



5 May 2023

Submission to:

Productivity Commission

Review of Philanthropy

The purpose of philanthropy is simple.

People who have too much money should give it to people who know what to do with it. To improve society.

Yet that simply doesn't happen in Australia. And it does not make sense.

There is wealth in this country, derived from the extraction of minerals from the unceded lands of the Aboriginal First Nations of Australia. As well as extraction of labour from the peoples of Australia.

Where is it? Why is that wealth derived from Country not serving the interests of its peoples? First Nations and immigrants.

I write this as an American Australian, with experience in the American philanthropic sector.

I was a member of the advisory board for Tipping Point Foundation (2010-2013), while I was employed at San Francisco State University as an assistant professor of child and adolescent development. I provided advice on philanthropy intended for the benefit of children and families.

The Tipping Point Foundation was established by Daniel Lurie. It is a force for good, seeking to overcome poverty in the San Francisco Bay Area. Daniel Lurie is a shining example of a man who has dedicated his own family's personal wealth, as heirs to the Levi Strauss fortune, to charitable causes, particularly children, women and men oppressed by poverty. Daniel Lurie should be invited to Australia to give testimony to the Productivity Commission.

<https://tippingpoint.org/thought-leadership/tipping-point-community-announces-leadership-transition/>

I also completed my first social work placement, for my Masters in Social Work completed at the University of California Berkeley, at The San Francisco Foundation. At the time, in terms of capital, this was the second largest community foundation in the United States after that of New York City. I worked with the Daniel E. Koshland Civic Unity Community Fellowship Program. For forty years, this program has supported over 500



neighborhood (Community) leaders and resourced over 35 communities throughout the Bay Area.

As Director of the Koshland program, Retha Robinson is deeply embedded in the communities where she was born, raised, reared her own family and has served with integrity for her whole life. Retha Robinson should be invited to Australia to give testimony to the Productivity Commission.

<https://sff.org/team-members/retha-robinson/>

Dr Elizabeth Cham was the former National Director of Philanthropy Australia from 1996 to 2005. Prior to this, Elizabeth worked for several large Melbourne foundations including the Alfred Felton Bequest and the William Buckland Foundation. She is currently Board Chair for Australian & New Zealand Third Sector Research.

In her PhD thesis, *Trustee Companies: Their Role in Australian Philanthropy* (UTS, 2016), Dr Elizabeth Cham asks a question:

Should Australian philanthropic foundations be publicly accountable?

I can only ask why they have not been accountable to date, who has been perpetuating this fraud, and whether we are finally ready to overturn it.

Naturally, Liz Cham should be invited to give testimony to the Productivity Commission.

<https://www.anztsr.org.au/committee-members/>

In her PhD, I learned that the only legal obligation upon philanthropic entities in Australia is to provide an audited annual report to the Australian Taxation Office and that information is treated as private and confidential.

What?

Why are these entities getting tax breaks then?

Where is our Australian version of Guidestar.org?



This is how U.S.-based Guidestar describes itself:

GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. We gather and provide access to the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate nonprofit information available. Our mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. GuideStar is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

GuideStar lists information on every nonprofit registered with the IRS as tax exempt, as well as data on former nonprofits. GuideStar obtains the information from the nonprofits themselves, the federal government, and partners in the nonprofit sector.

As of December 2017, GuideStar comprised:

- 1.6 million active nonprofits
- 1 million historic (defunct or merged) organizations
- >280,400 faith-based organizations
- >140,000 nonprofits that have updated their information

For more information, see: <https://www.guidestar.org/>

Seriously. It is not acceptable to have tax information about “philanthropic” organisations private. That is a rot, something this country knows all about. For philanthropy to have integrity, it must be **transparent**.

Philanthropy in this country must be **First Nations led for healing**. Listen to their stories. They can do what is right for mob. White money needs to go into Black hands. We need to trust them and give them back their power. The Voice can facilitate this.

The model for this is Maranuka Community Hub, which works alongside the people of Bourke. Contact the Bourke Tribal Council.

<https://maranguka.org.au/>



Give the money direct to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. The councils, the camps, the people.

For example, Tangentyere Council needs money for their youth to establish a place like the NSW PCYC model, that allows young people to form positive relationships with police and other community members.

<https://www.tangentyere.org.au/>

There are so many needs to achieve child, woman and man healing. Person, family and community healing.

For example, there is not enough money for strategic litigation to deal with endemic problems like police-instigated violence or like politician-instigated sexual abuse of children. Violet & Co do this kind of work.

<https://www.violetco.com.au>

Paul Ramsay Foundation is a leader with Australian-wide philanthropy and should be a model.

<https://www.paulramsayfoundation.org.au>

Their work in mental health particularly stands out. Yet they need money for a dedicate bed in their facility for Aboriginal people. This is critically important for First Nations healing. I bring to your attention the Ramsay Clinic Thirroul.

The Chief Psychiatrist, Dr Jacqueline Kaelle, should be invited to speak to the productivity commission about models of cooperation between service providers and foundations.

<https://www.ramsayhealth.com.au/Specialists/ramsay-clinic-thirroul/psychiatry/107744/dr-jacqueline-kaelle>

As a member of the Cherokee Nation, I recognise the First Nations of Australia and I pay my respect to their Elders – Past, present, and emerging. I share their commitment to healing intergenerational trauma.



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There is much to do. I am available for further discussion and to facilitate introductions to any of the people or organisations mentioned in this submission.

Kind regards,

Amy

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I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of Country upon whose land the various campuses of the University now sit: Gadigal people of the Eora Nation; Deerubbin, Tharawal, Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri, Gamilaroi, Bundjulong, Wiljali and Gureng Gureng peoples.