

Into Our Hands Community Foundation



Our Vision:

A community foundation that invests in projects and initiatives aimed at building the capacity, strength, cohesiveness and wellbeing of the many smaller communities within the Alpine and Indigo and Wangaratta Shires.



Our Core Business:

- We distribute grants to community groups to undertake a range of community development projects and activities.
- We raise funds from within and outside our communities and from philanthropic funds to finance our activities.
- The Foundation is primarily a project funder and facilitator.

Context:

Into Our Hands Community Foundation

- While our focus is on community recovery following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, we now have a longer-term role and view.
- Our initial funding of \$1 million came from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. The Into Our Hands Community Foundation has the responsibility of distributing these funds for community building and community development purposes in the bushfire-affected areas in our region over the next 10 years.
- In the longer term, the Foundation's intention is to build a \$1 million public fund as a 'corpus' to fund our activities.

Strategic Priorities

Community Engagement, Communications and Marketing:

- ✓ A well-known and respected brand and profile.
- ✓ Regular and direct contact and dialogue with the community at large.
- Maintain a marketing and communications sub-committee/working group
- Engage directly with local communities and community organisations on an ongoing basis, via directors and links with other community groups, to improve community awareness of the Foundation.
- Include a community consultation forum as part of the Foundation's AGM.

Partnering, Relationship-Building and Leverage:

- ✓ Autonomy and independence as an entity.
- ✓ Partnership arrangements and joint projects with businesses and community organisations.
- Leverage the Foundation's resources by partnering with other philanthropic and community organisations to build a solid financial foundation for long-term sustainability and to maximise value for money.
- Seek direct private donations and contributions from within the many communities within our catchment.
- Seek financial support/sponsorship from local businesses.
- Work closely and in collaboration with the local governments and agencies within our catchment area to maximise community benefit from our programs and activities.
- Continue to pursue/explore opportunities for partnering and collaboration with a range of organisations, through the existing networks of directors

Financial Sustainability:

- ✓ A \$1 million 'corpus' (public fund).
Growing revenues from private, business and philanthropic sources.
- ✓ Prudently managed funds and maximum investment returns within the parameters of the Foundation Trust Deed.
- Build a public fund (the foundation corpus) of \$1 million by 30 June 2023 to sustain the Foundation's long-term financial viability.
- Over the next 7 years distribute the Foundation's VBAF funds to support projects and activities in the fire affected areas through an annual grants program.
- Maintain a flexible approach to the Foundation's grants program to ensure that quality projects and initiatives are funded/supported based on merit.

- Invest Foundation funds in a manner that enables sufficient liquidity to fund operational and granting requirements, maximises investment returns and is compliant with the Foundation's Trust Deed.

Organisational Capacity and Governance:

- ✓ Administrative support and resources proportionate to the scale of the Foundation's activities.
 - ✓ Directors engaged directly as volunteers in the business of the foundation.
 - ✓ A Board with a balance of geographic, skills-based and network-based representation.
- Consider the appointment of new/replacement directors taking into account/balancing the need for geographic representation across the region as well as the professional/technical skills and community profile/networking capacity of candidates.
 - Review and develop new governing policies and procedure on an 'as needs' basis, including role descriptions of the chairperson, directors and the executive officer.