

**PHILANTHROPY
AUSTRALIA**

Survey Information and FAQ

**PHILANTHROPY AUSTRALIA ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER FUNDERS REPORTING SURVEY**

1/08/2024

philanthropy.org.au

Introduction & purpose:

You are invited by Leah Armstrong, Chair of the First Nations Funders Network at Philanthropy Australia, to contribute to the inaugural “Philanthropy Australia Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Funders Reporting Survey”. The survey is launching at the Philanthropy Australia Conference in Adelaide 5–7 August.

This groundbreaking report is vital to understanding the level of philanthropic funding being received by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and controlled organisations in Australia.

The survey results, based off your feedback, will be compiled into a report and made available for Philanthropy Australia’s members and the broader community through a live data dashboard on the Seer Data platform.

The survey was developed in collaboration with representatives from the Philanthropy Australia First Nations Funders Network and First Nations Governance Committee.

For the full statement from Leah Armstrong, Chair of First Nations Governance Committee, follow [this link to news page](#).

Survey FAQs

What information will I need?

- Financial reporting for the baseline Financial Year 2022–2023 and 2023–2024, if available.
- You will need to provide the total funding distributions/grants in AU\$ as well as funding distributions/grants in AU\$ distributed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led or controlled organisations or programs (see definition below).
- Information about your governance structure, strategy, procurement, workforce and engagement in cultural training or other initiatives.
- Staffing information for Financial Year 2022–2023 and 2023–2024.
- Optional: A case study.

What if I’m not 100% certain about an answer?

- Please answer questions to the best of your ability. If you are unsure, leave the information out.

What if I represent a sub fund?

- If you are a sub fund holder, your host organisation is best placed to fill in this survey for the whole organisation. Please forward this survey to them for completion.

How do I find out more about the organisations or programs we fund?

- You should search their website or constitution to find out what you need. If you have a close relationship with the organisation, it is recommended that you ask them directly.

What type of funding will I be asked about?

- You will be asked about total distributions made, then asked to split that amount out into:
 - Total distributions made to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and controlled organisations
 - Grants/donations
 - Impact investments
 - Other investments (such as guarantees, low-interest loans, bonds, etc)

How long will the survey take?

- The reporting survey will take 30 minutes to prepare for and a further 30 minutes to complete. This timing may vary depending on the structure and size of your organisation.
- Locating the information required will vary from one organisation to another.
- A list of the questions asked can be accessed in [PDF format on our website here.](#)

Definitions:

For the purposes of this reporting, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and controlled organisations is one that:

1. has been established by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, and
2. operates for the primary benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and/or organisations, and
3. has a majority (51%) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body (Directors), and is
4. controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, and is
5. a charity, not-for-profit organisation, incorporated under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation.

Definition explanatory notes:

1. **has been established by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people**
 - *The majority of the organisation's membership and founders are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*
 - *Relevant information can be found on their website, social media channels or their constitution.*

2. **operates for the primary benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and/or organisation**
 - *The purpose of the organisation is to primarily benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and/or organisations.*
 - *Relevant information can be found on their website, social media channels or their constitution.*

3. **has a majority (51%) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body (Directors)**
 - *Relevant information can be found on their website, social media channels or their constitution.*
 - *If you have a close relationship with the organisation it is recommended that you ask.*

4. **controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people**
 - *Operates through decision making and direction by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people at an executive management level, that is through their CEO or with a majority in senior positions.*
 - *Relevant information can be found on their website or their constitution.*
 - *If you have a close relationship with the organisation it is recommended that you ask.*

5. **a charity, not-for-profit organisation, incorporated under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation**
 - *Most typically a not-for-profit, but can also include organisations set up as social enterprises or for-purpose businesses with profits being reinvested into organisational purpose/objectives.*
 - *For funders, this will vary depending on your organisations constitution.*

How will my information be used?

All information provided will be used solely for the purpose of this survey. All data provided will be de-identified and aggregated. We will not be analysing or reporting on individual responses. Data will be securely managed by our partners SEER Data.

Further details about how your information will be used is below.

Contact/organisational information:

All data will be aggregated and de-identified. We may need to follow up with survey participants to clarify answers or be in touch regarding the Case Studies provided.

Grantmaking approach:

Survey responses about grantmaking approaches will help provide insights into current practices and track industry trends over time.

Financial reporting:

This will provide aggregated, de-identified data as a benchmark into the level of philanthropic funding being received by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and controlled organisations in Australia.

It will also provide a benchmark into the level of philanthropic funding distributed to programs that primarily benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Questions on finances will also provide information about year-on-year trends at a sector-wide level. No individual responses to grantmaking approaches will be used.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funding focus:

This will provide aggregated data for insights into funding focus areas in this benchmark report. Then aggregated trends in future surveys.

Case studies:

The case studies will be reviewed and used when suitable for learning opportunities within PA's member programs and shared publicly through our network. We will seek further permission for the use of case studies appropriately.

Privacy

Your privacy is of crucial importance to Philanthropy Australia and our reporting partner Seer Data & Analytics. While you will be asked to provide your contact details in the survey, only non-identifiable information will be published in any report or story.

Beyond the above stated purposes of the reporting, the information you provide will not be used by Philanthropy Australia or Seer Data & Analytics.

If you have any questions about how you can contribute and maintain the required level of privacy, please get in touch.

How can you get help?

Seer Data & Analytics, our reporting partners, are available to provide support. You can call 1300 345 123 during business hours if you need help or have questions.



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