0.3%   \$272,000
People w/ Intellectual Disabilities	0.1%   \$75,426
People w/ Physical Disabilities	< 0.1%   \$15,801

<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>7.9%</b>   31 grants
People w/ Psychosocial Disabilities	2.3%   9 grants
People w/ Hearing Impairments	1.0%   4 grants
People w/ Vision Impairments	2.0%   8 grants
People w/ Intellectual Disabilities	0.5%   2 grants
People w/ Physical Disabilities	0.3%   1 grant



**PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS**

7.6% | \$7,208,284

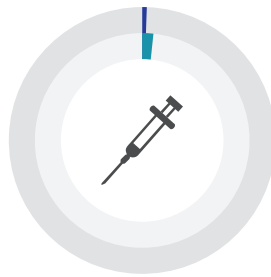
2.8% | 11 grants



**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

0.6% | \$601,174

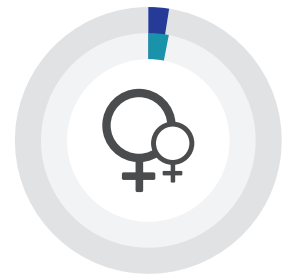
0.8% | 3 grants



**SUBSTANCE ABUSERS**

0.8% | \$783,878

1.8% | 7 grants



**WOMEN & GIRLS**

2.7% | \$2,600,533

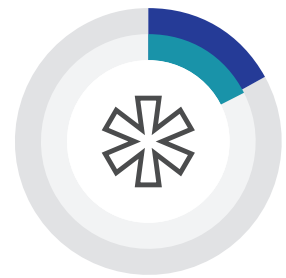
3.1% | 12 grants



**NOT SPECIFIED/GENERAL PUBLIC**

23.7% | \$22,516,498

31.6% | 124 grants



**OTHER SPECIFIED POPULATIONS**

17.1% | \$16,218,236

17.6% | 69 grants

*Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Figures represent only grants awarded to groups that could be identified as serving specific populations or grants whose descriptions specified a benefit for a specific population. In addition, grants may benefit multiple population groups, e.g., a grant for female refugees, and would therefore be counted more than once. As a result, figures do not add up to 100 percent. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.*

Between 2011 and 2013, U.S. foundations committed 16 grants totaling \$1.3 million explicitly designated for indigenous populations. The Christensen Fund, Citi Foundation, and Coca-Cola Foundation emerged as top funders investing in Indigenous Australians. The Christensen Fund distributed six grants totaling \$334,000 to various organizations, including \$130,000 to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, underwriting two year-long fellowships for indigenous

artists from Northern Australia and Melanesia. The Citi Foundation gave three grants to the United Way Worldwide, supporting the indigenous and community outreach efforts of ASPIRE, a program of the University of New South Wales. The Coca-Cola Foundation focused its investments on mentoring experiences for students of Aboriginal descent, providing grants to the Clontarf Foundation and Jawun Indigenous Corporate Partnerships.

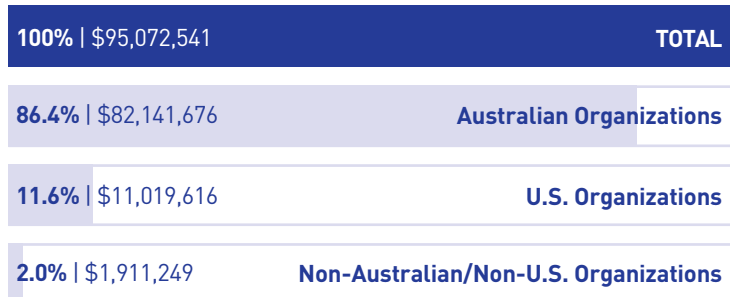


# U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia by Recipient Location, 2011–2013

Almost all grant dollars in the sample (86 percent) were made directly to organizations located in Australia. Nearly 12 percent of grant dollars went to organizations located in the United States with programs for Australia, while 2 percent of grant dollars were awarded to organizations located in other countries.

Among grant dollars awarded to recipients in Australia, organizations located in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland received roughly equal amounts of funding (around \$22 million each), with the remaining funds distributed among organizations located in other states and territories.

## U.S. DOLLAR AMOUNT



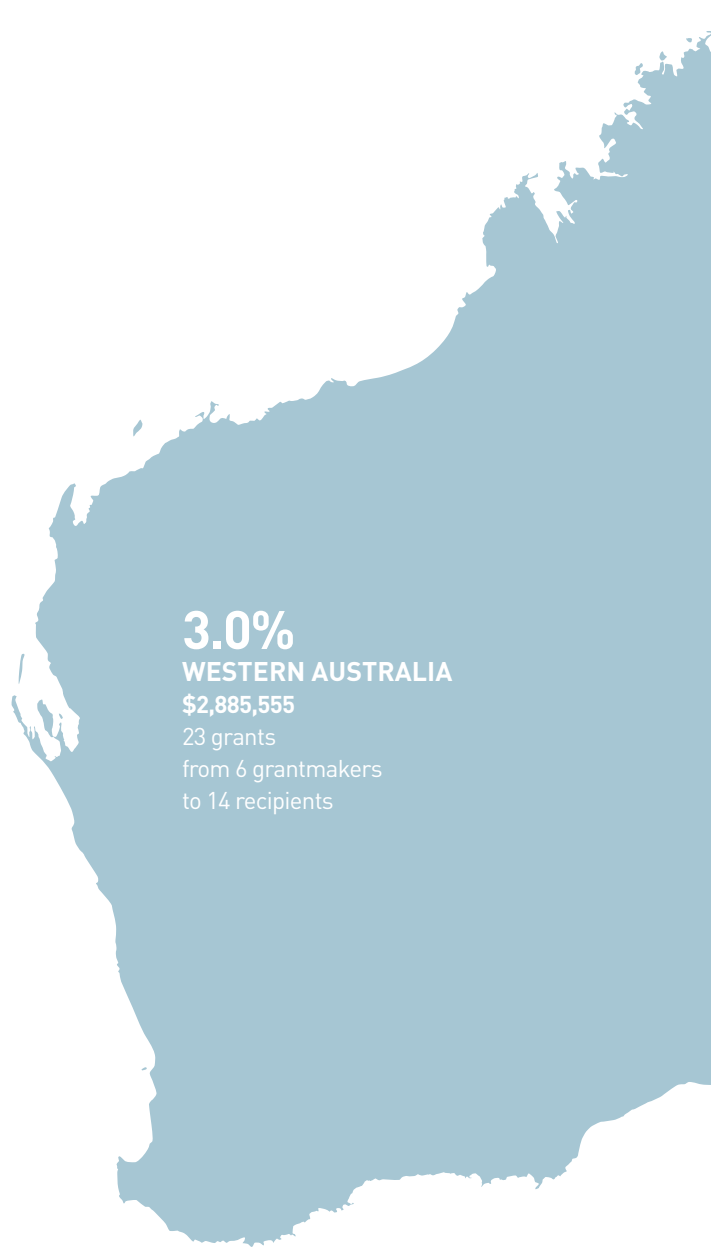
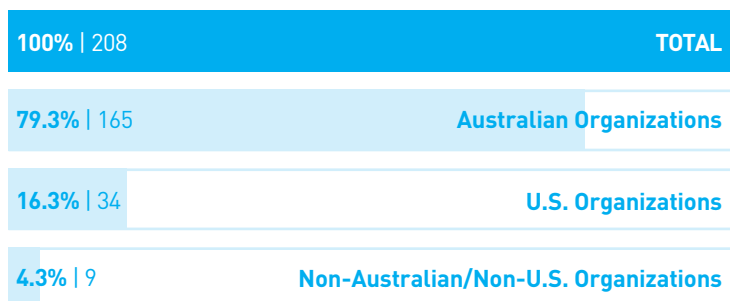
## NO. OF GRANTS



## NO. OF GRANTMAKERS



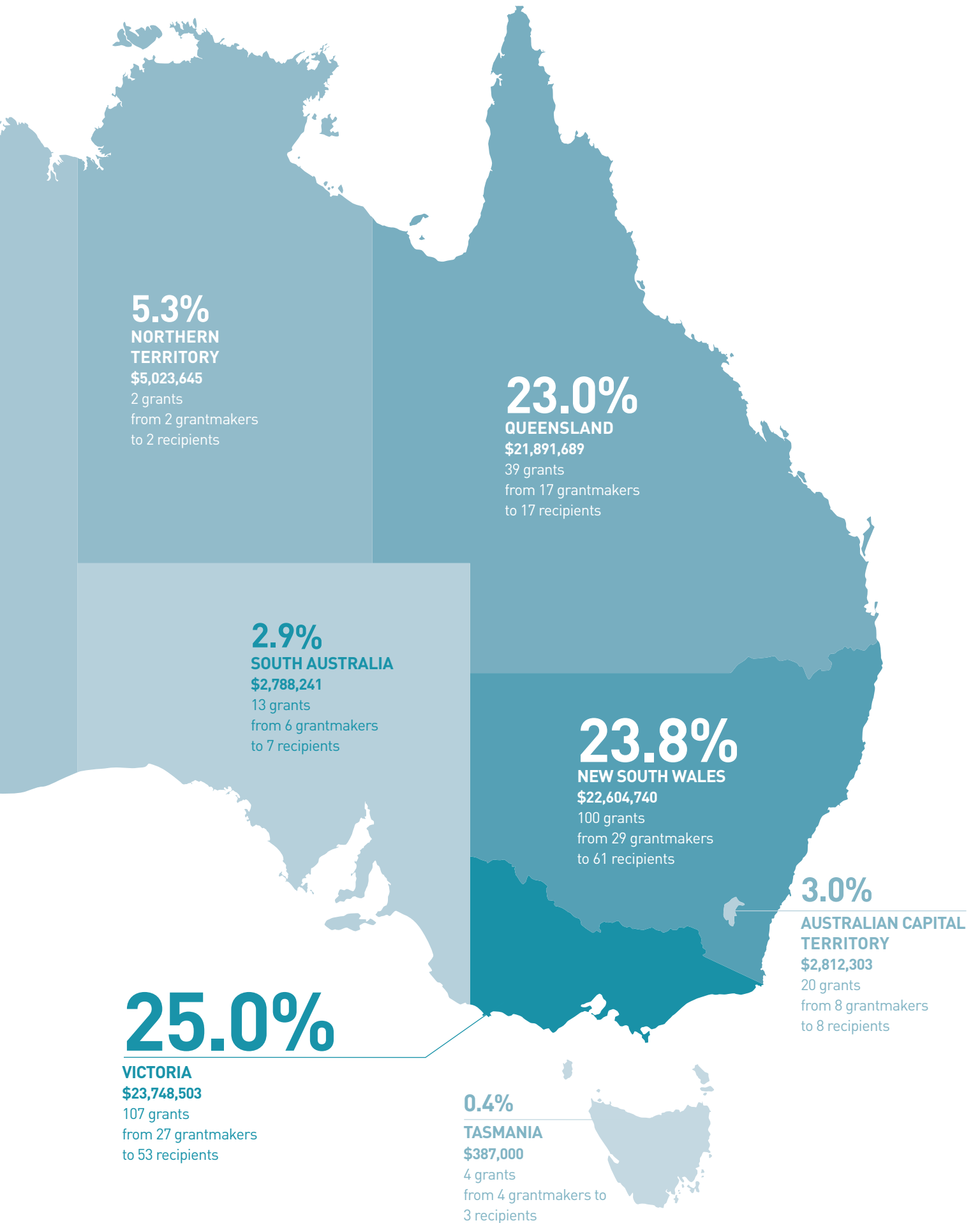
## NO. OF RECIPIENTS



<sup>3</sup> Represents the unique total. Grantmakers may award grants to recipients located in Australia, the United States, and other countries.

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100 percent. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.







## Top U.S. Foundation Funders to/for Australia, 2011–2013

Consistent with funding trends in the United States, the largest funder to/for Australia was the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which awarded 47 percent of all grant dollars to/for Australia via 54 grants totaling \$44.5 million. The second-largest funder, Atlantic Philanthropies, awarded \$7.1 million. Atlantic Philanthropies, a spend-down foundation that plans to suspend its grantmaking in 2016, closed its office in Sydney in 2012. However, the foundation maintained a longstanding focus on Australia and over the years awarded more than \$385 million to key higher education and health research institutions in Australia.<sup>4</sup> Alcoa Foundation, the top corporate funder in Australia, invested heavily in environmental causes.

The ten largest grants totaled \$35.2 million, accounting for over a third (37 percent) of all grantmaking to/for Australia. Seven of the 10 largest grants were distributed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (\$25.7 million)—to universities, health research institutes, and a public health policy organization. Additional grants in the top 10 came from Atlantic Philanthropies (\$4.9 million), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (\$3 million), and the Rockefeller Foundation (\$1.8 million).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/region/australia>, Accessed February 11, 2016

### TOP U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDERS TO/FOR AUSTRALIA, 2011–2013

Name	Location	Type <sup>5</sup>	U.S. Dollar Amount	No. of Grants
1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	IN	44,481,187	54
2. Atlantic Philanthropies	NY	IN	7,080,507	5
3. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	CA	IN	4,735,875	3
4. Alcoa Foundation	PA	CS	4,335,517	38
5. Coca-Cola Foundation	GA	CS	3,822,000	16
6. Rockefeller Foundation	NY	IN	2,823,250	5
7. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	IN	2,370,000	8
8. Omidyar Network Fund	CA	IN	2,100,000	2
9. Dow Chemical Company Foundation	MI	CS	1,893,334	4
10. May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust	CA	IN	1,725,000	29
11. San Diego Foundation	CA	CM	1,666,908	13
12. Ford Foundation	NY	IN	1,397,205	7
13. JPMorgan Chase Foundation	NY	CS	1,384,350	8
14. Citi Foundation	NY	CS	1,345,000	8
15. Open Society Foundations	NY	IN	1,146,240	15
16. Packard Humanities Institute	CA	OP	1,144,000	3
17. David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	IN	1,050,090	10
18. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	NY	IN	1,000,000	4
19. John Templeton Foundation	PA	IN	989,393	18
20. Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation	CA	IN	963,696	8
All Other Foundations			7,618,989	135
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$95,072,541</b>	<b>393</b>

Established by the co-founder of Intel and his wife, the California-based **Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** supports environmental conservation and science.

The California-based **May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust** was established in 1989 to support foster children and youth, the elderly, military veterans and their families, and people with disabilities. Stanley Smith was an Australian citizen.

All three of the **Packard Humanities Institute's** grants (\$1.1 million) went to the **University of Western Australia** for its aerial photographic archive for archaeology in the Middle East.

*Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.*

<sup>5</sup> IN = Independent Foundation;  
CM = Community Foundation;  
CS = Corporate Foundation;  
OP = Operating Foundation

### A GLIMPSE AT 2014–2015 GRANTS

While complete grants data for 2014 and 2015 are not available, Foundation Center's database already contains a handful of recent grants to/for Australia that provide a glimpse at funding trends. The database currently contains 40 grants to/for Australia totaling \$50.2 million. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continues to play a central role in giving, accounting for half of these grants, totaling \$43.7 million. This includes a 2014 grant for \$14.5 million to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation for agricultural development.

In 2015, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation distributed \$2.9 million to the Sydney-based Fred Hollows Foundation to help develop and provide outcome funding for the Cameroon Cataract Performance Bond, an innovative pay-for-performance financing mechanism. Also in 2015, the McKnight Foundation granted \$100,000 to Charles Sturt University in Albury for graduate research training opportunities for African students in agricultural ecology to support food security.

# Top Recipients of U.S. Foundation Funding to/for Australia, 2011–2013

Sixteen of the top 20 recipients of funding to/for Australia are located in Australia, while the remaining four are located in the U.S. and have programs or initiatives focused on Australia. Eleven of the top 20 are

universities, reflecting the long tradition of U.S. foundation support of Australian universities.

## TOP RECIPIENTS OF U.S. FOUNDATION FUNDING TO/FOR AUSTRALIA, 2011–2013

Name	City	Location	U.S. Dollar Amount	No. of Grants
1. Murdoch Childrens Research Institute	Parkville	Australia	9,004,463	5
2. Queensland University of Technology	Brisbane	Australia	6,417,471	5
3. University of Queensland	Brisbane	Australia	5,125,278	9
4. Policy Cures	Sydney	Australia	4,998,895	1
5. Menzies School of Health Research	Tiwi	Australia	4,983,645	1
6. Princess Alexandra Hospital	Brisbane	Australia	4,859,750	1
7. University of Sydney	Sydney	Australia	3,162,734	15
8. University of Technology, Sydney	Ultimo	Australia	2,965,000	1
9. University of New South Wales	Sydney	Australia	2,677,448	4
10. ICLEI Australia/New Zealand	Melbourne	Australia	2,368,250	3
11. Monash University	Clayton	Australia	1,860,528	6
12. Griffith University	Nathan	Australia	1,822,097	3
13. Queensland University of Technology	Caboolture	Australia	1,627,719	1
14. World Vision	Federal Way, WA	USA	1,571,606	1
15. Flinders University of South Australia	Adelaide	Australia	1,563,110	2
16. World Wildlife Fund	Washington, DC	USA	1,515,000	3
17. United Way Worldwide	Alexandria, VA	USA	1,345,000	8
18. University of New England	Armidale	Australia	1,325,836	1
19. University of Western Australia	Perth	Australia	1,304,000	4
20. Social Finance	Boston, MA	USA	1,300,000	1
All Other Recipients			33,274,711	318
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$95,072,541</b>	<b>393</b>

The **University of Queensland** received a \$250,000 grant from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** for natural resource management in the Solomon Islands over three years.

The **Princess Alexandra Hospital** received \$4,859,750 from **Atlantic Philanthropies** to establish a center dedicated to the prevention and cure of head and neck cancer in Queensland and Southeast Asia.

The **Rockefeller Foundation** gave **ICLEI Australia/New Zealand** three grants totaling \$2,368,250 for urban climate change resilience.

*Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by a sample of 1,000 larger foundations. All funding amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.*

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION FUNDING?

In the United States, the government requires private foundations to report their assets and grantmaking information annually to the Internal Revenue Service. This information is publicly available, allowing Foundation Center to code, clean, and analyze this information, and provides the basis for the Center's comprehensive database on U.S. philanthropy.

Such reporting requirements and public accessibility are not common elsewhere in the world. In Australia, the two most common forms of foundations, private ancillary funds and public ancillary funds, report their grants to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO); however, the ATO does not publish this information because of taxation secrecy laws. While organizations like Philanthropy Australia have successfully built connections among foundations in Australia and lifted up the work of philanthropy, relatively little

systematic information about the philanthropic sector in Australia is available to the public.

This report represents a first step in documenting U.S. philanthropic dollars flowing to Australia and sheds light on which causes are being funded by which foundations and for how much. Ideally, in the future, this information will be complemented by detailed information on philanthropic activities by Australian foundations, leading to a more complete picture of philanthropic funding flows. Through an annual publication or an interactive database, similar to those that exist in the United States, Mexico, and China, funders would be able to understand the landscape of both funders and grant recipients. This information could help grantmakers identify funding gaps, catalyze collaborations, and inform strategic decision making, all in the service of a more effective sector.





## CHAPTER 2

# Funder Perspectives on Philanthropy in Australia

### ABOUT THE DATA

This chapter is based on telephone interviews with three Australian and four U.S. funders:

#### **Fay Fuller Foundation** (Australia)

Supports organizations located in South Australia, particularly in the area of health

#### **Give2Asia** (U.S.)

Connects donors with local organizations in Asia

#### **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** (U.S.)

Addresses a variety of societal challenges including over-incarceration, global climate change, and nuclear risk

#### **May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust** (U.S.)

Supports organizations that serve foster children and youth, military veterans, elders, and youth and adults with disabilities

#### **Origin Foundation** (Australia)

Funds programs that use education to help break the cycle of disadvantage

#### **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** (U.S.)

Advances social change through democratic practice, peacebuilding, and sustainable development

#### **Sidney Myer Fund and the Myer Foundation** (Australia)

Supports the arts and humanities, education, poverty and disadvantage, and sustainability and the environment

The interview list and interview protocol were jointly determined by Foundation Center, the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, and Philanthropy Australia. This section synthesizes common themes and shared perspectives, as well as unique points of view.

The quantitative data in the first chapter provide a picture of the funding priorities of U.S. foundations to/for Australia. But what are some of the motivations that lie behind the numbers? What do funders see as the specific challenges and opportunities in Australia? The following section synthesizes the views of philanthropic leaders from the United States and Australia.

## U.S. Foundations' Motivations for Funding in Australia

Foundations created by individuals or families often have personal connections to Australia. For example, Stanley Smith was born in Australia. To honor specific interests of its founding donors, the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust makes a small number of discretionary grants in locations significant to its founders, including Australia, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom.

Corporations and corporate foundations that are philanthropically active in Australia typically invest in areas where they have offices or headquarters. They may see the region as an emerging market or invest in issues that align with their interests. Companies may also support employee giving projects and volunteer efforts. Alcoa Foundation awards grants to Australian NGOs in the areas of conservation and sustainability, global education and workplace skills, business and community partnerships, and safe and healthy children and families. The foundation encourages employees to volunteer through two programs in particular, ACTION and Bravo!, but also supports employee engagement in areas that suit their skills and interests.

Some donors, like the San Francisco-based social enterprise Give2Asia, solely target funding for the Pacific region. Others are focused on issue areas that draw them to institutions based in Australia. The MacArthur Foundation, which has a strategic focus on nuclear security, makes grants to Australian organizations with expertise in this area.

## Funding Priorities and Opportunities

Just as in the U.S., societal challenges in Australia cover a broad spectrum, and opportunities for philanthropic investment abound. Based on interviews with both U.S. and Australian funders, critical social issues include constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians, income inequality, climate change and the environment, vocational and higher education, opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people, refugee resettlement and social cohesion, and marriage equality.

Several interviewees cited the vast disparity in outcomes experienced by rural communities and indigenous populations. Linda Griffith, an Australian program consultant working for the U.S.-based Give2Asia, observed, “Australia is a huge country, as big as the U.S., with a relatively small population. We are also known as a wealthy country, but we have huge gaps with people living in remote and rural areas. We also have gaps between white-born Australians and the indigenous populations, with huge differences in education. This is an area that provides lots of opportunity for funding.”

Indeed, Origin Foundation, which focuses squarely on improving educational outcomes, particularly for indigenous and rural children, came to its focus through a review of the research evidence. “When we look at the issues to be addressed in Australia, we go to the work of the Productivity Commission,” states Director Sean Barrett. “They released a report, *Deep and Persistent Disadvantage in Australia* (2013), that stated that the key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage is education. It reinforced our belief that this is where we wanted to keep our focus.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The Productivity Commission is an independent Australian government body that undertakes research and provides advice to the government on economic, social, and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. *Deep and Persistent Disadvantage in Australia* can be accessed here: [www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/deep-persistent-disadvantage](http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/deep-persistent-disadvantage)







## Perceptions About the Australian NGO Community

In Australia, as in the U.S., the NGO community is a key driver of positive social change through programs, advocacy, and research. At the same time, because many smaller Australian NGOs are more accustomed to working with individual donors rather than institutional donors like foundations, several U.S. funders highlighted the need for additional capacity building related to communicating outcomes and impacts, which are commonly included as a part of reporting requirements for grants awarded by U.S. foundations. One funder noted about his foundation's grantees, "This wasn't something they seemed accustomed to having to think about." Similarly, Linda Griffith noticed that "many NGOs are not used to the rigor that Give2Asia encourages. We've helped their staff develop far more rigor in the accountability and reporting process."

On the other hand, another U.S. funder comments that many of the Australian think tanks and academic institutions have excelled in their outcomes-based reporting. This perhaps reflects the size and type of organization being funded, with universities and national policy

organizations having greater experience working with foundations and better capacity in general to measure their work and impact. This funder reports experiencing some of these challenges in other Asian countries, "but I also occasionally have that problem in the United States. There are some organizations who are far better at this than others."

NGO sustainability is another concern expressed by both U.S. and Australian funders. Origin Foundation's Sean Barrett noted, "There is this issue of reliance, where the organization becomes reliant upon a single funder. We work very hard with people to try to help them understand what might be a sustainability plan. We worry that too much effort is wasted on reinventing programs rather than focusing on sustainability of programs."

Australian funders added that the traditional grantmaking framework (smaller grants for a three-year period or shorter) does not promote NGO sustainability. A larger, longer-term grant is often necessary



Sydney Harbour Bridge. Credit: Lenny K Photography. Creative Commons License.

“We worry that too much effort is wasted on reinventing programs rather than focusing on sustainability of programs.”

–Sean Barrett, *Director, Origin Foundation*

to give a program a chance for success. This may be difficult for most private ancillary funds established by families with modest balances, observes Stacey Thomas, CEO of the Fay Fuller Foundation. “But for bigger foundations that have a more considerable corpus, it’s not as big of an issue. We don’t see the bravery of, ‘Yes, I’m going to back this organization for the next ten years.’ You just don’t see that.”

Funding for general operations is also important. Give2Asia’s Aqeela Jogee, director of advisory services, states that this is “particularly poignant in Australia because of the higher cost of living. Maintaining staff and core business so you can run the programs donors want to fund, it’s particularly an issue in Australia because everything is high here (rent, salary, etc.). When they don’t have funding for core business operations, it becomes even more difficult for local organizations.”

It is important to note that these challenges around NGO capacity and grantmaking strategies are not unique to the Australian funding environment. Certainly in the U.S., NGO sustainability is a concern, particularly for smaller grassroots organizations, and grantmakers around the globe have discussed how best to support grantee capacity.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> For more on how funders can approach building capacity with grantees, see *Supporting Grantee Capacity: Strengthening Effectiveness Together*: <http://www.grantcraft.org/guides/supporting-grantee-capacity>





## Collaboration

“Collaboration is essential because we are small, each of us,” comments Stephen B. Heintz, president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. “Even the big foundations, compared to the scale of the problems we are focused on, we’re small players. Collaboration is a way we can magnify our impact and learn from each other. But it’s hard work.”

### U.S.-AUSTRALIA COLLABORATION

U.S. foundations vary in their level of collaboration with Australian organizations and institutions. Time and distance are inherent challenges. The lack of face-to-face interaction also creates challenges, requiring attention to the nuances of communicating effectively through email and other means.

Larger U.S.-based funders may have the benefit of a local office or local expert. “The really cool part of Give2Asia is our local partners, people on the ground that can provide local perspective and knowledge,” according to Aqeela Jogee. “One of the key aspects of Give2Asia’s work in the area is because Linda [Griffith, Australia and New Zealand program consultant] is able to provide incredible knowledge. Whenever we do due diligence on a local organization, Linda can provide reputation knowledge. She has deep experience in the social sector, and she’s able to provide guidance to local organizations on the kind of projects that will make us stronger.”

“There’s a certain dynamism in this emerging sector in Australia. I think it’s growing, and people are increasingly interested in it.”

–**Stephen B. Heintz**, *President, Rockefeller Brothers Fund*

Australian funders we interviewed had little to no collaborative opportunities with U.S. funders. “In 10 years, it’s never come up,” according to Stacey Thomas of the Fay Fuller Foundation.

As philanthropy continues to develop as an organized sector in Australia and foundations move toward greater collaboration, new partnerships may emerge. In late 2014, Philanthropy Australia organized an overseas study tour, bringing 24 members to New York City and Washington, DC to meet with U.S. philanthropists. Stephen B. Heintz recalls meeting this delegation and describes “a certain dynamism in this emerging sector in Australia. I think it’s growing, and people are increasingly interested in it. They have a real interest in expanding philanthropy, looking at best practices, and thinking





Perth's Panorama. Credit: akeij. Creative Commons License.

about how it can move from more traditional forms of charitable giving to more strategic forms of philanthropy, both within Australia and in its region of the globe.”

#### **COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

U.S. funders may have some interactions with the Australian government but little collaboration. Give2Asia, for example, funds projects and works with NGOs that are partially funded by the government. The benefit of working with a government-backed organization, according to Linda Griffith, is that “you know it’s well vetted. It gives you confidence. If there’s a gap in funding, government may step in.”

Another U.S. funder communicates with government officials to discuss government priorities and policies. “We also ask them about the areas we’ve funded: Is the work product useful to you? Do you rely on it? Is it credible and well researched? Overall, there seems to be general consensus that the government officials do find it very useful.”

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has successfully partnered with governments primarily through shaping policies, supporting select innovations, and encouraging cross-sector and cross-border collaborations and coalitions.

Australian foundations, themselves, have varying degrees of collaboration with government. In the context of significant social challenges and decreased government funding, Origin Foundation’s Sean Barrett sees collaboration with government as the “Holy Grail of Australian philanthropy and rarely achieved.”

Sidney Myer Fund and the Myer Foundation, two separate Australian philanthropic entities of Myer family philanthropy, have worked with many government agencies over the years on a range of projects. The trustees of Sidney Myer Fund, directors of the Myer Foundation, and office staff have, at various times, acted on advisory bodies or participated in strategic reviews of different government programs or sector involvements, as well as made grants in support of or to initiate projects.

Stacey Thomas was part of a working group with the state government of Victoria to come up with ways for government and philanthropy to collaborate through learning opportunities, workshops, and better understanding between the two sectors. “There have been a lot of discussions, but at the end of the day our priorities tend to be different. The relationship seems to be less about collaboration and more about co-funding.”



## COLLABORATION AMONG AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

Collaboration occurs more readily among Australian foundations. However, “the word collaboration in philanthropic language is a bit tricky,” observes a funder. “Collaboration can mean different things to different people.”

Private foundations occasionally come together to co-fund projects, but it is not standard practice. Origin Foundation partnered with the Ian Potter Foundation, Myer Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund, Scanlon Foundation, and Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation for a program called LLEAP, Leading and Learning in Education Philanthropy.

Leonard Vary of the Sidney Myer Fund and the Myer Foundation states, “We seek collaborative opportunities all the time. Many of our grants are made in conjunction with other funders. We convene funding groups. We often join our philanthropic colleagues in joint fundraising exercises. It’s something that’s a part of our strategic intention to act bigger than the constraints of our limited annual grantmaking. On some issues, we convene groups and provide resources to assist the interests of group members in collaborative funding. But there are resource constraints for how deeply and frequently we do that.”

Resource limitations are both a reason to collaborate and a challenge for collaboration, particularly for smaller funders. Says Fay Fuller Foundation’s Stacey Thomas, “There are organizations that will end

up collaborating, especially larger ones with resources and manpower. There are others that want to but just won’t have the time because they’re volunteer-run or have just one staff member. That’s something to take into consideration.”

“It’s something that’s a part of our strategic intention to act bigger than the constraints of our limited annual grantmaking.”

—Leonard Vary, CEO, Sidney Myer Fund and the Myer Foundation

Another consideration is the changing landscape of Australian philanthropy. With new wealth created from technology, private equity, property development, and other sectors, there are new philanthropists entering the field. This creates opportunities to go beyond the “usual suspects” and seek out collaborations with these new philanthropists. One funder comments, “I wonder if there’s an opportunity to look at some of the high-net-worth Australians, particularly the young ones, and introduce them to the young Silicon Valley philanthropists—to look at what’s happening in the U.S. as a sort of model for new philanthropy that is not necessarily from big foundations but from individuals.”



University of Sydney Quad. Credit: Andrea Schaffer. Creative Commons License.





*Kelvin Grove Library. Credit: Queensland University of Technology. Creative Commons License.*

## Opportunities for Achieving Greater Impact

Many interviewees commented on the dearth of information available about Australian philanthropy. “We know there’s a lot of philanthropy taking place, and it’s private,” states Linda Griffith. “We need more information on what the needs are and what’s being funded.”

“As the philanthropic sector continues to grow, it’s important that we continue to articulate the power and impact of philanthropy and its essential nature in a modern, mature society,” Leonard Vary says. “We can all be better at communicating the lessons we’re learning as we evolve our funding models to meet the emerging needs of the various communities in which we act.”

Foundations may be reluctant to share information about their activities for different reasons. Some do not accept unsolicited applications and therefore want to prevent a flood of requests that will have to be turned down. Others may not have the capacity to create and maintain a website or utilize social media through which to share their activities. Family foundations may want to keep a low profile to protect the privacy of living donors and their family members. These concerns and challenges are not unique to Australian foundations.

However, Stephen B. Heintz encourages foundations to be as open and transparent as possible. “Philanthropy’s most important asset is its independence. That gives us the flexibility to move quickly, to be on the leading edge, to take risks that others won’t, and to experiment. If we want to preserve that independence, we have an obligation to be as transparent as we possibly can.” Where governments encourage the establishment of foundations through tax incentives,

as in the U.S. and Australia, Heintz believes that philanthropic efforts to serve the common good need to be accountable to the general public.

As funders strive to become more effective and increase their impact, many agree that greater sharing of information is important. As Sean Barrett puts it, “It is frustrating and potentially wasteful if we don’t, as funders, share this knowledge. We need to talk more about who is doing what and what the successes are. We need to create pipelines of success. Either we continue to work in a piecemeal fashion or we create these pipelines and start to see the changes in people’s lives that we all want to see.”

“We know there’s a lot of philanthropy taking place, and it’s private. We need more information on what the needs are and what’s being funded.”

—Linda Griffith, Program Consultant, Australia and New Zealand, Give2Asia

Interviewees noted that an online directory or portal seems to be the “logical answer,” showing, by geography and theme, where support is concentrated and where it’s missing. A clearinghouse for evaluation and impact assessment data was also suggested. Stacey Thomas cautioned, however, “In my experience, I’ve found that there’s always a bit of hype at the start. Then nothing really happens and no one does anything. People need to understand this is the real deal.”



# Conclusion

This report, the first of its kind, documents U.S. philanthropic giving for Australia. With total grantmaking of US\$95.1 million between 2011 and 2013, U.S. foundations have invested substantially in Australian organizations and causes. However, while this is a significant figure, it represents a small fraction of total giving in Australia.

A 2013 study conducted by the Centre for Social Impact found that giving by the top 12 Australian foundations alone totaled AUS\$207.3 million (US\$154.6 million) between 2009 and 2011.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, recent data from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission show that in 2014, grantmaking in Australia amounted to AUS\$4.5 billion.<sup>9</sup> Yet, as Sarah Davies, CEO of Philanthropy Australia, notes in the introduction to this report, the irony is that we know more about the funding flows of U.S. foundations to Australia than we do about the giving of Australian foundations within Australia.

While there may be legitimate reasons that data on philanthropic giving in Australia are not widely shared, this report, as well as the work of the United States Studies Centre and Philanthropy Australia, represents a critical opportunity to shift the tide and to follow in the footsteps of similar efforts across the globe. For sixty years, Foundation Center in the United States has collected and analyzed data on U.S. philanthropy, fostering a culture of transparency and information sharing within the sector. Globally, Foundation Center has partnered with organizations in Mexico and China to support similar efforts in those countries.

As Bradford Smith, president of Foundation Center, notes, “The best way to preserve philanthropic freedom is not to hide behind it; rather, foundations increasingly need to tell the story of what they do, why they do it, and what difference it makes. No sector—government,

business, or charitable—gets a free pass in the world of 24/7 media, blogs, YouTube, Twitter, crowdsourcing, and digital everything.”<sup>10</sup> There is no doubt that greater data-sharing in the sector heeds immediate calls for more transparency, better communication, and stronger collaborations. The long-term result is a more effective and impactful sector.

**More Transparency.** Sharing data on funding flows and grantmaking practices may not come easily to some foundations, but ultimately doing so helps to gain and secure public trust. While foundations are often thought of as private, independent entities, they ultimately receive tax benefits to serve the public good. Without transparency, foundations become vulnerable to suspicion about exactly what they are doing and how their funds are being used. With greater transparency comes greater accountability, and as foundations become more comfortable sharing data, lessons learned, and best practices, they also open themselves up to more thoughtful and critical conversations about how to improve their performance to have a greater impact on the issues and challenges they are striving to solve.

**Better Communication.** While transparency can invite scrutiny, more often than not, transparency can also serve as a vital communications tool—one that allows the sector to lift up its contributions to society at large. In this way, philanthropy can better communicate

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8 Anderson, G. (2013). *Where the Money Goes: Private Wealth for the Public Good*. Centre for Social Impact, UNSW Australia.

9 Cortis, N., Lee, I., Powell, A., Simnett, R. and Reeve, R. (2015) *Australian Charities Report 2014*. Centre for Social Impact and Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

10 Anderson, 11.



its impact in communities and raise awareness about its role and importance in supporting positive change. Moreover, as the visibility and understanding of philanthropy grows, foundations can become better positioned to influence the public conversation around social issues that they care about. Compared to government, foundations tend to be entrepreneurial and innovative and often possess deep knowledge about social concerns based on their relationships with local, grassroots organizations, making them especially important participants in the broader public policy dialogue.

**Stronger Collaborations.** Time and time again, funders bemoan the fact that they do not know what their peers are doing. With more reliable, easily accessible information on which causes, organizations, populations, and geographies foundations are serving, funders will have the information needed to connect with other grantmakers about their respective efforts and to learn from one another's efforts. These conversations can catalyze more effective use of limited dollars, by helping to minimize duplication of effort and targeting funds so that they address real funding gaps.

## MOVING FORWARD

As the partnership among the United States Studies Centre, Philanthropy Australia, Foundation Center, and other philanthropic stakeholders deepens, the time is ripe for the Australian philanthropic sector to come together to develop new tools and resources that can help advance our understanding of grantmaking practices within the country—including funding flows, best practices, and lessons learned.

An important first step would be to create standardized data collection and analysis protocols for grantmaking by Australian foundations and

to ensure that a critical mass of foundations are participating in these data-sharing processes. Foundation Center's work in the United States has involved developing models for electronic reporting of grants data, as well as a robust taxonomy for coding data, and is already working with local partners to adapt the taxonomy for the Australian context.

As such processes take shape and as foundations get on board, these data can feed into a variety of interactive data and decision-making tools that allow funders to understand the landscape of philanthropic giving and to use that information to make data-driven decisions about how to allocate their dollars most effectively.

These tools might include a dynamic, searchable database of Australian foundations, so that both foundations and NGOs can find like-minded partners. A mapping and data visualization tool could complement this database, allowing users to view both the geographic distribution of funding and the networks of relationships among funders and grantees. In addition, a portal focused on Australian philanthropy could bring together not only quantitative data about funding trends, but case studies, blogs, and other features that lift up the qualitative aspects of philanthropic activity and allow funders to share their learnings with one another. Furthermore, regular research reports and information exchanges could help synthesize and make sense of the various streams of data being shared by foundations.

Such efforts will require human and financial resources, as well as determination and leadership by the Australian philanthropic sector, but if the collaboration and partnership required for the publication of this report are any indication, the Australian philanthropic community is well poised to take important steps forward in this direction.



Mount Oberon Summit, Victoria. Credit: Linda Xu.





In our short history, the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney has been established as an internationally recognised authority on American studies outside of the United States. Through our one-of-a-kind educational programs and cutting-edge think tank research, the Centre is dedicated to increasing knowledge and understanding of the United States in Australia. Innovative policy development and thought leadership programs bring leading Americans and Australians together to address common challenges. At the same time we provide unparalleled opportunities for young Australians to work and study in the United States and China as part of our study abroad and internship programs. The US Studies Centre is proud to be building stronger links between Australia and the United States through top-level education, research, and outreach. This year is an exciting one for the Centre as we focus on the 2016 US elections and celebrate our 10th anniversary. Visit our website to learn how you can be involved: [ussc.edu.au](http://ussc.edu.au).



Established in 1956, Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to succeed. Foundation Center maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. and, increasingly, global grantmakers and their grants—a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit Foundation Center's website each day and are served in its five library/learning centers and at more than 450 Funding Information Network locations nationwide and around the world.



Philanthropy Australia is the national peak body for philanthropy in Australia and is a not-for-profit membership organisation. Our mission is to represent, grow and inspire an effective and robust philanthropic sector for the community. Our vision is for a more giving Australia. Our membership consists of approximately 800 trusts, foundations, organisations, families, individual donors, professional advisors, intermediaries and not-for-profit organisations. We are a growing movement of people and organisations who believe in the importance of giving and are proud to leverage their wealth and influence to create social change. As the national peak body we offer representation, networking, services and information to the philanthropic sector, as well as to segments of the not-for-profit sector. Visit our website: [www.philanthropy.org.au](http://www.philanthropy.org.au).

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