



# IMPACT REPORT

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023**

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation embraces catalytic philanthropy, knowing that well-placed funds and collaborations can shift systems and transform sector capacity.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge all Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and acknowledge the continuing connections to culture, community, land, and sea of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

# Message from the CEO

Greater Melbourne is the home of Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. For over 100 years, the Foundation has been using philanthropy to address the big challenges facing our city. We undertake research including Vital Signs TM to make sure we reflect community priorities. At present our big challenges are affordable housing, economic inclusion, and climate change.

The Foundation also supports a strong charitable and philanthropic sector so that organisations' capability is maximised as they work on solutions to our big challenges.

The annual Impact Report seeks to capture the impact that our granting and initiatives have made against the priority outcomes we have identified. Our Impact Framework ensures the desired outcomes are captured in grant agreements and reported via progress and acquittal reports in our Grants CRM system. This year we also provided opportunities for grant partners to reflect on their impact in their reports. The Impact Report provides an opportunity to reflect on where follow on grants will be positive social or environmental investments.

Our impact is about contributing to improvements in responding to community challenges and in changing systems to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable Greater Melbourne. Across our programs, we fund levers of change including program innovation, influencing policy, research and systems change. We support capacity building at an individual organisation and sector level where this will enhance impact. We use all the tools in the philanthropy toolbox, including communications and impact investment, in addition to grants, initiatives that we lead, collaborations, networks, and social enterprise all help achieve change.

This Impact Report seeks to capture our contribution to solving the challenges we face in affordable housing, climate change, economic inclusion, and charitable sector capacity building. Some projects tackle several or all of these challenges.

I am especially pleased with the leadership we have shown in some key areas:

- Unlocking underutilised land for affordable housing (p11)
- Leading work on the resilience of local communities to climate change (p8, p22)
- Unlocking job opportunities through social enterprise (p17, p18); and
- Supporting the digital transformation and well-being of the not-for-profit sector (p25).

The Foundation embraces catalytic philanthropy, knowing that well placed funds and collaborations can shift systems and transform sector capacity.

*Catherine Brown*

**Dr Catherine Brown OAM**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Introduction

Together with our partners, Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation is working towards Greater Melbourne being a thriving city-region for people and planet. To achieve this vision, we support grant partnerships, amplify the voices of our partners, support research, networks, and collaborations, support work that seeks to influence policy, and alongside donor engagement, community engagement, and impact investment, we have key challenge-focused initiatives.

## Our theory of philanthropy

We identify and fund scalable solutions that address Greater Melbourne’s big social and environmental challenges at a project and systems level. We support innovation and capacity building within the charitable sector. We support new ideas and test solutions. We can be first or early funders. We achieve more impact through collaboration, including with our donors, knowledge partners, and co-funders. We place a gender lens and a climate lens across our work, and are committed to social equity. We fund social enterprises across our outcomes and support the capacity of the social enterprise sector. We seek to align our work with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Logic: Lasting positive impact for people and places happens when we change systems. To change systems, our interventions are both focused and interconnected and we take a long-term view. We apply all appropriate tools within the Philanthropy Toolbox to enhance impact and evaluate that impact at an outcomes and systems level.



## Our Theory of Change

**Because** Melbourne is facing several urgent interconnected health, social and environmental challenges that need to be solved together

**We will** Shape scalable solutions that address these challenges at a project and systems level. We will do this in collaboration with our grant partners, knowledge partners, donors, and co-funders

**Resulting in** Services, policies and systems that enable all Melburnians to live healthy, dignified, and connected lives

**Leading to** Melbourne being a thriving city for people and planet.

# Our Commitments

Without a just transition and transformative adaptation, the challenges facing communities across the Greater Melbourne city-region will continue to undermine health and increase climate injustices. We are therefore committed to engaging with these challenges through applying the following three lenses to our work. Below is a list of projects that were funded during FY 2022/23 that explicitly use these lenses.

## Climate change action

We have placed a climate lens across our work since 2016. Drawing on the IPCC concept of climate resilient development, our climate lens means we consider how projects might help build resilience, reduce emissions, or hasten a just transition, all in ways that help address disadvantage <sup>1</sup>. Alongside efforts to decarbonise our portfolio, in FY 2022/2023, the Foundation funded \$3.6M across 46 projects across a just transition and/or transformative adaptation to: raise awareness; influence policy; further knowledge; strengthen organisation and community capacities; and demonstrate resilience, adaptation, or just transitions in practice.

| Just Transitions  | Organisation                                  |
|---|---|
| Pathways for Participation in Renewables                | Community Power Agency Co-Operative           |
| Rewiring Australia                                      | Australian Solar Energy Society               |
| Getting Off Gas Toolkit                                 | The Alternative Technology Association        |
| Greening community housing                              | Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) |
| Diversifying Leadership in the Climate Justice Movement | Australian Youth Climate Coalition            |
| Cleantech Investment Hub                                | Beyond Zero Emissions                         |

| Transformative Resilience/ Adaptation                                | Organisation                                |
|--|---|
| Climate, environmental and gender justice                            | Women's Environmental Leadership Australia  |
| Refugee Women Designing and Implementing Climate Resilience Pathways | Wellsprings For Women                       |
| Greater Melbourne Heat Alliance                                      | Sweltering Cities & partners                |
| Yawa - Journeying Together   | The Australian Centre for Social Innovation |
| Strengthening community psychological climate resilience             | Psychology For a Safe Climate               |

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023) Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth assessment report. [IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_LongerReport.pdf](#)

## First Nations' support

Our support for and work with First Nations peoples reflects our core commitment to social equity and our recognition that we live and work on Aboriginal land. We also work to better understand the cultures and places in which we live and work, and continue to learn and develop respectful relationships with First Nations. In FY 2022/23, we funded \$772,876 across 19 projects conceived, led, and enabled by First Nations peoples and organisations with whom we are proud to partner.

| Project Title   | Organisation  |
|---|---|
| Seed Mob: Scaling Up  | Seed Mob  |
| Yawa - Journeying Together  | The Australian Centre for Social Innovation   |
| Dharug Shadow Rangers - Healing Country   | Macquarie University  |
| Maanamak Murrup - Developing Taungurung Housing Models  | Taungurung Land And Waters Council (Aboriginal Corporation)   |
| Aboriginal Home Ownership Hub   | Aboriginal Housing Victoria   |
| Blak Pearl Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Creative Studio  | Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House  |
| Enhancing Aboriginal Health Worker advocacy and leadership: A new push to resolve Aboriginal Health disparities | Victoria University   |
| Wellbeing and Healing for First Nations young women   | Weenthunga Health Network   |
| Passing the Message Stick - 2023  | Centre for Australian Progress  |
| Aboriginal Women's Centre Feasibility Study   | Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (Victoria) |

## Our Reconciliation Action Plan

In our 2022-25 Strategy, we also committed to developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

In FY 2022/23 we developed the Foundation's first "Reflect RAP"; a 12-month commitment to starting our journey. Its development saw us further develop reciprocal relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and begin examining our sphere of influence.

Through part of our granting and collaboration program, we aim to support and amplify the work and voices of First Nations organisations and peoples. We are on a learning journey and are passionate about partnering with First Nations-led organisations.

We continue to develop our conversations, listening, and relationships with First Nations partners, including seeking their feedback on how we work and might develop true collaborations around shared goals.

## Gender equity

Our commitment to social equity is also reflected in our commitment to gender equity. In FY 2022/23 the Foundation provided \$1,189,435 across 19 projects related to gender equity, including empowering women and girls, and our LGBTQIA+ community. For example:

| Project Title   | Organisation                               |
|---|--|
| WomEmpower  | UCA - Hotham Mission                       |
| Smart Energy Gender Action Plan   | Australian Solar Energy Society            |
| LGBTIQ+ Housing Project   | Thorne Harbour Health                      |
| Remade For Trade: Supporting women's pathways to non-traditional trades | Tradeswomen Australia Community Foundation |
| Climate, environmental and gender justice in Australia                  | Women's Environmental Leadership Australia |
| Gender Compass  | Plan International Australia               |

# Our impact towards a thriving Greater Melbourne for all

The Foundation's vision is for a thriving Greater Melbourne for all: one where lower income households have access to affordable homes; we have an inclusive and sustainable economy and jobs; our communities are just, healthy, and climate resilient; and Greater Melbourne is a generous place, able to respond to community needs.

We know our work towards this vision operates in a context of a climate changing world in which social inequities and ecological degradation are worsening. Alongside the 'lenses' we place across all our work (see above), our Strategic Grants Program focuses on four key Impact Areas that can each be understood as a 'leverage point' within the wider system that is the city-region of Greater Melbourne. We focus on these Impact Areas in efforts to help 'shift the dial' toward our vision.

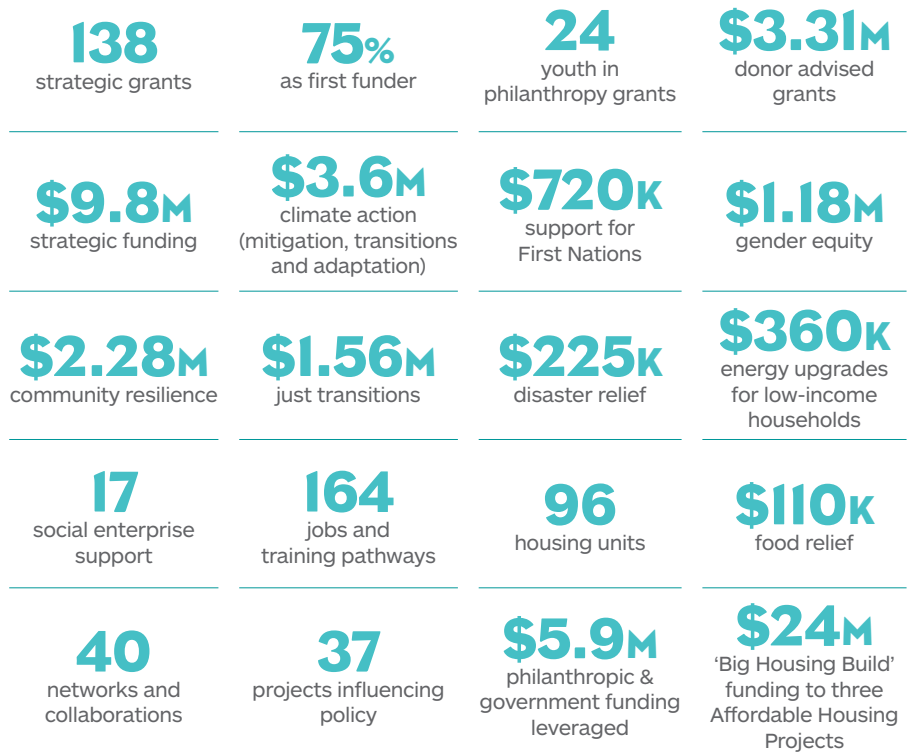
In turn, each Impact Area can then be understood as a 'system' within which we are trying to effect change by focussing on three key outcomes (or levers) within those systems. These foci outcomes are informed by analyses of key drivers and needs. We seek to impact these outcomes by supporting projects that take a systems perspective or that contribute to systems change through more specific work such as policy influence, demonstration projects, furthering knowledge, and strengthening organisational and sector capacities.

This Impact Report presents some of the ways in which our Strategic Grants Program has contributed to these efforts. Alongside listing the new grants we funded in FY 2022/23, this report presents some of the impacts of our partners' work in grants that were acquitted or reported progress in FY 2022/23. Many of these projects were funded in earlier financial years.

We hope that sharing some of the impacts and insights from all this work will also contribute towards our vision for Greater Melbourne.

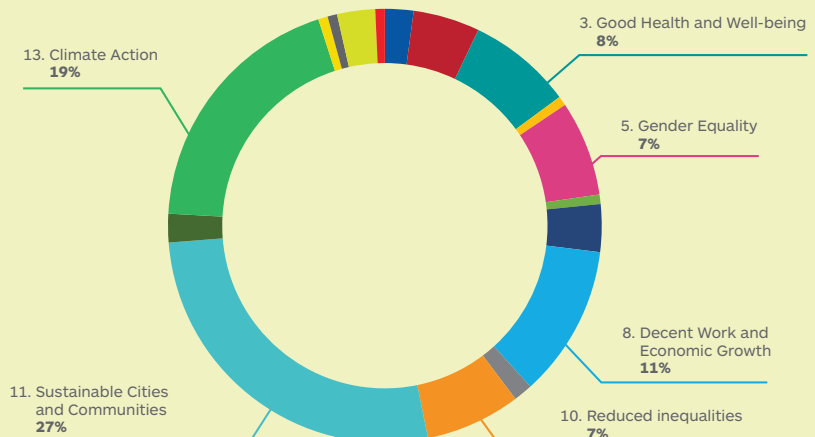
## Grants funded in FY2022/23

In FY 2022/23, the Foundation's Strategic Grants Program funded:



## Contributions to the SDGs

Projects supported through our Strategic Grants Program during FY 2022/23 contributed to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with several projects contributing to more than one SDG. The SDGs the targets to which we most contributed were:



# Impact Spotlights

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The impacts of our grant partnerships across our Strategic Grants Program are often long-term and richly qualitative as well as quantitative. These two forms of data inform the following stories of impact.

## Influencing Charity Law

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### Making home ownership charitable

Private rental prices continue to rise, with Greater Melbourne rentals largely unaffordable for people on lower incomes. The Foundation funded Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) to help with a submission to the ACNC to make the provision of housing through home ownership charitable, for instance through shared equity. This culminated in the release of a revised Commissioner's Interpretation Statement (CIS) on the provision of housing, giving charities more certainty on what they can and can't do in the area of charitable homeownership.

## Influencing Policy

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### Raise the Rate for Good

The Foundation supported ACOSS's Raise the Rate Campaign through 3 successive grants over 4 years. The campaign gained significant momentum and attention in the lead up to the 2022 Federal election, gaining support from a broad coalition across the political spectrum. It resulted in 1,000s of media posts, stories and column inches. This work helped ensure that the Coronavirus Supplement remained until 31 March 2021, well after its initial scheduled stop date of 25 September 2020. It also led to a permanent increase in payments of \$25pw. The campaign is ongoing.



### Food systems

Supporting a healthy, regenerative, and climate resilient food system, requires understanding the systemic issues threatening the security, health, and sustainability of our city-region's food system. The Foundation has supported the FoodPrint project since 2019 to develop evidence and guidance on strengthening the climate resilience of our city-region's foodbowl. This work has variously influenced Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and state Government commitments to protect agricultural land, informed local government policies such as green wedges and food strategies, and inspired similar work in Perth. We are now supporting the team to apply this knowledge in guiding and developing guidance on climate resilience planning in food systems.



### Housing

Everybody's Home is a campaign run by the homelessness and housing sector to work for better policy at the states and federal level. The Foundation has worked with Everybody's Home since 2019. Their work influenced the Federal Government's commitment to fund the creation of additional social housing as well as retrofitting community housing to improve its climate resilience.



### Agriculture

Farmers for Climate Action were one of only two organisations invited by the Federal Government to help shape the country's Climate Change and Agriculture Statement. Our funding co-contribution helped FCA consult over 1,000 farmers and saw the Agriculture Minister launching the resultant report. It also saw the Federal Government commit to a national statement on climate change and agriculture with state and territory Agriculture Ministers.

### Strengthening the Social Enterprise sector



Through co-funding Griffith University, in particular the Yunus Centre, we saw the launch of **Social Enterprise Australia** as the peak body for Australia's social enterprise sector, production of A Social Enterprise National Strategy (SENS), and the Change the Game campaign profiling and promoting the sector's value. Research through this work identified that there are over 12,000 social enterprises in Australia, contributing \$21.3B p.a. to the economy, accounting for 1% of GDP. This work also saw the social enterprise sector named for the first time in the federal budget, with the \$11.6 million Social Enterprise Development Initiative.

### Strengthening community climate resilience



Community organisations located in and led by the communities they serve, are uniquely responsive to local needs around health and climate resilience, as well as during disasters such as heatwaves and pandemics. We know that during disasters most people don't go to designated emergency hubs. They go to the places they already know. So it is these places that make the best 'Resilience Hubs'. **Banksia Gardens Community Services** are a great example. The Foundation has supported many Banksia projects since 2015. Most recently, alongside working with young people to develop community climate adaptation plans, we supported Banksia to co-create a Heat Haven with and for their local community; one of the most disadvantaged locations in Victoria. So far, they have 23 active volunteers, planted over 870 plants, and re-designed three community spaces, and created a 'community needs' log that enables them to advocate for the families with the Office of Housing. This work shows how investing in community infrastructure such as Banksia, can help address immediate community needs while also developing more long-term resilience. It is informing our thinking around how to support a system of Resilience Hubs across Greater Melbourne

### Supporting economic policy justice



The Foundation has supported the **Economic Media Centre** since 2019. This Australian first, pro-bono, cross sector organisation is working to build the capacities and amplify the voices of grassroots and communities in economic policy debate. At last report, they had influenced 13 economic policy debates across housing affordability, disability justice, income support, refugee rights, welfare rights, health funding, insecure work, gendered violence, and COVID specific issues. 498 unique stories pitched by 56 spokespeople led to more than 6,000 syndications of their work. This work continues.

### Supporting a just transition



The Foundation was a first funder of Sydney Policy Lab's **Real Deal**. This is an innovative initiative that aims to combine the strength of grassroots place-based community organising and policy development, with expert academic research. Piloted in Geelong, the Real Deal team patiently built community trust and convened local union, church, and community groups. This resulted in testimony from over 200 Geelong residents, collected over 6 months, who shared stories about the impact of past economic transitions on the region, such as the closure of Ford and Alcoa, and how those experiences may inform future policy developments.

### Strengthening the NFP sector



As the website says, "The almost normalised stress, anxiety and burnout in the social sector has been simmering away for too long ... posing a threat for our sector's sustainability, and its capability to address future challenges and disasters". **The Social Sector Wellbeing & Resilience Hub** is addressing this by working for a mentally healthy and resilient social sector. Until now, there has been nothing like his Hub in Australia. The only comparable Hub is The Wellbeing Project in U.S., which focuses on inner wellbeing. Alongside continuing to develop new collaborations, the hub has met with eight MPs to request the social sector workforce be added into their policy and strategy and will keep a watching-brief on the issue.



# Addressing Homelessness & Affordable Housing

The Foundation continues its long-standing commitment to work to end the issues that create and sustain homelessness. This includes continuing to fund the next steps of the national campaign Everybody's Home as well as sector engagement in the upcoming National Housing and Homelessness Plan. We fund projects that enable renters to assert their rights and are helping women stay housed when experiencing family violence. We are leaders in affordable housing, providing insights into best philanthropic practice and commissioning research. We also continue to work on increasing the number of climate safe homes for lower income households. We hope to improve the health outcome associated with poor quality homes, reduce costs for residents, as well as lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the last financial year, our partners' work in this area has:

- Created a tool to help people 'get off gas' and switch to electricity in their homes;
- Demonstrated the ability to create affordable housing at a discount through better land utilisation;
- Identified that subsidies are needed to address barriers to low-income, middle-aged women accessing mortgages; and
- Created a partnership between a LGBTIQ+ health provider and a community housing organisation to housing people experiencing homelessness.

Beyond grant making, we continue to devise ways for philanthropy to better invest in housing, including research into a philanthropic housing fund and the creation of an impact investment opportunity for older women's housing.

## High Impact Highlights

### State Government capital grants

Three of the Foundation's capital grant projects have gone on to receive Big Housing Build funding. Combined they will create over 70 new homes.

### Influencing Charity housing law

The Foundation convened leading experts to work on a submission to the ACNC to successfully make the provision of home ownership charitable for lower income households.

### National commitment to housing and homelessness

The Foundation funded Everybody's Home - instrumental in successfully advocating to Federal Government on the creation of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

## Outcome 1.1

### Prevention or entrenchment of homelessness

Homelessness across Greater Melbourne is on the rise. Our work seeks to enable charities to collaborate, to research intervention efficacy, trial new ways of working, and implement systemic change to ensure everyone has safe, secure, and long-term housing based on the principles of housing first. Our focus in this area is on supporting young people, women and children leaving family violence, low-income women over 55 years as one of the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

#### Systems change focus



#### Working with young men who use violence

We supported MacKillop Family Services to work with young males to stop their use of family violence before it becomes an entrenched pattern. The program engaged 52 participants, with 17 engaging in direct therapeutic work and seven referrals requiring intensive team support. Participants increased their understanding of power and control, ability to identify triggers, and how their behaviour impacted themselves/others. This led to a high increase in the young person wanting to work towards increasing safety within their relationships.

While these therapeutic responses to Adolescent Family Violence are costly, they are also likely to be less costly than enduring homelessness. Also of note is that the waitlist for these types of projects is oversubscribed. More needs to be done, as this is an emerging issue.

#### Policy influence



#### Emergency Accommodation Beyond Covid-19

Individual specialist housing providers are funded by State Government to house people experiencing homelessness in third party accommodation such as private hotels. Launch Housing investigated and modelled how the homelessness service sector might secure emergency accommodation of appropriate amenity in a post COVID environment. Their report detailed the relative costings and cohort amenability of different options. It also demonstrated the inefficiency of existing temporary accommodation payments. More work needs to be done in this area to ensure both cost savings as well as the provision of safe housing.

### Policy influence (continued)



#### Early intervention to secure the correct income support for people experiencing homelessness

There are limited services offering social security related legal help. St Kilda Legal Service Co-operative (now Southside Justice) built on an existing outreach partnership with Launch Housing to deliver targeted assistance to crisis accommodation residents in accessing income support entitlements. Intake forms now capture clients who report a disability but are not receiving a Disability Support Pension, enabling an immediate offer of support. This has improved referral pathways and increased expertise in social security entitlements and administrative review options. However, this project showed that the type of social security received is not a barrier to housing. No further work will be undertaken in this area, as individuals are able to receive housing without the higher disability payment

### Sector Capacity



#### Removing Barriers to Housing

Inner Melbourne Community Legal Centre (IMCLC) co-located a 'roving lawyer' within Ozanam House, Flagstaff Accommodation and The Open Door. In the first year of this two year project, this helped 132 people, sometimes with multiple legal issues, 16 specifically related to tenancy matters. The CLC also used their experience in a range of policy submissions. This co-location of a lawyer helped avoid homelessness and enabled staff to better identify legal problems among their clients and aids timely referrals for assistance. The organisation continues this work with another year of funding from the Foundation, before releasing their findings on this innovative program. Long-term, it's hoped that this project will receive ongoing State Government funding.

### Program/ Service Innovations



#### Pathways out of the justice system

Family violence, criminalisation and housing are inextricably linked. The Law and Advocacy Centre for Women ran a program to help women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are also at risk of entrenchment in the criminal justice system, stay out of that system. 100% of the 53 women supported, 41% of whom were in custody at the time of referral, were released into secure accommodation. 82% of participants reported or were observed to have improved health and wellbeing. Case Managers also engaged in increased advocacy directly with DFFH and strengthened relationships with housing providers. Funding housing support allowed the grantee the time to focus on the criminal aspects of their clients and get them the best legal outcomes. Connections were made between the CLC and the housing sector that should continue after the project.



#### EmPower program

Survival behaviours, developed in response to the trauma of family violence and homelessness, form another barrier to women moving out of poverty. Juno ran a purpose-designed program to build the economic stability skills of 40 women who've experienced homelessness and family violence called the EmPower program. In its first year, the participating 35 women's average incomes increased by \$995 per month. They reported over 44% increase in social connections, 38% in financial wellbeing and 30% in health since commencing the program. Over time, and with repeated practice, working with LACW coaches, women who've experienced homelessness and family violence, can develop new strategies that can help them move out of poverty. Long-term, it's hoped that this project will receive ongoing State Government funding.

## Outcome 1.2

### Increased supply of affordable, sustainable, and healthy housing

Greater Melbourne has one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the world, with the median house price 12 times higher than the average household income at the end of 2022. The Foundation supports the development of quality affordable housing, which is sustainable, well-designed, and built-in locations that have access to amenities to increase the life opportunities of lower income households. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

#### Systems change focus

##### Capital Works



##### Viv's Place

The Foundation funded Launch Housing to develop Viv's Place an Australian-first permanent supportive housing for women and children escaping family violence. We were first funder of this large development which includes ground lease amenities such as a playground and children's library as well as wraparound support services in collaboration with Uniting. The development boasts an average NatHERS rating of 7 stars and is now a permanent home for 60 women and up to 130 children. This replicable model could be used to demonstrate how more permanent accommodation could be built for women and children escaping family violence.

##### Middle Road Apartments



McAuley redeveloped an underutilised land parcel from the Sister of Mercy to house women and children escaping family violence. This 12 apartment, three story development at Middle Road received Victorian Government Big Housing Build funding, once the Foundation provided capital funding. This project is another example of how underutilised land can reduce development costs to create more social housing under our Affordable Housing Challenge.

#### Policy influence

See the Spotlight "Influencing Charity Law"

#### Sector Capacity

##### Feasibility studies



As part of our Affordable Housing Challenge, the Foundation supported smaller grants for land holders to undertake feasibility studies on underutilised parcels of land, strata or existing building. In 2022/23 we focused on not-for-profit land holders who were mission aligned to test the viability of different sites and models in increasing social and affordable housing.

- St Vincent's Hospital designed housing for people experiencing homelessness to recover after a hospital stay. This site is now seeking government funding.
- St Kilda PCYC looked to expand their existing rooming house. The feasibility allowed them to determine that the site was too heavily constrained to provide sufficient uplift to be viable.
- Housing Choices developed architectural concept plans for community housing on VicTrack owned land that could align with Homes Victorias requirements and expectations under the Big Housing Build.
- Brotherhood of St Lawrence modelled five accommodation types for their large site in Brunswick St, Fitzroy, which include both groundlease services and affordable accommodation.
- Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Ltd developed concept designs for a social and affordable housing development on a large site in Ringwood. This feasibility allowed them to negotiate a significant uplift with council.

Both the Housing Choices site and Uniting site have now been funded by the Foundation for capital works and will used an exemplars on how to create affordable housing on underutilised land.

### Program/ Service Innovation

#### SEFA's Older Women Housing Project

The Foundation funded Social Enterprise Finance Australia (SEFA) to investigate viable housing options for women as they aged. Four different models were identified: shared equity; build to rent; build to rent to own; and staircasing. Through their analysis, including the suitability according to the needs and desires of the cohort, SEFA found that a subsidy is required for each of these models to be feasible. This report has been shared in the sector, including with the federal agency Homes Australia. The Foundation will continue to use it to advocate for further innovative subsidised housing for older women.



### Outcome 1.3

#### Increased energy efficient and climate resilient homes for vulnerable households

Lower income and vulnerable households are less able to live in energy efficient and climate resilient households, which adds to their cost of living, creates negative health and can add to further global warming. The Foundation therefore works to enable charities to collaborate and enact evidence-based solutions that help Greater Melbourne create or retrofit climate resilient housing. Below are some examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

#### Systems change focus



#### Financing sustainability retrofits for vulnerable Melbourne households (Phase 1)

University of Technology Sydney's (UTS) Institute for Sustainable Futures conducted a desktop analysis of the impact of credit risk of sustainability retrofits financed via green housing loan adjustments, using a combination of real-world data and modelled assumptions based on published studies. The resulting concept paper was used to connect with key financial service providers, APRA, and the banking sector generally. Some of these stakeholders indicated interest in retrofit financing. This is an exciting first step in providing a retrofit loan product for lower income households, and mortgagees more generally. We expect to continue this collaboration to the next stage.

#### Policy influence



#### Healthy Homes for Renters

Better Renting was funded to design a national collaboration aimed at securing a commitment for every Australian jurisdiction to implement minimum energy efficiency standards for rentals. While this outcome was not achieved, Better Renting has a system in place to interact with recent rental reforms. This has now gained traction about both a State and Federal level – the former recently enacting further reforms to rental rights this year.

## Sector Capacity

### Climate Safe Homes



Despite pandemic-associated delays, Brotherhood of St Lawrence (BSL) continues to test and refine a model for home energy efficiency retrofits for lower income households that improve health and well-being outcomes by reducing their exposure to inappropriate indoor temperatures and lowering energy costs. BSL continue this work, which will be complete in the coming year. Insights from this work have enabled further advocacy, showing how lower-income households are being left behind, and how governments need to support this type of work in the future. We'll wait for the final acquittal to see the full extent of this project.

### Program/ Service Innovation

#### Housing Choices & Nightingale Village



The Foundation funded Housing Choices to purchase properties within Nightingale Village. 24 well-located, social housing dwellings are now established in the development, providing affordable rental accommodation to lower income tenants. Nightingale Village is an exemplar of sustainable and energy efficient housing which includes rainwater storage and solar panels, and has won several awards including major awards for sustainable architecture.



## What we learned and looking forward

The last Census night was August 2021, as much of Australia entered further lockdown measures. Many people were offered temporary accommodation during lockdown, which would imply a decrease in homelessness, yet the count revealed something else. Census data on homelessness show that from 2016 to 2021 men's homelessness increased by 1.6%, while women's increased by 10.1%. If you look by age and sex, women aged 35-44 are now the fastest-growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness between 2016 and 2021 – a position previously held by women over 55.

Last year marked the tail end of the pandemic and lockdown responses, yet our housing systems are not recovering quickly enough. Today, rents are rising at a faster rate than since the GFC. Rapidly rising interest rates are putting stress on homeowners. Unsafe crisis accommodation has returned, while pandemic hotels now return to tourists.

On a more positive note, housing is finally a key issue at a federal level, including the Federal Government committing funding of housing for lower income households, retrofitting of community housing and national plan for homelessness and housing that could see all levels of government work to a common goal. And yet little actual spending has occurred to date.

A National Plan should stop the current piecemeal approach to housing and homelessness in Australia and clearly establish responsibility, and government funding, for interventions that prevent homelessness. We want the Foundation's voice and the work of philanthropy to be included in the conversation. We would also want to enable others in the sector to contribute to the plan, both the housing and homelessness sector broadly, but specifically the charities we work with and the people they serve.

As we approach 2024, the Foundation supports its partners to engage in this exciting period of renewed government interest in homelessness and housing and hopes to guide the way to enact policies that prevent homelessness and increase affordable housing, particularly for lower income households, while providing climate efficient homes.

# Inclusive, Sustainable Economy & Jobs

The Australian economy has one of the highest standards of living in the world and almost 30 years of uninterrupted growth. However, this relative success comes with increasingly alarming social and environmental costs. An urgent economic shift is needed to ensure a thriving future for people, place, and planet. This Impact Area therefore focuses on developing and incubating solutions that ensure an equitable transition to a more sustainable future. It seeks to do this through its three outcomes and the Next Economy Jobs Initiative.

Over the last financial year, our partners' work in this area has:

- Launched a new multilingual hub on JobWatch's website, with employment law information in ten different languages.
- Developed the skills and confidence of 18 women experiencing disadvantage to pursue trades careers; contributing to a national intention to shift the dial on the 2% female-representation in trades.
- Established Social Enterprise Australia and evidenced that the over 12,000 social enterprises in Australia, contribute \$21.3B p.a. to the economy, accounting for 1% of GDP (See Spotlight story).
- Highlighted that it is possible for Australia to achieve an overall emissions reduction target of 63% in 5 years and 81% by 2030, using six commercially available technologies.
- Shown that a Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts (REIP) approach can be replicated across industrial areas to help reduce industrial greenhouse emissions.
- Established a community-led policy development initiative that can build grassroots power and support for a just transition.

Supported a media centre that has trained 56 spokespeople and delivered 498 unique stories pitched to more than 6,000 syndications of their work.

**Beyond grant making**, we also helped establish a new Social Enterprise Subgroup of Philanthropy Australia's Jobs & Skills Funders Network, which has led to the development of one of Australia's most sophisticated collaborative funding rounds. We are also an inaugural member of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network's newly created Just Transitions Funders Group.

## High Impact Highlights

### Social Enterprise Sector Development

The Foundation supported the Social Enterprise World Forum in Brisbane and the release of the landmark 'Business For Good' report that found that the sector contributed \$21 billion per year of economic impact, through 12,000 social enterprises.

### Jobs in the Next Economy

The Foundation in playing a leading role in catalysing almost 350 training and employment pathways in next economy sectors, across 14 social enterprises. Pre-empting the Federal Government's Employment White Paper that highlights clean energy, tech and care sectors as those leading the changes in Australia's economy.

### Ensuring a Just transition to an inclusive, sustainable economy

The Foundation plays a key role in championing place-based demonstration projects and inclusive policy development, ensuring that community have a say and are not left behind by the transition to a net zero economy.

## Outcome 2.1

### Increased relevant skills and capabilities, including social entrepreneurship.

Because there is a gap between clean economy skills needs and a large disadvantaged, unskilled and underutilised workforce, we will support services, policies and systems that increase skills and capabilities which will lead to more people facing disadvantage making the transition to employment. This will result in an inclusive economy for all. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

### Systems change focus

See the Spotlight story on Social Enterprise Australia



### Policy influence

#### Your rights at work: Supporting CALD communities in their native languages

Through our support, JobWatch worked to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities in understanding their rights at work. They established a new multilingual hub on their website, with employment law information in ten different languages. In the first six weeks, materials were downloaded 2,583 times, 1016 telephone assistances, and 51 legal cases supported. 87.5% of respondents said the information was Very or Extremely Useful.

JobWatch were also involved in the State Government's Anti-Racism Strategy consultation, and they found work rights issues potentially affect certain communities more than others. This project points to where work rights education efforts should focus.



## Sector Capacity

### Jobs & Skills Funders Network - Social Enterprise Subgroup.



The Foundation has been helping to strengthen the social enterprise sector by supporting a key avenue for Australian philanthropy to achieve impact in the areas of jobs and skills. Working with Philanthropy Australia, the network's membership grew from 15 organisations in Feb 2021 to 31 in May 2022. Through regular meetings, the Network continues to share knowledge and opportunities, and has set bold collective ambitions.

## Program/ Service Innovation

### COVID19 - Building futures: a workforce recovery strategy for vulnerable women



Tradeswomen Australia developed and delivered a series of confidence and resilience-building workshops, by connecting 18 women to a mentor, and by supporting them to apply for roles at diverse and inclusive trade businesses.

The women, aged between 25 and 64, reported improved skills and capabilities. There is real potential to scale this pilot program.

## Outcome 2.2

### Quality jobs in clean, digital, and caring industries for all job seekers

One in five young women in Melbourne's West are involuntarily out of work. In Western Melbourne there were 29,098 people on the employment services caseload in June 2022, 12% of whom were refugees, which is almost three times the national average. More than a quarter of a million young people aged 15 to 24 are currently unemployed across the country, accounting for more than a third (36 per cent) of unemployed people in Australia. Because the interconnected challenges of climate change, technology and globalisation are changing the nature of work and increasing economic exclusion and insecurity, we will support services, policies and systems that lead to increasing transitions to employment for those facing disadvantage. Resulting in an inclusive and sustainable economy. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

### Systems change & policy influence

See the Spotlight story on Social Enterprise Australia and development of the National Social Enterprise Strategy. A tremendous amount of sector consultation and co-design was critical to creating this solid foundation for such sector-wide work. Establishing the peak body in the same year that Australia hosted the Social Enterprise World Forum was very important for both initiatives; each boosting the other. A change of Government has also assisted the Social Enterprise Agenda and the Economic 'Business for Good' report has been critical in establishing a baseline for the sector to engage Government and establish an advocacy agenda. Liaising with the Federal Social Impact Investing (SII) Taskforce has also been very important. This high impact project is ready for greater influence in year 2.



## Sector Capacity

### Review for Outcomes



Social Ventures Australia developed and delivered an automated survey platform to allow youth employment program providers to capture the views of young people and thereby, identify areas for improvement. To date, The Review Platform has worked with 14 organisations and received over 600 responses from young people.

This online, easy to use platforms can assist organisations working with young people to capture their opinions, design more effective programs and demonstrate impact. This data can be aggregated to Inform the sector and government.

### Next Economy Jobs Challenge



The Foundation ran this catalytic grant round focussed on supporting Enterprises or projects aimed at increasing training and employment pathways in clean, next economy sectors. We funded six organisations to deliver a range of impactful projects across food, waste and care sectors:

1. REBORN by HoMie - Conscious Creative Limited
2. Realising the potential of people and resources through circular economy - Green Collect Limited
3. Lively Light Support Building the aged care workforce of the future - Lively Community Limited
4. Urban Farm Food Justice and Training Network - Sustain: The Australian Food Network
5. Sweet Justice RTO and Curriculum development - Sweet Justice Ltd
6. Brainwave Bikes - The Trustee for the Brainwave Trust

While some sectors are more mature than others when it comes to developing pathways for people experiencing disadvantage, these projects have provided 122 jobs and training pathways so far. These sectors offer a rich range of opportunities, particularly at entry level positions, and showed that jobs can be created whilst achieving environmental outcomes.

## Program/ Service Innovation

### Work integrated social enterprises (WISE)

We demonstrated that the WISE model provides an ideal setting and support infrastructure to enable people experiencing disadvantage to thrive in the workplace. Indeed, they demonstrate that people experiencing disadvantage should not be limited to entry level positions and some cohorts have particular skill sets that allow them to complete complex roles very effectively. In addition, social enterprise models are uniquely able to provide the right support for people to achieve great job outcomes. For example:

**Australian Spatial Analytics** have seen demand for their data processing services skyrocket with Victorian based organisations seeking an alternative to offshore data processing. Eg documentation for civil engineering contractors to government departments. By funding ASA, we saw the provision of employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities without pre-qualifications at award wages, and on the job training in real work for real clients, through their new Centre of Excellence in Richmond. They have so far, created at least 20 new jobs for people with neurodiverse disabilities, namely Autism Spectrum Disorder, averaging 3 days per week.

We also helped **Jigsaw** open a Melbourne office and they provided training and 22 award wage jobs for people with a disability.





## Outcome 2.3

### Transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy that serves people and planet

12.6% of Melburnians live in poverty (pre-covid). Climate change will affect every Australian and many of its impacts are likely to hit low-income households hardest. Victorians produce four times the global average of greenhouse gas emissions. Because climate change increases socio-economic inequality, we will support services, policies and systems that can contribute to just transitions for people and communities facing disadvantage. Resulting in an inclusive and sustainable economy. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

#### Systems change focus

##### The Narrow Path



Beyond Zero Emissions sought to inspire and inform innovative action that achieves zero emissions across Australia's most polluting economic sectors within 10 years. They demonstrated real-world beneficiaries of pro-climate policy through research and industry promotions, with more than 50 companies. Their work had 250+ separate media mentions with a potential audience size of 2.8 million Australians. They found it is possible for Australia to achieve an emissions reduction target of 63% in 5 years and 81% by 2030, using six commercially available technologies.

##### The Real Deal



The Foundation was a first funder of Sydney Policy Lab's Real Deal. This is an innovative initiative that aims to combine the strength of grassroots place-based community organising and policy development with expert academic research. Piloted in Geelong, the Real Deal team patiently build community trust and convened local union, church and community groups. This resulted in the testimony from over 200 Geelong residents collected over 6 months who shared stories about the impact of past economic transitions on the region, such as the closure of Ford and Alcoa, and how those experiences may inform future policy development.

#### Policy influence

##### Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts (REIP)



Climate Works developed a first-of-its-kind policy brief, assessing 11 possible REIP locations against four key REIP pillars. They shared the brief with senior state and territory government officials working on REIP-like initiatives, with several participants indicating a willingness for a continued conversation. The Queensland Government included plans to support establishment of REIPs, and the Victorian government included potential Renewable Industrial Hub (RIH) sites in its tender on land use analysis. The REIP policy approach can be replicated across jurisdictions and regional industrial areas. Industry has demonstrated an interest in opportunities in decarbonising heavy industrial regions.

##### Raise the Rate for Good



The Foundation supported ACOSS's Raise the Rate Campaign through 3 successive grants over 4 years. The campaign gained significant momentum and attention in the lead up to the 2022 Federal election gaining support from a broad coalition across the political spectrum. It resulted in 1,000s of media posts, stories and column inches. This work helped ensure that the Coronavirus Supplement remained until 31 March 2021, well after its initial scheduled stop date of 25 September 2020. It also led to a permanent increase in payments of \$25pw. The campaign is ongoing.

**Sector Capacity**

**Economic Media Centre**



This is the first pro-bono cross sector media capacity building organisation in Australia. This FY they have developed a spokesperson network, including the Housing Spokesperson Bureau; developed a resource hub; 498 unique stories pitched by 56 spokespeople led to more than 6,000 syndications of their work. 98% of their spokespeople reported increased capacity, 94% of spokespeople participated in media interviews or campaigning, and 94% of participants reported feeling comfortable in doing media interviews. They have influenced 13 economic policy debates across housing affordability, disability justice, income support, refugee rights, welfare rights, health funding, insecure work and gendered violence, and COVID specific issues.

**Program/ Service Innovation**

**Helping inform public discourse  
on climate change and on  
economics**



We supported Australian Associated Press to establish a central, single source of national, factual media coverage of environmental issues, including climate change. There has been strong positive feedback from subscribers and those working in the sector have expressed the greater impact of their research and work by engaging with the AAP network. There has also been positive impact on the national discourse re environment and climate issues, with engagement of a wide communities in the issues that affect them and their local areas.



**What we learned  
and looking forward**

The work in this Impact Area is continually shaped by state and national politics and broader macro-economic factors. 2022 elections and budgets at both levels have been heavily influenced by global inflationary factors, Covid-19 era Monetary and Fiscal Policy and employment rates. The Victorian Government made cuts to key employment and Social Enterprise programs and departments which flowed through to many of our partner organisations.

The Australian Government has made positive announcements but has left key equity policy pieces missing from its agenda. It is not moving quickly enough on climate or inequality or where these two policy areas intersect. However, there are some hopefully signs with the release of the Measuring What Matters Report and the establishment of the Net Zero Authority.

This area has developed considerably over the past twelve months, with a stronger climate lens and an emphasis on enabling our transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy that serves people and planet.

Our focus on skills and jobs in next economy goes from strength to strength with some incredible Social Enterprises delivering social and environmental impact in commercial settings. Our commitment to the Social Enterprise sector, saw us support the development and release of Australia's first national Social Enterprise Sector Report and the international event Social Enterprise World Forum held in Brisbane. Improving service systems is important work and a new initiative in Melbourne's West, promises to take a long-term approach connecting the jobs ecosystem so that young people facing barriers to employment can benefit from the regions' booming growth.

We continue to support large scale and ambitious climate mitigation work that seeks to enable a fair, fast, and inclusive climate transition. Projects that seek to increase investment and deployment of clean technology are an important feature in this year's granting. Sotoo is an emphasis on projects that aim to increase inclusive economic participation for women and First Nations people.

The Foundation continues to push the boundaries of social innovation by supporting systems aware initiatives aiming to find a more sustainable path for communities, cities and the nation. This work is changing the narrative on economic inclusion and pushing for tangible policy change that will address growing inequality in Australia.

# Supporting Healthy & Climate Resilient Communities

Everything we do and care about, including the transition, is happening in a climate changing world. This means, that alongside mitigation and transition efforts, we also need to strengthen our resilience and capacities to adapt to climate change and this depends on equity across all the factors that when combined, affect the health of individuals and communities. Yet we know good health and wellbeing is not equitably shared across Greater Melbourne. Therefore, this Impact Area focuses on specific issues of health equity alongside capacities to plan for and adapt to a changing climate. Over the last financial year, our partners' work in this area has:

- Begun tackling legal barriers facing Traditional Owners in caring for Country
- Strengthened community heat resilience
- Supported the disaster resilience of urban-rural interface and regional communities
- Shaped Australia's strategy for Agriculture and Climate Change
- Identified how to better protect and sustainably manage farmland on the urban-rural interface of Greater Melbourne.
- Influenced policies integral to a regenerative and just food system.

## High Impact Highlights

### Reducing heat health risks

Heat kills more Australians than all other natural hazards combined. Starting with the HotSpots Initiative in 2016, the Foundation has supported local community service organisations in Dandeong, inner Melbourne, [suburb for Banksia Gardens] and the west of Melbourne [JSS and Brimbank work] to work with their local councils and communities to plan for heatwaves.

In FY 22/23 the Foundation seed funded the Greater Melbourne Heat Alliance, bringing together over 50 community and health organisations from across Greater Melbourne to work on both heat responses and heat risk reduction.

### Melbourne's food bowl.

The Foundation has supported the FoodPrint project at University of Melbourne for eight years. The team has mapped Greater Melbourne's food bowl, identified climate stressors, influenced policy including Planning Melbourne 2050 and reached more than [add figure] people around the world working on sustainable food systems.

## Outcome 3.1

### Communities shape regenerative and just climate change resilience

Priority and local communities are best placed to know the challenges and possibilities of their communities. We also know that Greater Melbourne's climate change resilience is inequitable because of inequities across a range of health and wellbeing factors. Therefore, this Outcome focuses on work that is led by or in genuine collaboration with priority communities, that strengthens place-based resilience, and influences systems and policies to support equitable resilience. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

### Systems change focus



### Addressing legal barriers to First Nations' Caring for Country

Because we know that connections to each other and to place are critical determinants of health and resilience, we supported Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) to identify legal barriers Traditional Owners face in caring for Country and ways to address those barriers. This is the first time dedicated legal services have been provided to Victorian Traditional Owner groups on natural resource management law. EJA have developed partnerships with Tati Tati Kaejin, Murray and Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, DJAARA, and Yorta Yorta. Legal barriers identified so far relate to cultural flows, water access and Aboriginal water-holding arrangements, more effective involvement in fire and public land management, and addressing racial vilification in protecting Country. Seven substantive matters have been progressed by six Aboriginal Traditional Owner organisations, supported by EJA. This work helped influence the Victorian Government's Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap. While helping to deal with immediate issues, EJA's work has also revealed more complexities requiring further work.

### Policy influence

#### Person Centred Emergency Preparedness (PCEP) & Bushfire Recovery People with Disabilities



Equitable disaster resilience requires planning approaches that are shaped and delivered by diverse communities to ensure everyone's needs are addressed.

The Foundation supported Gippsland Disability Advocacy (GDA) to work with University of Sydney to test a disability inclusive approach to emergency management planning. Partnering with key stakeholders, GDA employed a Project Leader who provided 1:1 support for people with disability impacted by the 2019 fires in East Gippsland, delivered PCEP workshops, and participated in state-wide forums. PCEP is now also available as an online course through the University of Sydney. Critically, P-CEP focuses on function (not impairments), local community assets, and cross-sector collaboration as the basis for removing barriers that increase disaster risks for people with disability. As a result of this genuine co-design and co-tested approach, P-CEP is now a nation-wide program. There is much scope to explore similar programs for different communities.

### Sector Capacity

#### Disaster Resilient: Future Ready (DR:FR)



When communities lead, disaster resilience efforts are sustained for longer and build local strengths that bring a multitude of benefits above and beyond disaster preparedness. The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) DR:FR program works to enable communities to lead efforts to improve wellbeing, increase preparedness, and strengthen resilience. We supported FRRR to work with communities in Myrtleford, Korumburra, and Whittlesea. Insights from this work informed policy submissions to the Select Committee on Disaster Resilience, and the evolution of the DR:FR in Queensland. FRRR also produced two reports: 'Community Disaster Resilience: State of Research 2018–2021' and 'Practical Guide for communities in using Dimensions of Disaster Resilience'. There is much that can be learned from programs such as DR:FR; including for Greater Melbourne communities. This is why the Foundation is supporting the Community Connector for Resilience to help connect organisations and communities to learn from one another across such issues.

### Program/ Service Innovation

#### Community Heat Resilience

Heatwaves kill more Australians than all our other natural hazards combined (including bushfires and floods). Since 2017, the Foundation has been working with partners to reduce community heat risks and build heat resilience. Two projects supported under the HotSpots banner were recently completed. IPCHealth established a cross-sector group, which in its second year, was asked by Brimbank Council to help review the municipal emergency management plan. Through their engagement with the group, Council developed a Cool Spaces Project and IPCHealth itself developed an Extreme Weather Policy. CoHealth engaged elderly residents of Carlton and Kensington public housing towers, who have developed a heatwave early warning system in collaboration with the onsite Older Persons High Rise Program. This includes posters with forecast temperatures and accessible cool places, and neighbours looking after each other during events.

Working with community organisations can bring much better community engagement and responses than simply relying on current formal policy remit of response agencies (emergency services and local government). Furthermore, where space (literal and figurative) is given to all these agencies to collaborate, much more effective community engagement (and hopefully survival) can be achieved. This has led the Foundation to seed the creation of the Greater Melbourne Heat Alliance.



## Outcome 3.2

### Greater Melbourne's food systems are equitable, healthy, sustainable, and resilient.

Food is critical to a healthy, just, and regenerative future. Cities like Greater Melbourne can help catalyse many of the food solutions that can help regenerate our health and resilience. Action is needed across many issues. Therefore, the Foundation supports local efforts and organisations to address immediate needs (e.g immediate food relief); projects that demonstrate what climate resilience looks like in practice; and work that takes a whole of system approach to ensure the sustainability, equity, and resilience of our food system. We're increasingly also using our convening power in concert with others, including government, to help leverage systemic change and enable better evidence of that change. Below are just a couple of the examples of our partners' work in this Outcome.

#### Systems change focus

##### Victorian CFE sector - rapid needs and value assessment

Community Food Enterprises (CFEs) are locally owned/controlled food ventures that are key actors in a food system aiming to provide healthy, affordable food to all. The Foundation supported Open Food Network (OFN) to analysis what CFEs need to be resilient, to continue to provide 'food with dignity' to those in need, and to provide a living wage for food suppliers – all facing growing cost-of-living pressures. OFN identified a range of needs and possibilities including technological improvements for voucher accessibility, and different potential business models for CFEs based on cross subsidy and direct subsidy. They also found that dignified price subsidy systems require nuanced design based on the specific context and needs of target populations. We are now discussing next steps for this work with OFN, Moving Feast, and Sustainable Table. The report can be found here



#### Policy influence & Program Innovation

As per the Policy influence Spotlight

##### Farmer engagement in agriculture's



##### climate change policy development

Farmers for Climate Action were invited by the Federal Government to help shape the country's Climate Change and Agriculture strategy. The Foundation co-funded them with others to engage over 1000 farmers in the first major research study in Australia of what farmers want in a national climate change and agriculture policy. In addition, almost 30 farmers participated in their Climate Leaders Network roundtable and almost 100 attended a series of roundtables. As a consequence of FCA being able to respond to the Federal Government's invitation, the Federal Agriculture Minister launched their report and committed to a national statement on climate change and agriculture with state and territory Agriculture Ministers.

##### FoodPrint



Supporting a healthy, regenerative, and climate resilient food system, requires understanding the systemic issues threatening the security, health, and sustainability of our city-region's food system. The Foundation has supported the FoodPrint team at University of Melbourne since 2014, to build and apply the evidence for strengthening the climate resilience of Greater Melbourne's food bowl. Project reports and infographics were downloaded over 500 times in the first 4 months post-release. Findings have been reported in 35 media pieces, including six commentary articles with over 31,000 views. The team has given 15 public talks, including a panel for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN at the 2021 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture.

This work has influenced Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and state Government commitments to protect agricultural land, informed local government policies such as green wedges and food strategies, and inspired a similar project in Perth.

In FY 2022/23 the Foundation provided FoodPrint further support to apply all this previous work in co-designing and applying a food resilience planning guide with civil society, community organisations, local government, state government, and other stakeholders in Victoria.

### Outcome 3.3

## Resilient community service and health organisations supporting community resilience

Community service and health organisations are vital community infrastructure. They provide key services AND are vital in helping people create and maintain the social bonds that are critical to our health and climate resilience. These organisations are central to collaborative work on equitable health and climate resilience. Yet they remain under-funded, under-resourced, and overworked. Climate change is only exacerbating the demands on these critical organisations. Therefore, the Foundation is focused on building organisations' capacities to work with their communities and strengthen their own climate resilience, supporting equitable provision of community infrastructure across Greater Melbourne, and using our convening power to connect and catalyse systems work. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in this Outcome.

### Systems change focus

#### Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West



Melbourne's West faces a particular confluence of challenges that undermine community climate resilience, including growing inequality and climate change. The Foundation supported Jesuit Social Services' (JSS) Centre for Just Places (CJP) to engage over 44 community health and community service organisations (CHCSO) across five municipalities to develop the first climate justice action plan for the region, plus a methodological report that others might follow. We found that developing and implementing such a plan is most effectively supported where there is a backbone of core organisations; a focus on process and outcomes; efforts to connect existing programs and initiatives; maintenance of that coalition; and a strengthening of opportunities for joint advocacy and shared learning. We are now supporting the next steps in implementing this Australian-first climate justice action plan in FY 2023/24.

### Policy influence

#### Future proofing the frontline



Our health and climate resilience depends on the health and climate resilience of our healthcare sector. We supported Victoria University, to collaborate with Alfred Hospital, in translating into practice, insights from an analysis of more than 10K frontline healthcare worker survey responses. To date, 27 health leaders and 30 healthcare workers have participated in the co-design of tools and methods, and a project advisory group that meets monthly, has been established, comprising of senior leaders/stakeholders in healthcare from varying professions, locations of practice and interests. In direct response to the research findings and engagement by the research team, Safer Care Victoria have established the Wellbeing for Healthcare Workers Initiative, including the online Healthcare Worker Centre.

### Sector Capacity

#### Offering mental health support for climate change work and engagement

There is increasing evidence that peoples' concerns about climate change are having negative impacts on their mental health. The Foundation supported Psychology for a Safe Climate (PSC) to train 21 'Climate Aware Practitioners' (CAP) of whom, 7 are social workers, facilitators, & GPs. They now also have five more volunteer coordinators and have trained 14 facilitators, with an increasing focus on inclusivity and social justice. PSC have also developed a CAP peer support network and demand for their support is growing exponentially. PSC are receiving increased requests from communities and practitioners, as well as a range of community organisations. They will need capacity support to meet this growing demand.



## Program/ Service Innovation

### Banksia Gardens Heat Haven



As noted in the Impact Spotlight above, in our work to support the capacities of community organisations to understand and tackle climate resilience, we funded Banksia Gardens Community Services as a leader in this arena. They are currently co-designing, with their local community, a heat haven for people and local fauna that also provides a community garden for local food security and a site of community connection and building. So far, they have 23 active volunteers, a regular family day during school holidays, planted over 870 plants, and re-designed three community spaces for activities including environmental and climate change resilience. Through this project, Banksia has also created a 'community needs' log that enables Banksia to advocate the families with the Office of Housing. These impacts show how investing in community organisations such as Banksia, can help address immediate community needs, while developing more long-term resilience. Because they are located in and led by the communities they serve, organisations like Banksia are uniquely responsive to local needs. Working with them is also helping inform our approach to investing in and continuing to grow capacity and capabilities of such organisations as potential Resilience Hubs.



## What we learned and looking forward

In FY 2022/23 the not-for-profit and charitable sector became even more cognisant of the implications of climate change for our health and well-being. The Australia Institute's Climate of the Nation Report (2023) highlighted that over 70% of Australians are concerned about climate change and its impacts, including its potential to compound existing cost-of-living pressures and disrupt supply chains, making it hard to buy necessities. Last year's floods across Victoria and NSW, ongoing pandemic recovery, and significant climate change impacts in the northern hemisphere highlighted some of the implications of climate change.

In FY 2022/23 we also found a growing and unmet need for greater support and resourcing of the not-for-profit, community and health sectors to understand and proactively plan for the implications of climate change both for themselves and the communities with whom they work.

The latest Climate of the Nation report also found almost half of Australians (47%) think the Federal Government is not doing enough to prepare for, and adapt to, the impacts of climate change. Looking forward, the HCRC Impact Area will continue its focus on factors (or leverage points) known to be critical to our general health and wellbeing, that literally save lives during disasters including pandemics, and that are critical to climate change adaptation. This means continuing our support for work that strengthens social connections and community networks, and the work of priority communities and their leaders, particularly in climate resilience efforts. We'll continue to support strengthening the knowledge and resilience of community and health services, and their increasingly critical role in the provision of social infrastructure, support for social networks, and in community resilience building. Our work with FoodPrint, Sustainable Table, Sustain, and Farmers for Climate Action, among others, underscored how food systems can be a regenerative, climate resilience opportunity. This has affirmed our focus on supporting the city region's food bowl to be regenerative, equitable, and climate resilient.

We'll continue to apply a climate justice lens to our work and actively contribute to a regenerative and just future for all, by looking for opportunities to combine transformative adaptation, just transitions, and sustainable development.

# Supporting a capable charitable sector (Inspiring Philanthropy)

The Foundation was established to support public hospitals (before there was government funding and Medicare) to ensure financially disadvantaged service men and women could access medical and rehabilitation services after WW1. This then extended to supporting the charitable sector to thrive, helping ensure that services and programs would be available when the community needed them.

Our broader support of the charitable sector was evidenced during the COVID pandemic when the Foundation gave sector capacity grants to Foxchange to seed the NFP Digital Transformation Hub and to enhance the Ask Izzy health and community services directory, Justice Connect for the Build Back Better legal service. All these grants have national significance and impact. More than 10,000 charities have used the services provided by the NFP Digital Transformation Hub and this continues to grow.

In addition to the Foundation's support of donor advised granting and collective giving in our Generous Melbourne program, the Foundation has provided grants to the peak philanthropic bodies to increase our shared impact in growing philanthropy (Philanthropy Australia), climate philanthropy (Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network), community philanthropy (Community Foundations Australia) and gender wise philanthropy (Australians Investing in Women). Our grants and work with these colleagues are very important to sharing knowledge and building co-funding opportunities.

The Foundation can fund these organisations through charitable bequest funds held in the Foundation or the Eldon and Anne Foote Trust. Our specific listing under the Income Tax Assessment Act has enabled us to raise funds to support initiatives in social enterprise scaling up and affordable housing capital projects. The Foundation also holds 12 community funds where local communities led by local Council support raise funds and make grants to issues of concern in the local community. (These are profiled in our Annual Report.)

In 2022/23, we continued to support the strength of the charitable sector through our funding of The XFactor Collective (now Benefolk Foundation) to set up The Community Well (online resource and information sharing Hub) and Victoria University health frontline workers project to prevent burnout in the sector. We have also provided a follow-on grant for the NFP Digital Transformation Hub to scale up its work, which remains critical if the charitable sector is to meet community needs and fulfil its potential (see case study below).

While the Greater Melbourne city-region is our home, these grants benefit communities across the country. Below are just a couple of the examples of the impacts of our partners' work in Outcome 4.3 Sector Capacity building (Inspiring Philanthropy).

## High Impact Highlights

### Sector digital transformation

NFP Digital Transformation Hub, funded by the Foundation (seed and follow on funding), has provided resources and products to 20,867 organisations, given capacity training programs to 6,075 and 31% of users have reported an improvement in digital skills.

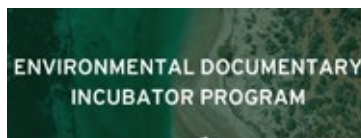
### Increasing access to legal advice

Justice Connect Build Back Better legal services project transformed their digital capability to provide legal services to the NFP sector. There was a 105% increase in use in the first three months and now 20,250 monthly online users.

## Outcome 4.3 Sector Capacity building (Inspiring Philanthropy).

### Systems change focus

#### Environmental Documentary Incubator & accelerating environmental impact



Just before the COVID19 pandemic hit, Documentary Australia Foundation initiated the Environmental Documentary Incubator. Since then, DAF has worked with 19 documentaries (7 in 2020 and 12 in 2021) from native forest logging to the video diaries of School Strikers. They received over 1,000 donations totalling more than 1 million dollars, and developed networks with 100 environmental NFPs. Impressed by this impact, the Foundation also supported DAF's work to include a specific focus on carbon and ways of approaching "sustainable carbon" via a small seed grant, which saw production of the film Carbon. They were invited to screen the film at APH by MP Zali Steggall, the film received 4 stars from David Stratton, Australia's foremost film critic, and was also endorsed by Dr Cathy Foley, Australia's Chief Scientist.

As a result of this impact, other Foundations, including Myer, have joined us to enable DAF to implement impact strategies developed for eight of the documentaries created via the Environmental Documentary Incubator.

This work highlights how as seed or first funders we can support a major program that aims to support action on climate change.

#### Cities Editor of The Conversation

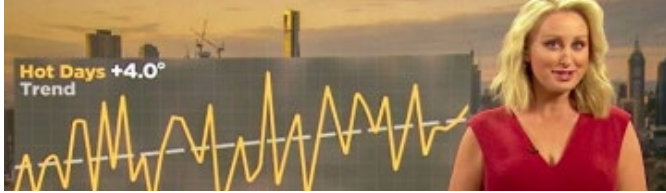
### THE CONVERSATION

Because the ways we understand and talk about an issue underpin the kinds of policies and actions we want or create, an important part of systemic change is helping inform the dominant ways a society talks about and understands an issue. By supporting an experienced Cities Editor of The Conversation, we aim to help leaders and communities appreciate the issues and possibilities our city-region faces in the polycrisis (the combined crises of climate change, increasing disasters, economic inequality, environmental degradation, and social instability).

Leading The Conversation's Cities coverage, the editor works with academics and researchers to unlock timely scholarly works and create engaging, evidence-based journalism about cities. During FY 2022/23, they published 150 articles, with a wide range of media outlets reusing the content, including ABC, The Guardian, The Mandarin, SBS and Yahoo. Many of these articles helped inform public discussions and authors reported a variety of impacts, including invitations to discuss policy issues with policymakers. E.g. one was asked by the International Energy Agency to review a forthcoming report. Many authors were also approached by other media outlets to further discuss their work. This all contributes to public understanding and discussion of key challenges facing cities like Greater Melbourne, and in so doing, influences policy and builds knowledge.



## Policy influence



### Monash Climate Change Communications Research Hub

We wanted to speed up the provision of high-quality information about climate change. (Since awareness levels have increased, we are now focused more on specific areas e.g. housing, jobs, good and on the transition to a net zero economy.) This project's impact has been outstanding. TV weather presenters were provided with over 780 packages of information; of which, 246 went to air on four television networks in the five capital city media markets. MCCRHR also surveyed 3098 Australians about their concerns and actions on climate change and updated the relative distribution of the "six Australia's" audience segments. They found that while Australians are much more alarmed about climate change than in 2011 and 2016, this hasn't necessarily translated into action. MCCRHR's presentation to the World Meteorological Organisation also saw them engaged by the European Climate Foundation to do the same analysis in Italy. Inspired by LMCF's funding, two anonymous funders provided generous challenge funding of \$500,000 each. A new anonymous funder also contributed \$243,000 toward increasing MCCRHR's renewables messaging, informed by research that suggests renewables are also being attacked by misinformation.

## Program/ Service Innovation

### NFP Digital Transformation Hub

Research showed that the NFP sector was falling behind other sectors in its digital capability. This was especially critical during COVID when organisations had to invent online services and develop new ways of working. To address this sector-wide need, along with Gandel Philanthropy, we provided Infoxchange seed funding to develop the NFP Digital Transformation Hub, which was launched in July 2021. In that time,

8,000 not-for-profits (NFPs) have strengthened their digital capability by leveraging the Hub's digital guides and discount technology products, and 2,200 NFPs have developed the capability of their staff through the Hub's training and advisory services. They ran training modules including the new 'Accidental Techie' webinar series (3 x 90 mins over 3 weeks plus 4 hours of homework) which is designed to build the skills of 'NFP Accidental Techies' who found themselves responsible for their IT environment. Another new service is the Digital Health Check (introduced in 2022). They also found however, that the sector continues to face significant challenges. E.g. 33% had to significantly change the way they delivered services as a result of COVID; 47% were not satisfied with the way they use technology; and 50% did not have effective information security plans in place. In response to the success of Hub's initial phase, the Foundation has since provided Infoxchange further support to continue and expand on their critical services to the NFP sector. It is evident that the NFP sector welcomes digital capacity building when a program is designed to meet its needs and products and services are financially accessible.



## Sector Capacity

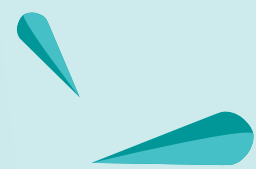
### Wellbeing Hub for Community Services Sector

"The almost normalised stress, anxiety and burnout in



the social sector has been simmering away for too long" Meanwhile, the demand for community services continues to grow post COVID, with climate change impacts and increasing demands in disaster response and recovery also increasing. Retaining leaders and staff is a critical issue. Through our support, the Xfactor Collective (now Benefolk), have initiated the Well-being Hub for the Community Services Sector. This is an innovative service, never seen before in Australia. In its start up year they undertook in-depth research with the sector, and experts here and in the US, to identify the sector's needs and the elements that a Wellbeing Hub should provide. The now live website was beta tested by around 130 charities: <https://benefolk.org/wellbeing>

Since launching, page hits for each module have been: Prevent – 1324, Protect – 844, Crisis – 592, Educate – 530, Recovery – 231, Enhance – 219, and Advocacy – 278. Benefolk also co-created a new award with Australian Scholarships Foundation: Outstanding Leadership in Wellbeing Governance. They are in discussions with a range of potential partners, including Nonprofit Alliance, SuperFriend, Volunteering Victoria, Suicide Call Back Line, Heads Up, Phoenix Australia, Mental Health First Aid, and VACRO. They have also met with eight MPs to request the social sector workforce be added into their policy. We have recently funded their second year to continue this important effort to address a major gap in support for community services sector (and more broadly).



# Beyond grant making



The Foundation utilises the many elements of the Philanthropy Toolbox in addition to granting, including impact investments; supporting policy influencing work; research; fostering and supporting networks and collaborations; strategic communications and reporting; and designing catalytic initiatives with partners to demonstrate solutions to tough social or environmental challenges. The following sections outline some of the additional impacts to which the Foundation contributes through some of these additional activities.



## For Purpose Impact Accelerator Hub



In a new, innovative initiative that extends our capacity building support, the Foundation is establishing a new program (due to open in October 2023) known as the For Purpose Impact Accelerator Hub. In FY 2022/23 the Foundation set the groundwork for establishing this new capacity building and collaboration opportunity for charities and other not-for-profits working on the big issues facing communities across Greater Melbourne. Located in the Munro Community Hub, which was redeveloped. The Foundation has taken a 10 year lease of a whole floor in the Munro Community Hub; a building newly redeveloped by the City of Melbourne to a 5 Star Green Star rating, located opposite the Queen Victoria Markets near the innovation precinct, the purpose precinct, and that contains the city library.

The Foundation engaged Six Degrees as architects for the For Purpose Impact Accelerator Hub's fit out. Our Hub will house offices, Good Cycles (subtenant), Infoxchange's NFP Digital Transformation Hub, social enterprises, and community organisations working on climate resilience. The Hub will have long term partners and hot desk participants and we will run a Collaboration Space for not-for-profit use. This will bring organisations and knowledge partners together.

Wheelchair accessible, there will be shared office and collaboration spaces. Along with Hub Partners, the Foundation will facilitate an annual program of capacity building talks and collaboration activities. We are working with potential Hub partners to plan events, occupancies, and possibilities to encourage social entrepreneurship, collaboration, and innovation.

## Impact Investment Australia



Impact investment is the term used to describe the growing investment space area where social investors (including many foundations and other investors) are looking for both a social or environmental return, plus a financial return from their investment. In this context, philanthropic grants can also sometimes be the patent capital in a layered financing solution. If philanthropy is to remain relevant in these fast-changing times, it is important that we learn and find opportunities where we can make precious grant dollars and impact investments count. (Ref: Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation - The Missing Middle (lmcf.org.au)).

## Affordable Housing Funders Network



For another year, the Foundation also chaired the Affordable Housing Funders Network through Philanthropy Australia, running three sessions a year on topics to inform philanthropy on the key issues and solutions to affordable housing.

## Social Enterprise Subgroup of the Jobs & Skills Funders Network.



We helped establish a Social Enterprise Subgroup of Philanthropy Australia's Jobs & Skills Funders Network, which has led to the development of one of Australia's most sophisticated collaborative funding rounds: the WISE collaboration.



# Looking forward

2022/23 was a year where the impacts of climate change became truly visible. The third La Nina in a row brought significant floods to parts of Greater Melbourne, Victoria, and interstate. Inflation and lack of housing led to a worsening housing crisis and worsening food insecurity. It was also a year where our granting, initiatives, and partnerships contributed to recovery efforts, and we continued to support the charitable sector's capacity, especially through tough times like pandemics and climate related disasters.

Climate change, economic inequality, and affordable housing remain our big challenges. Looking forward, the Foundation continues to support its partners to engage in government interest in homelessness and housing, and hopes to guide ways to enact policies that prevent homelessness and increase affordable housing, particularly for lower income households. The Foundation also welcomes hopeful signs in the release of the Measuring What Matters Report and the establishment of the Net Zero Authority. We continue to push the boundaries of social innovation by supporting systems aware initiatives seeking a more sustainable path for communities, cities, and the nation, including changing the narrative on economic inclusion and pushing for tangible policy change that will address Australia's growing inequality. We also maintain our climate lens, as we work with the not-for-profit and charitable sector to help reduce emissions and act on the implications of climate change for our health and well-being. We'll continue to do all of this through holistic, cross-sectional approaches to co-operative, systemic action.

As we reflect on the Foundation's centenary, we also look forward to continuing help shape a thriving Greater Melbourne into the next 100 years. We will continue to learn with our partners as we embrace the profound opportunity to shape a more caring, healthy, regenerative, and just future for all. We continue our efforts to help realise a Thriving Greater Melbourne for all: one where everyone has access to affordable homes; we have an inclusive and sustainable economy and jobs; our communities are just, healthy, and climate resilient; and Greater Melbourne is a generous place, able to respond to community needs.





## Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

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To learn more about the Foundation's work and receive regular updates, please visit: [lmcf.org.au/subscribe](https://lmcf.org.au/subscribe)

### Join Us

Contact our Development Team to discuss how you can partner with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for maximum impact:

[philanthropy@lmcf.org.au](mailto:philanthropy@lmcf.org.au)

## With Gratitude

This report could not have been produced without the support of all the Foundation's staff, and reporting by our grant partners.

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