



Giving in Australia

Key Facts

Philanthropy plays a critical role in Australian society, empowering communities and creating a sense of purpose and belonging. A community that gives freely of its time and financial resources is one with strong cohesion and social capital. Some key facts about philanthropic giving in Australia are below. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data, in 2012–13 giving amounted to \$8.61 billion (8% of total sector income and 0.57% of GDP) being made up of:

Source	\$ amount
Donations, bequests and legacies	\$3,993m
Donations from businesses	\$863m
Donations from trusts and foundations	\$474m
Sponsorships	\$1,381m
Other fundraising	\$1,903m

Income from donations, bequests and legacies experienced a 20% decrease in real terms since 2006-07 when total giving was \$5131m (6.9% of total sector income).

Tax Deductible donations

Australian Taxation Office data shows that just over a third of all Australian tax-payers made and claimed tax-deductible donations in 2012-13. On average, they gave 0.35% of their taxable income.

The total amount donated and claimed as tax-deductible donations in 2013–14 was \$2.62 billion (compared to \$2.29 billion in 2012–13).

The average tax-deductible donation claimed by Australian taxpayers in 2013–14 was \$575.54, which is an increase compared to \$504.02 in 2012–13.

Those with a taxable income over \$1 million claimed average tax-deductible donations of \$51,978.72 (up from \$41,244 in 2012–13), being 1.31% of their taxable income.

Planned giving

In 2009–10, 6.5% of Australian probate files contained a charitable bequest with an average specific bequest of \$25,000 but significantly an average residual bequest of \$400,000.

Private Ancillary Funds

Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs) were introduced in 2001 to encourage high net worth individuals to create private foundations. At the end of the 2013–14 income year, there were 1,204 PAFs receiving \$517.30 million in donations, distributing \$300.72 million in grants.

International comparison

Giving as a percentage of GDP is difficult to compare between nations, however data for 2012–13 shows that: in the United States of America giving was estimated to be 2% of GDP, in the United Kingdom it was between 0.4–1%, in Australia it was 0.57% and in Canada, 0.46%.

In a recent study comparing 145 countries' average scores on three measures of giving, averaged over the period from 2010 to 2014, Australia ranked fifth overall behind Myanmar, the United States of America, New Zealand and Canada. The three measures were helping a stranger, donating money to charity and volunteering time to an organisation. Australia ranked seventh for donating money to charity.

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