



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST GIVERS

The value of the Financial Review Philanthropy 50 list for 2018/19 rose the most in the list's four-year history. Next year might be a different story.

STORY BY **PHILIPPA COATES** ILLUSTRATION BY **SAM BENNETT**

THE PHILANTHROPY 50 LIST MEASURES THE 50 biggest individual givers in Australia each financial year. And the 2020 list is a bumper. The total is \$748 million, up from \$554 million for 2019. “Normally, overall giving in Australia rises in value between 5 and 6 per cent each year, but this is a 35 per cent rise, the biggest annual jump we’ve seen from the largest givers,” says list compiler John McLeod. “It’s very impressive.”

To make the list you had to have donated at least \$4.3 million, up from a cut-off of \$3.6 million last year. The biggest giver is once again the Paul Ramsay Foundation, which increased its spend dramatically, from \$85.8 million to \$153 million. Fortescue Metals Group chairman Andrew Forrester and his wife Nicola’s Minderoo Foundation is again in second place, but it, too, upped its giving. Third is Judith Neilson’s foundation, up from 16th spot last year due to the commencement of her staged, \$100 million pledge for advancing independent journalism.

McLeod is co-founder of the JBWere Philanthropic Services Division, which manages \$8 billion in charitable assets across Australia and New Zealand. He began compiling the Philanthropy 50 list exclusively for *The Australian Financial Review Magazine* in 2017.

McLeod attributes some of the list’s increase to five one-off bequests, when last year there were none. The biggest two were from the estates of James and Diana

Ramsay (\$38 million) and Bruce and Jenny Pryor (\$22 million). Then there was \$14 million from the estate of Newcastle woman Sheila Woodcock, who died aged 87 and divided her unknown enormous wealth between 14 charities. Queensland grazier Geoffrey Carrick left \$9.85 million to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Children’s Hospital Foundation, and Hugh Wirth, the former president of the Victorian RSPCA, left that organisation most of his \$5.9 million bequest.

“Bequests can be one-off big gifts or go into a foundation, where the money is placed in a trust and that goes on to do great things over many years,” says McLeod, adding that the list was ruled off in June 2019, well before the bushfires hit. “What makes the huge increase amazing is that 2018/19 was an uneventful year with no natural disasters and the financial markets were pretty good.”

The most popular causes are medical research, universities and the arts, although this year included more pledges to the environment and housing support.

These gains are against a backdrop of the continued downward trend in the proportion of the population giving, measured by the percentage of people claiming a tax deduction for charitable donations.

McLeod warns that due to COVID-19, next year’s list could struggle to make gains and even larger negative effects may be seen in 2020/21. ●

Rank	Name	Cause area	Grants 2019 (\$m)
1	Paul Ramsay Foundation	Strengthening sector capacity particularly around disadvantage, health, education	\$153.0
2	Minderoo Foundation	Research, cancer, modern slavery, building community, early childhood, flourishing oceans, Indigenous disparity	\$75.4
3	Judith Neilson Foundation and charitable trusts	Arts, Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas	\$48.9
4	Estates of James and Diana Ramsay	Art Gallery of South Australia	\$38.0
5	Ian Potter Foundation	Community wellbeing, arts, science, medical research, health and disability, education, environment	\$28.4
6	Estates of Bruce and Jenny Pryor	Medical research at Australian National University, University of Sydney’s Wesley College and Hockey Club	\$22.0
7	Lowy family	Lowy Medical Research Institute and Lowy Institute for International Policy	\$21.2
8	Pratt Philanthropies	Food security, mental health, arts, education, cancer care, Jewish life, Aboriginal advancement, environment	\$20.1
9	Graham and Louise Tuckwell	Part of \$100m for two halls of residence at the Australian National University; partners the Tuckwell Scholarship Program	\$20.0
10	Kinghorn Foundation	Medical research, poverty and Australian youth	\$19.6
11	Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation	Nursing scholarships and health precinct at the University of Sydney; Art Gallery of NSW	\$17.3
12	Gandel Philanthropy	Arts, education, health & medical research, youth at risk, Jewish identity, Indigenous, poverty & disadvantage	\$16.0
13	Estate of Sheila Woodcock	Health and medical research, social services and religion	\$14.0
14	Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund	Poverty & disadvantage, policy change initiatives, arts, sustainability & environment, education	\$13.7

THE PHILANTHROPY 50

Rank	Name	Cause area	Grants 2019 (\$m)
15	Stan Perron Charitable Trust	Disadvantage, particularly in Western Australia, improving children's health, cultural enrichment	\$13.6
16	Neilson Foundation	Arts, youth disadvantage, universities, medical research and welfare	\$11.0
17	Blackmore Foundation	National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine established at Southern Cross University	\$10.0
18	Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	Young people experiencing disadvantage in NSW and the remote north plus a spiritually rich society	\$10.0
19	Peter and Lyndy White Foundation	Increasing the supply of housing for those suffering or at risk of homelessness, disadvantage	\$9.9
20	Estate of Geoffrey Carrick	Royal Flying Doctor Service Qld and Children's Hospital Foundation, Qld	\$9.9
21	Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	Health and medical research	\$8.2
22	Miller Foundation	Health and medical research, social services, environment	\$8.0
23	Hansen Little Foundation	Part of \$30m to house & support disadvantaged students at University of Melbourne plus Hansen Trust for arts	\$8.0
24	David Winston Turner Endowment Fund	Part of \$40m to Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health	\$8.0
25	Ainsworth family	Health & medical research at Western Sydney University & Children's Medical Research Institute; State Library of NSW	\$7.5
26	Barry and Joy Lambert	Part of \$34m to establish the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics at University of Sydney	\$7.5
27	William Buckland Foundation	Vulnerable Victorians through housing, health, employment & education and regional communities	\$7.4
28	Eldon & Anne Foote Trust & subfund - Lord Mayor's CF	Environment, social causes, education, health, arts, heritage	\$7.3

Rank	Name	Cause area	Grants 2019 (\$m)
29	Packer Family Foundations	Arts, Indigenous education, medical research, environment and community	\$7.2
30	Andrew Thyne Reid Charitable Trust	Arts, higher education, medical research, welfare	\$6.1
31	Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation	Medical research, public hospitals and universities	\$6.0
32	Harold Mitchell and Foundation	Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, other health, education and arts	\$5.9

HOW THE LIST IS COMPILED

The amounts are those given to end recipients, mainly charities, in the 2018/19 financial year, by Australian individuals, families and bequests, both directly and through foundations. It does not include donations to foundations, anonymous gifts or corporate giving. With pledges and multi-year gifts, only the actual amount given to end recipients in 2018/19 is included. Where the exact amount for that year is not known, an average per year over the term of the pledge is assumed. Where the term is not known, five years is assumed. Researched and compiled by John McLeod of JBWere Philanthropic Services. Sources include the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, Fundraising Research & Consulting, Fundraising & Philanthropy Australasia and Pro Bono Australia.

Rank	Name	Cause area	Grants 2019 (\$m)
33	Estate of Dr Hugh Wirth	RSPCA Victoria, other animal welfare, education	\$5.9
34	Tim Fairfax Family Foundation	Arts, education & community initiatives in rural, remote & regional areas in Queensland & the Northern Territory	\$5.6
35	Shine On Foundation	Social services, economic, social and community development	\$5.6
36	JO & JR Wicking Trust	Wellness and quality of life for the aged and those with or at risk of Alzheimer's	\$5.6

Rank	Name	Cause area	Grants 2019 (\$m)
37	Scanlon Foundation	Improving social cohesion particularly for the transition of migrants into Australian society	\$5.3
38	Serpentine Foundation	University of Sydney, Neuroscience Research Australia, education and arts	\$5.2
39	Charles Holckner and family	Senior living and community centre through Jewish Care	\$5.0
40	Greg Poche and Kay Van Norton Poche	Young adult hospice at Manly Hospital, Sydney	\$5.0
41	Carl and Wendy Dowd	Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	\$5.0
42	Collier Charitable Fund	Welfare, public hospitals, education and religion	\$5.0
43	McCusker Charitable Foundation	Medical research & advancement of science, conservation/ environment, education, arts	\$4.8
44	Baker Foundation	Predominantly medical research but also welfare and children	\$4.7
45	Percy Baxter Charitable Trust	Medical research and other Victorian charities	\$4.7
46	Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation	Migrants, refugees or asylum seekers, international aid	\$4.6
47	Helen Macpherson Smith Trust	Education, community, arts, environment and health	\$4.5
48	The Charitable Foundation	International aid	\$4.3
49	Snow Foundation	Homelessness, domestic violence, disadvantage, education/employment and Indigenous health, ageing, disability	\$4.3
50	Medich Foundation	Arts, health and medical research, community organisations	\$4.3