



## **Fifth meeting of the Prime Ministers Community Business Partnership**

### **Communique**

The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership (the Partnership) met on 20 August 2018 in Canberra.

The Partnership took the opportunity to discuss its future work plan and priorities against its remit to grow philanthropy, volunteering and social impact investment in Australia. It also discussed the impact of such efforts on critical areas of focus nationally, such as the need to prioritise the first one thousand days of a child's life.

The Partnership welcomed new members to their first meeting:

- Hanna Ebeling, Head of Portfolio Management at Social Enterprise Finance Australia Ltd (SEFA)
- Michael Gonski, Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills
- Rupert Myer AO, Director of Myer Family Investments Pty Ltd, Healthscope Limited, Amcil Limited and eCargo Holdings Limited, and
- Natalie Walker, Founder and Managing Director of Inside Policy.

Nicola Forrest, Partnership member since 2014, was confirmed as the Partnership's new Chief Convenor with responsibility for acting as the Partnership's spokesperson and coordinating input on behalf of members.

Partnership members took the opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge the strong leadership and friendship of outgoing Chief Convenor, Peter Treseder AM. Peter Treseder was confirmed as Chief Convenor in 2014. Members acknowledged the time, expertise and commitment that Peter Treseder gave to both the Partnership and his fellow members over the past four years. Peter Treseder continues as a Partnership member.

Partnership members confirmed Alexandra Gartmann will continue in the role of Deputy Chief Convenor, which she has held since 2014.

Australian Public Service Officials briefed non-government Partnership members on current Commonwealth Government work supporting children and families in Australia and social impact investing initiatives. Opportunities for input, collaboration and co-design with communities and philanthropic organisations were a key focus of this meeting.

The then Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP and then Minister for Social Services, the Hon Dan Tehan MP in their respective roles as Partnership Chair and Deputy Chair joined non-government members for a formal Partnership meeting. Members discussed a series of recommendations submitted to Government on the two key focus areas of the Partnership: Social Impact Investment in Australia and the First One Thousand Days of a Child's Life.



In summary, it was recommended the Commonwealth Government:

- Adopt the role of a market enabler and developer of the social enterprise and impact investor sector through:
  - Capacity building
  - Increasing procurement and market opportunities
  - Addressing the cost and complexity of appropriate legal structures
  - Promoting greater access to start-up capital and funding streams
  - Legitimising the social enterprise sector
- Prioritise early childhood development as a whole-of-government issue
- Establish a national strategy and central oversight for early childhood development within the government
- Enable more place-based early childhood development work to happen within and outside of government through structural changes and, potentially, funding support

The Partnership was mandated to continue developing the recommendations and maintain its focus on these key government priorities. The Partnership was invited to submit innovative ideas and advice to Government on a national framework for children and families and a vehicle to help deliver government funds to communities. To support this, members confirmed two working groups going forward: Children in their First 1,000 Days of Life and Social Impact Investment.

Partnership Chief Convenor Nicola Forrest said, “The members of the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership are passionate and determined individuals who look forward to continuing to support the government’s efforts to increase social impact investing and philanthropy, and ultimately improve child development outcomes across Australia.”

The Partnership has made strong contributions over the last three and a half years in informing government thinking on its future role in social impact investment, growing a culture of giving in Australia and establishing the importance of child development as an economic, social and health issue that must be prioritised nationally.