

Community Foundations in Australia

Activities Address Areas Art Assistance Benefit Build Canada Care Catalyst Cause Change
Charitable Citizen Civic Connect Conservation Create Cultural
Culture Customs Develop Development Distribute Donor Economic
Education Educational Effective Elder Encourage Endowment Engagement
Enhance Enrich Environment Fund Future Generation Gift Giving Good Grant
Grantmaking Greater Health Help Historic Human Improve Include Individual Initiative
International Issues Land Leadership Life Live Local Make Manage Meet Nature
Need New Nonprofit Opportunities Organizations Partnership People Permanent
Philanthropic Philanthropy Preservation Program Project Promote
Provide Public Purpose Quality Region Research Residents Resource
Scholarship Science Serve Service Social Sport Strengthen Student
Support Traditional Training Understand Welfare Work Youth



**Australian
Community
Philanthropy**

Community foundations the global context

Australian community foundations are part of a thriving global sector. The first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1914; today there are more than 1,800 Community Foundations, forming a network spanning the US and Canada, the UK, Europe and Russia, India, Africa, and of course Australia and New Zealand. Collectively they hold US\$63.1 billion in financial reserves and granted more than US\$5 billion dollars last year. In the past 14 years, the number of community foundations in the world has almost doubled.

The global network of community foundations is supported at a national level by a series of peak bodies which represent the interests, and build the capacity of community foundations within their respective regions. These peak organisations communicate and collaborate with each other and, in turn their member foundations, exchanging knowledge, best practice and contributing to the shared value of the global community foundation movement.

A defining characteristic of community foundations, regardless of where they are in the world, is a commitment to

the importance of accountability to local people. Community foundations are highly regarded responsive organisations, dedicated to catalysing development and building social capital.

The 2014 Community Foundation Atlas, a report on the global community foundation movement, ranked the significance of the following activities and objectives to the missions of community foundations, in descending order of importance.



(source: *The Community Foundation Atlas 2014*)

(Cover infographic Source: *The Community Foundation Atlas* <http://communityfoundationatlas.org/facts/>.
The word cloud indicates the relative frequency with which key concepts appear in foundation mission statements)

The Australian Context

‘Empowerment is the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Community foundations empower local philanthropists and communities’

In 2013/14 Australian Community Philanthropy, the national peak organisation for community foundations, mapped Australian community foundations. The report identified, for the first time, the considerable size, reach and resources underpinning community foundations in our region.

Since the first Australian community foundation was founded in 1923, Australian community foundations have granted over approximately \$100 million within their communities. Collectively, Australia’s 36+community foundations:

- hold more than \$310 million in funds under management
- granted at least \$21 million within their communities (2013)
- each year, support hundreds of projects and initiatives within their communities through their grant and community building programs.

Most importantly, as independent placed based philanthropic, locally embedded organisations, community foundations represent a sustainable and resilient source of ongoing support for their communities.

Community foundations work in partnership with their communities acting, as the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation articulates it, ‘an honest broker with no agenda other than what is best for our community’. Community foundations engage with their constituents as donors, advisors and volunteers, generating strong community ownership, transparency, accountability, and creating community knowledge.

Whilst grant programs are a highly visible activity for almost all community foundations, most foundations are equally engaged in supporting their communities by:

- facilitating and brokering partnerships
- leading and encouraging community development initiatives
- building the capacity of local community groups and organisations
- facilitating community dialogue
- identifying needs, issues and opportunities within their communities.

Governance and Regulatory Structures

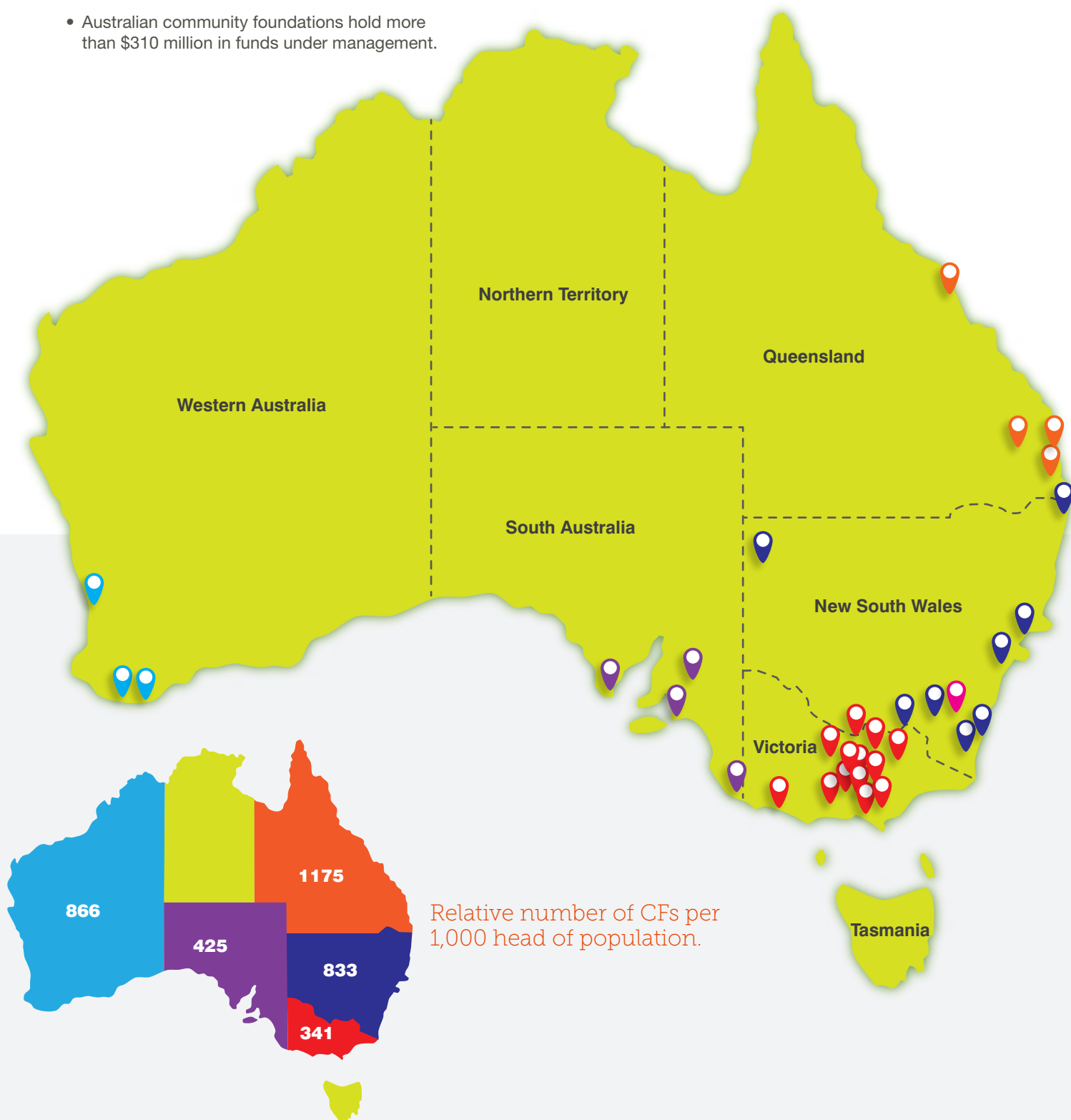
The majority of community foundations have established a corpus and utilise a Public Ancillary Fund structure, are registered as charities with the ACNC and are either incorporated associations or companies limited by guarantee. The complex regulatory framework, particularly with respect to granting from PuAFs to DGR endorsed organisations, creates challenges for many community foundations, especially those in rural communities. Australian Community Philanthropy is working with other key sector organisations on this issue and is hopeful that the outcome will be a reduction in the unnecessary and onerous regulations for community foundations.

People Power

Community foundation people – board members, staff and volunteers – are experts in their region with local knowledge and understanding of the strengths, needs and opportunities in their communities. As community leaders many of them wear several hats, professional and voluntary.

Map of Australian Community Foundations

- Australia has 36 community foundations and 2 community foundations managed by public trustees.
- Whilst the first Australian community foundation was established in 1923, the vast majority were founded from 2000 onwards.
- More than half of all community foundations have 1 member of staff or less EFT. All community foundation Boards are voluntary.
- Australian community foundations hold more than \$310 million in funds under management.



Australian Community Foundations

Albany Community Foundation	WA	www.acfwa.com.au
Australian Communities Foundation	VIC	www.communityfoundation.org.au
Ballarat Foundation	VIC	www.ballaratfoundation.org.au
Bass Coast Community Foundation	VIC	bccf.org.au
Border Trust : The Community Foundation for the Albury Wodonga Region	NSW	www.bordertrust.org.au
Broken Hill Community Foundation	NSW	www.bhcf.org.au/content
Buderim Foundation	QLD	www.buderimfoundation.org.au
Casey Cardinia Foundation	VIC	www.cardiniafoundation.com.au
Community Foundation for Central Victoria	VIC	www.communityfoundationbcv.com.au
Community Foundation for Tumut Region	NSW	www.tumutfoundation.org.au
Community Foundation of North Western Sydney	NSW	cfnws.org.au
Denmark Community Foundation	WA	www.dcfwa.org.au/index.html
Eyre Peninsula Community Foundation	SA	www.epcf.com.au
Fleurieu Community Foundation	SA	www.fleurieucommunityfoundation.org.au
Foundation Barossa	SA	www.foundationbarossa.org.au
Foundation Boroondara	VIC	www.foundationboroondara.org.au
Fremantle Foundation	WA	fremantlefoundation.com
Geelong Community Foundation	VIC	geelongfoundation.org
Give Where You Live Foundation	VIC	givewhereyoulive.com.au
Hunter Community Foundation	NSW	www.huntercommunityfoundation.com.au
Inner North Community Foundation	VIC	www.innernorthfoundation.org.au
Into Our Hands Foundation	VIC	intoourhandsfoundation.com
Kinglake Ranges Foundation	VIC	krfoundation.org.au
Lake Macquarie Foundation	NSW	www.thelakemacquariefoundation.com.au
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	VIC	www.lmcf.org.au
Mackay Foundation	QLD	www.mackayfoundation.com.au
Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation	VIC	marysvilletrianglefoundation.org.au
Mirboo North & District Community Foundation	VIC	www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au
Mitchell Community Resources & Advocacy Group	VIC	www.mcrag.net/index.html
Mumbulla Foundation	NSW	www.mumbulla.org.au/index.html
Northern Rivers Community Foundation	NSW	www.nrcf.org.au
Red Earth Community Foundation	QLD	www.redearth.info
South West Community Foundation	VIC	www.southwestcommunityfoundation.org
Stand Like Stone Foundation	SA	www.standlikestone.com.au
Strathewen Community	VIC	www.strathewen.vic.au
Sydney Community Foundation	NSW	www.sydneycommunityfoundation.org.au
Tomorrow:Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development	VIC	www.tomorrowtoday.com.au

Australian Community Philanthropy (ACP)

ACP is the peak organisation for community foundations in Australia, assisting them to establish, grow and achieve their goals.

Our objectives are to:

- build the capacity of community foundations; providing networking opportunities, tools and resources, links and connections, advice and assistance
- raise the profile and increase understanding of community foundations within the community, the broader philanthropic sector, business and government
- advocate for structural and tax reforms to clear the path to a stronger community foundation movement
- act as a central point of contact, information and communication for community foundations both in Australia and overseas
- help identify and create the optimum operating environment for the growth of community foundations in Australia.



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