



IMPACT FUND
PROSPECTUS 2019

INVESTING IN MOMENTOUS CHANGE

“ These are the big challenges facing Australia right now—facing the world in many respects right now—and it’s great to see a program of work dedicated to funding great ideas that are building a better Australia.” — Hugh de Kretser,
Executive Director, Human Rights Law Centre

**FOR ANY ENQUIRIES RELATED TO
THIS YEAR’S IMPACT FUND ROUND,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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FROM THE CEO



Together with our giving community and our non-profit partners, Australian Communities Foundation is powered by a courageous ambition: to make Australia a fairer and more sustainable place.

As a broker of change, Australian Communities Foundation enables, supports and amplifies giving by connecting those who have the resources to give with changemakers tackling the most pressing issues facing our nation.

The Impact Fund is a powerful example of the potential of collective giving to influence significant change. We're enormously proud of the achievements the Fund has supported since our inaugural grant round in 2017.

"The Impact Fund expresses our ideas and values about social justice." – Steve Rothfield, Fairer Futures Fund, Australian Communities Foundation

We've seen significant inroads being made across many issues facing Australia, including:

- gambling reform and the growing divestment from poker machines
- protection of reproductive rights, including the defence of safe access zones and decriminalisation of abortion
- triaging of people from offshore detention under the Medevac legislation
- enshrining of LGBTQIA+ rights through marriage equality
- the establishment of the Australian Gun Safety Alliance
- the rise of shareholder activism against airlines involuntarily deporting asylum seekers
- increasing calls for action on climate change and growing support for a renewable-powered future.

Now in its third year, the Impact Fund is ready once again to present six bold projects that are tackling some of our country's most pressing issues head on. Each of these projects has enormous potential to generate lasting impact and tip the scales towards social, cultural and environmental justice.

Our combined impact is tangible proof that giving together is an effective way of exercising our democratic rights and improving outcomes for all Australians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maree". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M'.

Maree Sidey
CEO

IMPACT AREAS

The Impact Fund focuses on four impact areas, all of which continue to be growing areas of concern for our funding community and the broader public.

TACKLING INEQUALITY

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

We work with our giving community and changemakers across these four areas to identify points for innovative and collaborative pathways to positive change.

We believe that investment in advocacy, campaigns, research, pilot projects or helping organisations scale proven projects can help tip the scales towards a more inclusive and equitable Australia.

The final suite of projects presented in this prospectus is the output of a process of careful consideration by review panels consisting of funders, community leaders and subject-matter experts in each impact area. Each project rated highly against the Fund's key selection criteria:

- alignment with impact area
- timeliness/urgency of opportunity
- potential for systemic impact
- evidence base
- potential to influence change.

This collaborative process has resulted in bold but thoughtful co-funding opportunities that our funding community and our partners stand firmly behind. We invite you to join us in creating a more culturally, environmentally and socially just Australia together.

TYPES OF GRANTS

Large Grants are distributed via an annual grant round. The Impact Fund carefully selects projects across the four impact areas, pledges a contribution to each and invites co-funding contributions from the broader funding community.

Agile/Seed Grants are made throughout the year in rapid response to urgent opportunities across the four impact areas. The Impact Fund pledges a contribution and puts out a time-limited call for co-funding contributions from the broader funding community.

This prospectus outlines four Large Grants and two Agile/Seed Grants for co-funding in 2019.



GIVE DIRECTLY TO THE IMPACT FUND

There are a number of ways to support the work of the Impact Fund. You can **co-fund** one of the projects outlined in this prospectus, you can **give directly** into the Fund to increase the amount we have for distribution each year, or you can advise us of your intention to leave a **bequest**.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Impact Fund or leave a bequest, contact the Australian Communities Foundation team or visit our website »

COMMUNITYFOUNDATION.ORG.AU

(03) 9412 0412

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PROGRESS TO DATE



Impact Fund partners have achieved significant progress since the Fund's first grant round in 2017. Over the past two years, these changemakers have made huge leaps forward by establishing new alliances, mobilising their constituencies, engaging media and lobbying decision-makers. Their work is bringing new voices to the table, raising awareness, shifting the attitudes of key decision-makers and steering the course of positive social change with resilient determination. Here are some of their achievements so far.

We congratulate them on their outstanding work.

HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CENTRE PROMOTING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Since receiving a Large Grant from the Impact Fund in 2018, the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) successfully intervened in the High Court in defence of Victoria and Tasmania's safe access zone laws. This win will ensure women and staff can access abortion clinics free from harassment and abuse. Building on a win in Queensland last year, the HRLC has since been deeply involved in advocating for the decriminalisation of abortion in New South Wales. After 119 years, the NSW Parliament passed laws to remove abortion from the Crimes Act and respect a woman's right to choice.

ALLIANCE FOR GAMBLING REFORM CAMPAIGN FOR POKIES DIVESTMENT

The Alliance for Gambling Reform has achieved significant progress over the past two years through its campaign for divestment from poker machines. By placing increased pressure on AFL clubs to turn away from pokies as a form of revenue, the Alliance has seen eight clubs either exit or commit to exiting the pokies industry. The Alliance has also focused its efforts on pressuring Coles and Woolworths to divest, with progress moving at a quicker pace than expected. In March 2019, Coles publicly announced its exit from the pokies business through a new joint venture deal in Queensland. Woolworths announced in July that it was also divesting amidst mounting pressure from the Alliance, Coles' recent decision, and public urging from its investors.

All of these outstanding projects are ongoing and would welcome additional funding and support.

CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT IMPACT FUND ALUMNI
(03) 9412 0412 admin@communityfoundation.org.au



ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE MEDICAL EVACUATION RESPONSE GROUP

In early 2019, ten funds at Australian Communities Foundation responded to an urgent call for co-funding from the Impact Fund for an Agile Grant to support the Medical Evacuation Response Group (MERG). This swift and decisive action by co-funders—amounting to \$75,000 raised within 48 hours—is a testament to the agility of the Impact Fund model. MERG has used this funding to resource a Triage Manager role to ensure people in offshore detention are appropriately triaged for allocation to the detention rights advocacy program based on medical needs. As of September 2019, there have been 245 applications for medical care in Australia submitted to the Department of Home Affairs. Of those, the Minister has agreed with Medevac 156 times and transferred these refugees to Australia for urgent medical care. Careful management of this process also helps advocates to ensure this hard-won legislation is not repealed.

AUSTRALASIAN CENTRE FOR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY USING SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM TO BUILD CIVIL POWER IN CAPITAL

Over the last year, the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) has continued its engagement with Australian listed companies and their investors about human rights issues. Most notably, ACCR has focused on the forcible transportation of refugees and asylum seekers by commercial airlines, meeting with Qantas to discuss the airline's involvement. ACCR is also focusing on Origin Energy and Santos' fracking in the Beetaloo Basin, where Traditional Owners have raised concerns about historical consents. ACCR has recently begun exploring the human rights dimensions of climate change and is working with community organisations to explore company engagements with large Australian extractive companies whose poor environmental records have resulted in human rights impacts on communities abroad.

THE ALANNAH & MADELINE FOUNDATION GUN CONTROL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Over the past two years, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation has successfully established the Australian Gun Safety Alliance—a national coalition of 30 organisations championing gun safety. The Alliance is providing a credible alternative voice to the gun lobby on firearms policy for the first time. Moreover, the Alliance is increasingly called upon to respond to gun safety issues in the media and is also being consulted on firearms policy by governments around the country, including the Commonwealth. The broad-based network ensures that there are several spokespeople available to speak with authority on this issue and no one organisation is vulnerable to potential repercussions from the gun lobby.

⌵ Adrienne Walters, Senior Lawyer at the HRLC (right) joins protestors at a safe access zone rally. Credit: Human Rights Law Centre.

⬆ Members of the ASRC Medevac team. Credit: Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNALISM INITIATIVE SECURING A STRONG AND VIABLE FUTURE FOR PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNALISM IN AUSTRALIA

The newly established Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI) has been busy in its efforts to inform policy development and public discussion on independent public interest journalism in Australia. PIJI has released its first round of research—the *Availability of Local News and Information, 2019 State of the Regions Report* (a partnership with the Australian Local Government Association), which surveys the decline in journalism for local events and issues per region, including local government reporting. PIJI has also been very engaged in discussions focused on future policy options including those convened by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Google News Lab and government officials.

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS COUNTRY NEEDS PEOPLE CAMPAIGN FOR INDIGENOUS RANGER AND PROTECTED AREA PROGRAMS

The Country Needs People campaign now comprises over 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land and sea management groups. It has made significant progress over recent years playing a key role in garnering bipartisan support for Indigenous rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs). Advocacy by Country Needs People supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts secured funds resulting in an additional 14 million hectares of IPAs entering the planning process last year with further proposals now being assessed. Indigenous ranger jobs continue to grow and the work of Country Needs People in defending and extending this funding continues with the campaign examining a fresh approach since the 2019 federal election, including a mix of direct support to partners along with continuing to advocate for policy change.



SNAICC – NATIONAL VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN FAMILY MATTERS CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE THE OVER-REPRESENTATION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Led by a group of eminent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts from across the country, the Family Matters campaign has recently built a strategic alliance of 150 organisations. Supported by this strong collective voice for change, Family Matters has already achieved a major impact on child and family sector policy and practice. Key outcomes over the past year include the commencement of negotiations for a national Closing the Gap target to end over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, and all state and federal governments agreeing to implement the full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, which consists of five elements that recognise the importance of Aboriginal family and community participation and each child's connection to culture and kin.

↑ Li-Anthawirriyarra Ranger Jodie Evans being interviewed by SBS News about the benefits of working as a ranger. Credit: Alex Inglis.

↗ Children participate in a performance organised by Family Matters SA. Credit: Ben Searcy.



FARMERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION DEVELOPING A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past 12 months, Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) has used funding from the Impact Fund to build its capacity and expand its campaign for a national strategy on agriculture and climate change. By creating alliances and connecting farmers with politicians and the media, FCA is working to tackle climate change where it intersects with agricultural issues. Significant strategy work is underway on the path towards a solid National Strategy on Climate Change and Agriculture being passed with funding. This has included meetings with energy, environment, and agriculture ministers at both the state and federal level. In June 2019, FCA launched a report in partnership with Australia's leading agricultural thinktank, the Australian Farm Institute (AFI). AFI partnering with FCA on this report and calling for an effective National Strategy on Climate Change and Agriculture signals a significant step forward for the industry.

↑ Anika Molesworth, FCA board member, on her farm in Broken Hill.
Credit: Farmers for Climate Action.

CLIMATEWORKS AUSTRALIA NET ZERO EMISSIONS TRANSPORT ROADMAP

Since receiving an Agile Grant from the Impact Fund in early 2019, ClimateWorks Australia has been advancing its research, engagement and modelling to develop a net-zero emissions roadmap for the Australian transport sector. Moreover, it has been working towards building a coalition of industry leaders who can champion the changes required in policy and business practices. The coalition will consider emerging technologies and business models, such as renewable-powered electric and hydrogen vehicles and opportunities to shift people away from private transport to active or public transport. ClimateWorks has successfully done this for the building sector and will apply similar methodologies here.



RENEW NATIONAL CAMPAIGNING, ADVOCACY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT HOMES

Renew's 'Climate Resilient Homes' campaign has seen some important progress that sets the groundwork for stronger energy performance standards and construction codes in the housing sector. Renew has worked with ACOSS to coordinate more than 60 community, environment, industry and local government groups to sign a joint statement urging government to commit to higher energy performance standards for all Australian homes—new and existing. This, and ongoing joint advocacy during 2019, contributed to the COAG Energy Council supporting the recommendations of the Trajectory for Low Energy Homes report in February. These recommendations, which set a path towards new homes being ready to achieve net-zero energy and carbon usage, are now being considered for implementation in the 2022 National Construction Code. Renew has also been offered a seat on the NCC 2022 efficiency technical committee—the first time a consumer organisation has been represented.

↑ ReNew is working with consumer groups and households across Australia to advocate for higher efficiency standards for all Australian homes. Credit: ReNew.

INTRODUCING 2019 PROJECTS...

LARGE GRANTS

FUNDING ORGANISATION			
PROJECT	The Australian Council of Social Services	Shark Island Institute, Jungle Entertainment and Craig Reucassel	Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW
	RAISE THE RATE CAMPAIGN	DEMOCRACY FOR SALE DOCUMENTARY: IMPACT AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN	VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH: PROGRESSING THE ULURU STATEMENT
	TACKLING INEQUALITY	STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY	SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
	\$150,000 (2 YEARS)	\$150,000 (3 YEARS)	\$150,000 (3 YEARS)

TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE PROJECTS IN GREATER DETAIL OR TO
MAKE A PLEDGE TOWARDS A PARTICULAR PROJECT, CONTACT
GEORGIA OR LOUISE.

“ The Impact Fund is looking at the system, not just the projects... It’s all about addressing the root causes to promote systems change.”
 – Sue Beecher, Beecher Family Charitable Fund, Australian Communities Foundation

AGILE/SEED GRANTS



Invasive Species Council

PROTECTING AUSTRALIAN SPECIES AGAINST EXTINCTION

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

\$150,000

(3 YEARS)



The Next Economy

THE NATIONAL ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION

TACKLING INEQUALITY

\$50,000



Human Rights Law Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation and Australian Council of Social Services

HANDS OFF OUR CHARITIES CAMPAIGN

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

\$50,000

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RAISE THE RATE CAMPAIGN

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

The **Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)** is a national advocate for action to reduce poverty and inequality and is the peak body for the community services sector in Australia. Its vision is for a fair, inclusive and sustainable Australia where all individuals and communities can participate in, and benefit from, social and economic life.

THE ISSUE

The biggest risk of living in poverty in Australia continues to be having to rely on the unemployment payment, Newstart, for income. Newstart has not been increased in real terms for 25 years despite real increases in other social security payments and wages. This failure to increase the allowance means that Newstart is now contributing to inequality in Australia, with recipients unable to afford the basics like keeping the lights on and putting food on the table. Research reports continue to show that people relying on Newstart for their income are the most severely financially deprived.

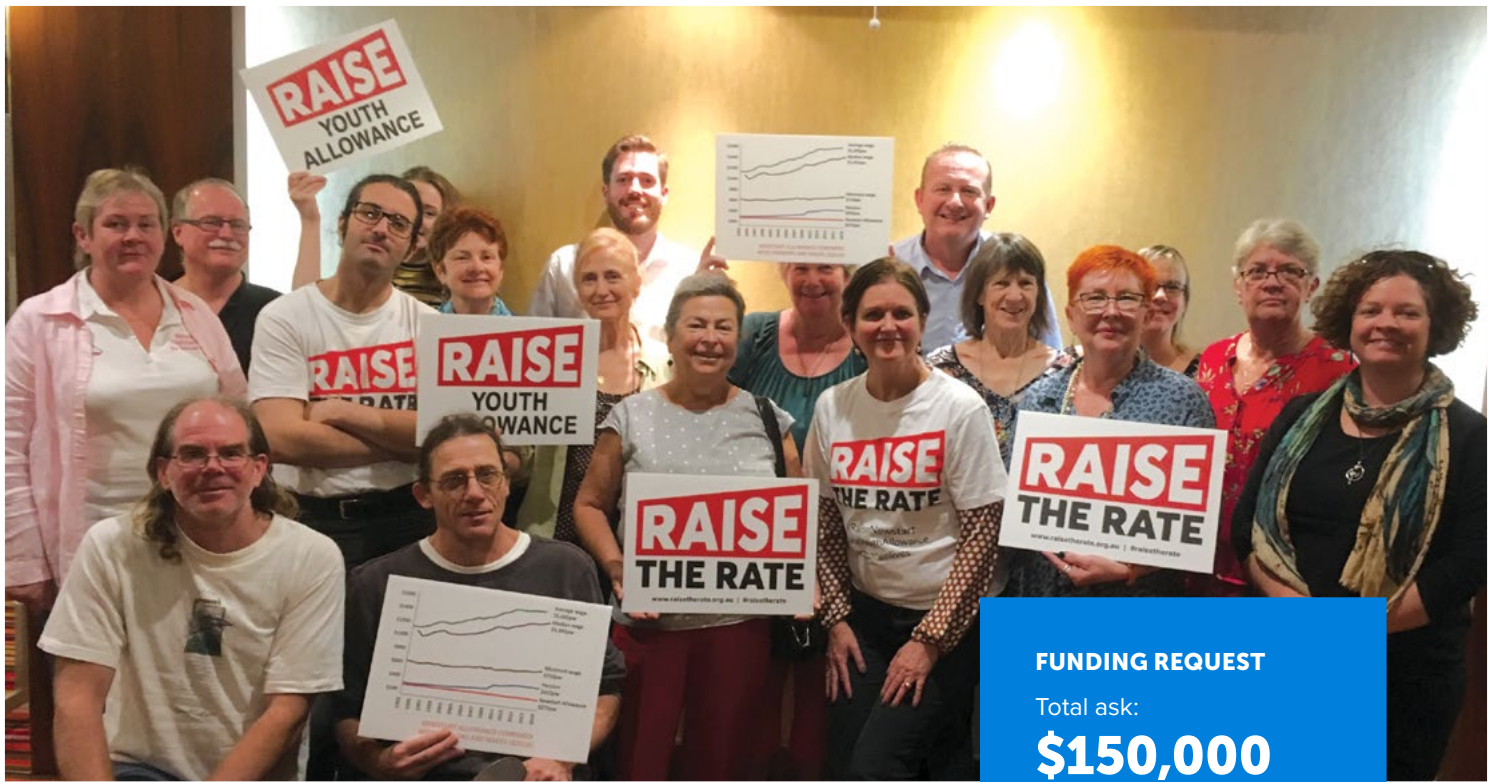
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ACOSS seeks to continue its campaign for an increase to the base rate of Newstart and other allowances by at least \$75 per week. In addition, ACOSS wants to ensure that allowances are indexed to wages so that these payments do not fall behind community living standards in the future. The campaign has been successful in pushing for change since its initial funding in November 2018 and is employing four strategies to *Raise the Rate*: changing the story; mobilising high-profile and diverse influencers; building a grassroots and online campaign; and building parliamentary support.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project's activities are guided by the four overarching campaign strategies:

- **Changing the story:** The campaign will continue to highlight the diverse experiences that lead to people needing to rely on Newstart and strengthen the argument that a raise will stimulate the economy.
- **Mobilising high-profile and diverse influencers:** The campaign will continue to target key influencers, particularly those who would be classed as unlikely supporters.
- **Building a grassroots and online campaign:** As a key objective of the next phase of the campaign, ACOSS will work to build the autonomy of community-led organisations to campaign effectively on national issues with a focus on *Raise the Rate*.
- **Building parliamentary support:** In capitalising on the support from The Greens, The Australian Labor Party, the majority of crossbenchers and National Party members, the campaign will begin to place greater pressure on the Government to accept the need for, and desirability of, an increase to Newstart.



OUTCOMES

The project seeks to ensure that an increase to Newstart and related allowances of \$75/week is included in the 2021 budget, if not in the 2020 budget.

To get there, the project seeks three preliminary outcomes by June 2020:

- positive public debate around Newstart with an increase in the number of influencers supporting an increase to Newstart
- expansion of grassroots mobilisation with increased direct lobbying and media coverage
- a rise in support an increase in the Liberal and National party rooms.

More broadly, the project seeks to bring about government commitment to systemic social security reform in the long term. ACOSS will also support the development of a network of organised grassroots organisations and individuals to hold government to account.

IMPACT

Almost one million people in communities across Australia rely on allowances that do not cover the basic costs of housing, food, transport and healthcare. Lifting the rate of Newstart and related allowances would be the most effective step to reducing poverty in Australia.

WHY NOW?

The inadequacy of current allowances is now a major public issue, with the campaign receiving almost daily national attention and with parliamentary support growing across the political spectrum. Grassroots support must be maintained and pressure must be increased to *Raise the Rate*, lest one million Australians remain in desperate poverty.

FUNDING REQUEST

Total ask:

\$150,000

Impact Fund pledge:

\$35,000

Remaining funds required:

\$115,000

↑ Raise the Rate supporters gather in Lismore with ACOSS CEO Cassandra Goldie (front, third from right) and Campaign Coordinator Pas Forgione (second row, second from left). Credit: Tony Davis.



DEMOCRACY FOR SALE DOCUMENTARY: IMPACT AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN SHARK ISLAND INSTITUTE

Shark Island Institute (Partner) is a purpose-driven business that makes and supports films seeking to have a positive social impact. Based in Sydney, the Institute develops stories that need to be told and nurtures long-term impact campaigns with a diverse cross-section of the community to achieve a more inclusive, just and healthy society. One of Shark Island's major initiatives is Good Pitch Australia.

Jungle Entertainment (Producer) is an Australian production company that produces critically and commercially successful television and feature films for both the domestic and international markets.

Craig Reucassel (Director) is an Australian television and radio comedian, who is best known for the documentary series, *War on Waste*, and for his work with the satirical comedy group, *The Chaser*. Craig brings a wealth of experience and an impressive track record in delivering engaging content and impact campaigns that raise awareness, change behaviour and influence the policy arena.

THE ISSUE

The extent to which money has infiltrated our political process, and the non-transparent influence of corporate lobbying, is an issue of growing concern for many Australians. It is a bi-partisan problem which is leading to increasing disillusionment with the democratic process, and with our institutions of government. *Democracy For Sale* aims to shine a light on some of these challenges as well as illuminate ways to improve fairness, transparency and confidence in our democratic system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Democracy For Sale is an upcoming social impact documentary that follows actor and comedian Christiaan Van Vuuren (*Soul Mates*; *Bondi Hipsters*) as he pulls back the curtain on the relationship between money and power in Australia. Provocative and timely, the film is a wakeup call to all Australians about the frightening extent to which money has infiltrated politics in our country, why we should care, and ultimately, how we might work together to ensure our democracy is safeguarded from sale to the highest bidder. The film brings together the diverse skill sets of an accomplished creative team that uses comedy as a tool to inform and effect positive social change.



DEMOCRACY FOR SALE

FUNDING REQUEST

Total ask:

\$150,000

Impact Fund pledge:

\$35,000

Remaining funds required:

\$115,000

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The film will commence pre-production in February 2020 with the majority of filming expected to be completed by mid-2020. In order to maximise the film's impact, Shark Island Institute will commence an impact and outreach campaign during production that is expected to run over 2-3 years. The campaign will build pathways for public engagement and policy change largely through community and parliamentary screenings. Ian Darling and Malinda Wink from Shark Island will lead the campaign, which will largely be informed by a stakeholder summit in late 2019. The summit will bring the team together with key advocates and stakeholders with the purpose of drawing on their collective wisdom,

expertise and insight to test and hone the narrative elements in the research and pre-production phase, and to codesign the focus and elements of the impact strategy.

OUTCOMES

The film's impact campaign is expected to seek four key outcomes:

- greater support for key partners pursuing critical democratic reforms including political donation reforms and the establishment of an Independent Commission Against Corruption at the federal level
- communities across Australia being provided with practical strategies to participate in democratic renewal
- wider interest in the function of democracy and democratic institutions, particularly among young people who have had low levels of trust historically
- greater interest and investment in democratic institution building, including the role of our judicial system, media and electoral process.

IMPACT

Leveraging the power of documentary film, *Democracy For Sale* is a tool for overdue political reform. By supporting Australians to better understand the current state of our political system, the film will build pathways for greater democratic engagement and advocacy for a fairer democracy.

WHY NOW?

As a nation, we are at a fragile point in our democracy and increasingly divided about politics. The extent that money and power have infiltrated our democracy is a bipartisan issue that the Australian public needs to be aware of now.



VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH: PROGRESSING THE ULURU STATEMENT

INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The **Indigenous Law Centre** (ILC) at UNSW Law is the only Indigenous law research centre in Australia. Established in 1981, the ILC contributes to the recognition, protection and development of the legal rights and freedoms of Indigenous peoples both in Australia and internationally. Professors Garth Nettheim, Hal Wootten, Mick Dodson and Megan Davis have held leadership positions at the Centre. The ILC has been involved in High Court cases such as *Koowarta v Bjelke-Peterson*, *Mabo v Queensland* and international Indigenous rights advocacy such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

THE ISSUE

Over a decade since the Council of Australian Governments agreed to a coordinated approach to addressing disadvantage in First Nations communities, there is a consensus among First Nations peoples that the gap in health, social and economic outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia cannot be addressed through more research and program funding alone. We need to take a different approach. The problem is structural and the solution needs to be informed by First Nations through a process they identify as meaningful to them. In 2017, the Uluru Statement from the Heart was issued to the Australian people as a way forward. We now need to support First Nations communities as they progress this work that is critical to the healing process for effective, long-term change.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW is the backbone organisation that coordinates the ongoing national dialogue process to ensure First Nations voices remain at the heart of delivering on Voice, Treaty, Truth—the three pathways to justice set out in the Uluru Statement. Utilising a hub and

spoke model, local communities have identified leaders to represent them at National Uluru Dialogues that will take place at least three times per year. A National Youth Convention will take place once per year. Leaders will conduct ongoing education of the mob through local dialogues on Uluru. Philanthropic support is central to enabling this important work to occur locally and on a national scale.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

There are four key areas the ILC will lead on in supporting the progression of the Statement:

- providing the 'backbone' coordination and support for ongoing local and national dialogues, ensuring the mob is brought along and their voices are at the heart of the solutions
- undertaking the extensive research that First Nations communities will need to make evidence-based and informed decisions essential to successful constitutional reform negotiations, representative body models, truth-telling, reconciliation and true self-determination
- leading and not just influencing structural policy reform on First Nations issues



- developing a long-term inter-generational vision by ‘growing our own’ world-class First Nations researchers, critical thinkers and leaders who have the capability to influence policy and create meaningful change to the current structures and relationships.

Philanthropic support will be used to fund an Uluru Dialogues Manager position, who will be responsible for coordinating the Uluru Dialogues (at least three national dialogues and a youth convention each year) to help the ILC realise the first of these four key areas of activity.

OUTCOMES

Through the coordination of the ongoing national dialogues process, the ILC anticipates the following outcomes:

- First Nations’ voices remaining at the centre of the process as we move towards a referendum
- the creation of a Voice to Parliament designed with First Nations peoples

- First Nations peoples informing their own pathways to wellbeing and self-determination
- the development of leadership and advocacy capabilities of young First Nations peoples
- ultimately, the Voice to Parliament, through which First Nations peoples will have a say in policies and decision-making that affects them.

IMPACT

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the Australian public to walk with First Nations peoples on a journey to a better future for us all. By supporting reconciliation and tackling systemic structural issues on a national scale, all Australians will benefit from this work. Most importantly, we will for the first time, be able to address the structural issues that currently maintain the cycle of disadvantage for First Nations communities.

WHY NOW?

The mandate that came out of the Uluru Statement—to enshrine a voice to parliament in the constitution—was historic.

FUNDING REQUEST

Total ask:

\$150,000

Impact Fund pledge:

\$35,000

Remaining funds required:

\$115,000

The Government has budgeted for a referendum and committed to a co-design process for the Voice to Parliament by 2022. The ILC urgently needs core operational funding to support and scale the dialogues to ensure First Nations voices are at the heart of this work. Without this core support, there is a real possibility the Government will forge ahead with no input from grassroots Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. First Nations peoples have sought to be heard and risk not having a seat at the table.

First Nations peoples urgently need the support of the philanthropic community—to walk alongside them, to create the space for First Nations peoples to speak for themselves and lead their own path.

↑ Supporters of the Uluru Statement From The Heart at the Tree of Knowledge in Yarrabah. Credit: UNSW Indigenous Law Centre.



PROTECTING AUSTRALIAN SPECIES AGAINST EXTINCTION

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

The **Invasive Species Council** (ISC) is a not-for-profit, charitable organisation campaigning for stronger laws, policies and programs that safeguard Australia's native plants and animals from harmful weeds, feral animals and other invaders.

THE ISSUE

Australia is currently facing an extinction crisis with more than 1,770 species now threatened or endangered, and invasive species are the number one cause. Cats and foxes have driven 22 native mammals to extinction across central Australia and a new wave of decline, largely from cats, is taking place across northern Australia. Species will continue to decline and become extinct unless we have a strong national system for abating the threats of invasive species as well as those posed by habitat destruction. Australia's current system for identifying key threatening processes and coordinating national threat abatement efforts (under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) is failing. The Government does not recognise, let alone seek to address, many major threats under the

current system, and less than half of the threats that are recognised have resulted in moderate to good abatement progress. A more effective national threat abatement system is needed to prevent species extinctions and declines.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ISC has been working with environmental NGOs, policy experts and scientists to develop a package of institutional, legal and policy reforms that would engender a more concerted focus on abating major threats. The proposed reforms include:

- promoting effective intergovernmental and cross-sectoral collaborations
- designing solutions that best fit specific threats
- prioritising science-based decision-making and limiting political interference
- assessing funding needs and developing new funding sources
- supporting the development of a 'threat abatement industry' to maintain a skilled workforce, as exemplified by Indigenous ranger groups.

The next steps are to:

- establish a threat abatement working group (with members for whom threat abatement is a core focus)
- further develop the proposed reforms and build the case for their adoption
- create a cross-sectoral consortium (with members that conduct abatement or will benefit from the reforms) to demonstrate support for the reforms, undertake advocacy, and initiate collaborative threat abatement projects.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The majority of the project's activities will kick off in its first year. A project coordinator will be employed and the threat abatement working group of experts and NGOs will be established to:

- further develop the proposed reform package
- create an advocacy plan
- undertake case studies and analyses to build the case for proposed reforms.



During the project's three-year period, reforms will be pursued by a cross-sectoral consortium including Traditional Owners, natural resource management groups, researchers, sympathetic industry groups and supportive local and state governments. The reform agenda will be promoted through advocacy and media, as well as field trips with politicians and journalists. The consortium will also demonstrate the benefits of a more collaborative approach to threat abatement by initiating joint projects to advance the abatement of particular threats.

OUTCOMES

The Council seeks to achieve five key short-term outcomes throughout the project:

- a complete reform package proposing ambitious yet realistic reforms to place threat abatement at the centre of national conservation efforts
- a collection of case studies and analyses to provide compelling arguments for threat abatement reforms

- the establishment of a cross-sectoral consortium to promote threat abatement reforms
- the advancement of abatement efforts through cross-sectoral collaborations (subject to partner capacity and funding), thereby demonstrating to government the benefits of a more collaborative approach to threat abatement
- adoption by the Federal Government of the reform proposals.

IMPACT

Safeguarding Australia's most vulnerable native plants and animals from the major threats driving their decline is the ultimate goal of this project. Abating threats that imperil multiple plant and animal species is not only the most effective way to save threatened species and ecological communities but will also protect not-yet threatened biodiversity. Given Australia is the only country with a formal national threat abatement system, improving the effectiveness of the system will create a model the rest of the world can follow.

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\$115,000

WHY NOW?

A current Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis and an upcoming 10-yearly review of Australia's environmental laws will provide some political momentum for reform. In addition, Australians have never been more keenly attuned to the severity of our biodiversity crisis. There have been at least three animal extinctions within the past decade and the escalating threat of climate change increases the imperative to reduce other threats to give species the best chance of surviving. Through a discussion paper and expert workshop, the Invasive Species Council has already undertaken preliminary work to develop these reforms.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION THE NEXT ECONOMY



FUNDING REQUEST

Total ask:

\$50,000

Impact Fund pledge:

\$10,000

Remaining funds required:

\$40,000

The **Next Economy** is a national organisation that seeks to generate awareness of the economic tools and practices that communities can use to ensure the long-term wellbeing of both people and planet. It also supports communities across Australia in implementing these approaches to strengthen and stimulate their local economies.

Australia's transition from a system fuelled by fossilised energy to one powered by renewable energy gives rise to complex social and economic issues for marginalised groups such as low-income households, regional and remote communities, First Nations groups and workers in the fossil fuel industry. These social aspects of the transition process have been largely overlooked by policymakers and planners. TNE is bringing leading thinkers and practitioners together to form the

National Energy Justice Coalition (NEJC). The NEJC will be tasked with putting justice at the centre of energy policy, investment, infrastructure development and systems. In developing an aligned vision, strategy and action plan to transform the energy system, the NEJC will raise public awareness of the wide range of energy justice issues across Australia and will identify the key opportunities for system-wide change.

HANDS OFF OUR CHARITIES CAMPAIGN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CENTRE, AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AND AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE



FUNDING REQUEST

Total ask:

\$50,000

Impact Fund pledge:

\$10,000

Remaining funds required:

\$40,000

Working with people and communities, the **Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC)** uses a strategic mix of legal action, policy solutions and advocacy to eliminate inequality and injustice and build a fairer, more compassionate Australia.

The **Australian Conservation Foundation** is Australia's national environment organisation. The Foundation uses evidence-based advocacy, exposes corruption and destruction, and champions real solutions for a better world.

The **Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)** is a national advocate for action to reduce poverty and inequality and is the peak body for the community services sector in Australia.

Advocacy by independent groups in civil society is vital to a healthy democracy. In the last few years the ability of civil society organisations to speak out and share their unique knowledge, expertise and experience has been threatened by new laws and practices that are eroding their independent voice. In response, around 40 civil society organisations came together to form the Hands Off Our Charities (HOOC) alliance in 2017. HOOC has already greatly increased the capacity and interest of civil society in protecting and strengthening its voice. It now requires a senior campaigner to take the work further and ensure

Australian charities are protected from adverse policy changes. Working with HOOC member organisations, the senior campaigner will: identify threats to civil society; coordinate united, sector-wide responses; develop positive messaging; build consensus around long-term reforms and grow the HOOC membership. This work will ultimately ensure Australia's strong, vibrant civil society brings its unique expertise and experience to public discussion and decision-making.

↑ Leaders, staff and volunteers of the Hands Off Our Charities Alliance at the Hands Off Our Charities 2018 Democracy Sausage Sizzle at Parliament House. Credit: Hands Off Our Charities.

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“ The Impact Fund projects are changing Australia for the better—there is no doubt about that. Everything from strengthening our democracy, supporting change in our environmental legislation, supporting Aboriginal children—all of these projects are so worthy of our support.” — Anna Rose, The Anna Rose and Simon Sheikh Family Fund, Australian Communities Foundation



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