

The Glue That Binds

Insights From Seven Years of
Strengthening Australian
International Giving and Investing



Image: AIDN Insight Tour to Tanzania

Executive Summary:

AIDN was founded in 2018 with a mission to foster “more” and “better” giving and investing from Australians to international causes. In our 2018 Manifesto, we set out how AIDN, working as a neutral actor in the sector, proposed to achieve this goal: by bringing a stronger and collective voice to address common issues to increase the flow and quality of international giving and impact investing; to provide tools and resources to help Australians overcome some of the barriers; and to help coordinate initiatives between private sector, corporate and government philanthropists and investors to yield greater benefits abroad.

At the end of 2025, AIDN launched our "Impact Project and Survey on the State of Australian International Giving and Investing". From Philanthropod and The AIDN Beat, to Global Givers Socials and Insight Tours, our Impact Project set out to answer one question: Has AIDN moved the dial on international giving and investing from the Australian market? In our flagship Impact Report, we find:

1) AIDN is strengthening the glue that binds the Australian international development sector:

Growth in both AIDN's activities (such as newsletters, LinkedIn, events, and Insight Tours) and outputs (such as newsletter open rates and Philanthropod downloads) underscores AIDN's role in contributing to the building of a more inclusive and stronger Australian international development sector, with increased visibility and opportunities for funders, doers and intermediaries alike.

2) Initial evidence of giving behaviour change:

82% of total survey respondents reported that AIDN encourages “more” giving and 93% “better” giving. 24% of the funders surveyed said AIDN encouraged them to give more. However, of the remaining surveyed funders, 55% qualified that they were already committed to international giving. For this group, AIDN still plays a meaningful role in bringing the sector together and encouraging their existing giving to be “better”.

3) Tangible financial contribution:

AIDN has contributed to catalysing AUD \$10-14.5 million in international giving to date (conservative estimation). As AIDN's role is to convene and strengthen the sector rather than distribute funding, moving forward, AIDN should continue to work closely with dedicated grantmaking organisations to both catalyse funding and track Australian global giving, including AIDN's role within this.

4) Stability and growth:

External data sources including Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC), JBWere and Australian Financial Review (AFR) Top 50 Philanthropy Lists reveal that the percentage of international giving as a share of the wider sector has remained stable, Australian ODA remains small yet steady, and that the wider sector has grown since AIDN's inception in 2018. While we do not claim direct contribution to macro trends, AIDN's activities are aligned with and complementary to this growth.

5) Opportunity amid structural challenges:

AIDN is operating in a context where the overall number of Australian donors is declining, even if those who are giving are giving more. Global aid cuts also define the landscape. However, AIDN is well-placed to respond. Through AIDN's unique activity offering and neutral position within the sector, AIDN can focus on fostering international giving from High Net Worth Individuals, tech and diaspora giving, international impact investing, and continue to invest in policy advocacy to streamline structured giving. Alongside sector partners, AIDN can also take a leadership role to steward the estimated increase in distributions from Australian giving funds of AUD \$15–20 million annually to international causes in future years following the Federal Government's 2026 giving fund reforms.

'The [two AIDN] Insight Tours that I've been on have been incredibly impactful on our giving portfolio and have ensured that we are investing in locally led organisations.'

Anne Pike, Australian Funder

'Arguably the most important addition to Women Deliver was by AIDN, who hosted Open Ground. Open Ground was a nest for the international development scene, a platform for us organisations to share our work, a watering hole for connections to flourish and a space to celebrate all the amazing development efforts supported by Aussies. The value of that event cannot be overstated.'

Geena Dunne, Founder of The Cova Project

Image: Malawi and Zimbabwe Insight Tour



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Chapter 1: Introduction

AIDN was founded in 2018 with a mission to foster “more” and “better” giving and investing from Australians to international causes. As per our 2025 [Theory of Change](#)¹, we do this because, while statistically improving, poverty, inequity and conflict remain significant issues in the Majority World. Yet only approximately 10c of every Australian philanthropic dollar goes to international causes. Given that philanthropic funding delivers greater returns per person in low income contexts, we believe that there is an opportunity for Australian philanthropy to continue to shape a more equitable and resilient world.

Our ultimate goal is that: communities in the Majority World live with dignity and opportunity, free from the worst impacts of poverty, inequity and conflict.

In our [2018 Manifesto](#), we set out how AIDN, working as a neutral organisation within the sector, proposed to achieve our goal: by bringing a stronger and collective voice to address common issues to increase the flow and quality of international giving and impact investing; to provide tools and resources to help Australians overcome some of the barriers; and to help coordinate initiatives between private sector, corporate and government philanthropists and investors to yield greater benefits abroad.

Since 2018, our brand has grown, our network has widened and deepened, and our activities have expanded to now include: regular newsletters; active social media; The AIDN Beat; Philanthropod; AIDN events and webinars; Insight Tours; networking opportunities and introductions; international funding resources and publications (such as the Better Giving Framework and Pathways for Global Giving); and policy submissions.

At the end of 2025, the AIDN team launched our "Impact Project and Survey on the State of Australian International Giving and Investing" to measure our activities and their impact since 2018. Our Impact Project asked one question: Has AIDN moved the dial on international giving and investing from the Australian market?

To answer this question, between November 2025 and March 2026, we followed a 5-phase process of design, data collection, analysis and publication. The Impact Project included the identification, collection and analysis of four different data types to help us understand our impact. These included:

¹ AIDN's Theory of Change “one-pager” is available on our website. Our more detailed and internal Theory of Change that lists our activities and outputs is available upon request.

1. Data on the growth of AIDN's core activities (such as AIDN newsletters, Philanthropod and Insight Tours) and outputs (such as newsletter open rates and Philanthropod downloads) as per AIDN's Theory of Change;
2. Data on the effectiveness of and engagement with AIDN's core activities collected via a network wide survey;
3. Anecdotal data on the impact of AIDN's core activities collected since inception via various communication channels;
4. A range of external and public data sources² on Australian giving to international causes including ACNC Charities Reports 2016-2023 and AFR Top 50 Philanthropy lists 2018-2025 (See all external data sources listed at: Footnote 1).

In line with international development monitoring and evaluation methodological practice, we then employed a contribution lens to analyse our data (BetterEvaluation, [n.d.](#); Mayne [2008](#); [2012](#); Stern et al., [2012](#)). Contribution analysis argues that complex social change interventions, like network building or sector advocacy are best assessed by building a credible case that an intervention plausibly contributed to observed outcomes alongside other factors, rather than proving sole causation. For further information on the methodology employed in this report, including important notes on direct impact vs contribution, and survey limitations, please see Appendix 7(A): Methodology.

Leveraging this contribution lens, Chapter 2 of this report analyses the growth and engagement of AIDN's core activities and outputs. Chapter 2 captures how AIDN is playing an important role in strengthening the glue that binds the Australian international development sector together. Growth in both AIDN's activities (such as newsletters, events and Insight Tours) and outputs (such as newsletter open rates and Philanthropod downloads) underscores AIDN's role in contributing to the building of a stronger and more inclusive Australian international development sector, with increased visibility and opportunities for funders, doers and intermediaries alike.

²External data sources reviewed included: ACNC Australian Charities Reports 2016–2023 (eight editions, FY2015–16 through FY2022–23); JBWere publications 2018–2024 (The Support Report 2018; NAB Charitable Giving Index editions 2021, 2022 and 2023; The Bequest Report 2024); AFR Top 50 Philanthropy lists 2018–2025 (eight annual editions); AIW's State of Gender-wise Giving Survey 2023–2025 (plus the 2022 pilot); ACFID 2025-26 Federal Budget Analysis and DFAT ODA Development Budget Summaries 2016-27 to 2025-26; The She Gives Report 2025; CAF World Giving Indices 2018–2024 and the 2025 World Giving Report (Donor Insights and Charity Insights); the Australian Tech Giving Report 2025; World Vision x Noble Ambition's Whitepaper 2023; and on impact investing specifically — Impact Investing Australia's Benchmarking Impact Reports 2020 and 2025, GIIN's Sizing the Impact Investing Market 2024 and State of the Market 2025, RIAA's Responsible Investment Benchmark Reports 2016–2025, Koda Capital's Impact Investing Without Limits (March 2025) including the Rising Tide Survey 2024, UNSW Business School's Doing Good Is Paying Off (November 2025), and Social Ventures Australia's Impact Investing & Aspire SIB Report.

Chapter 3 analyses the results of AIDN's Impact Survey to understand if AIDN has contributed to "more" and "better" international giving and investing. Chapter 3 finds initial evidence of giving behaviour change: 82% of total survey respondents reported that AIDN encourages "more" giving and 93% "better" giving. 24% of the funders surveyed said AIDN encouraged them to give more. However, of the remaining surveyed funders, 55% qualified that they were already committed to international giving. For this group, AIDN still plays a meaningful role in bringing the sector together and encouraging their existing giving to be "better". AIDN's events and webinars, Insight Tours, newsletters, Philanthropod and the Better Giving Framework were identified as the most effective drivers of these measures.

Chapter 3 also calculates a conservative estimate of AIDN's contribution to catalysing AUD \$10-14.5 million³ in international giving to date. As AIDN's role is to convene and strengthen the sector rather than distribute funding, Chapter 3 considers how AIDN should continue to work closely with dedicated grantmaking organisations to both catalyse funding and better track Australian global giving moving forward, including AIDN's influence on this process.

Chapter 4 reviews a range of external and public data sources to provide wider context on Australian giving to international causes since 2016 (baseline data) and 2018 (AIDN's inception) onwards. Chapter 4 reveals that the percentage of international giving as a share of the wider sector (1% of total ACNC revenue, or 10% of total philanthropic giving) has remained stable since 2016. An increase in the number of AFR Top 50 philanthropists with an international component to their giving further underscores the growth and maturing of the sector since 2018. There is also a growing appetite for international impact investing, and significant philanthropic trends on the horizon, including intergenerational wealth transfer, diaspora giving and the rise of tech giving. While Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending, Australian Government ODA has remained largely steady, even when aid budgets have been slashed globally. While we do not claim direct contribution to macro trends, AIDN's activities are aligned with and complementary to this growth.

On the other hand, Chapter 4 also reveals structural challenges for the sector. JBWere data analysis highlights how international aid is the cause "most at risk" of having a declining share of total giving as donor behaviour shifts toward domestic universities, arts, and culture. The number of overall Australian donors is declining, even if those who are giving are giving more. Global aid cuts also define the current ODA climate. Nevertheless, in Chapter 5, we conclude that these structural challenges should be understood as opportunities and inform AIDN's strategic direction moving forward.

³ The exact figure estimated is AUD \$9,892,260 - \$14,460,260. To simplify this figure throughout the report, we have rounded this to \$10-14.5 million. This is appropriate given the exact figure is a conservative estimate.

Through AIDN's unique activity offering and neutral position within the sector, AIDN can focus on fostering international giving from High Net Worth Individuals, tech and diaspora giving, international impact investing, and continue to invest in policy advocacy to streamline structured giving. Alongside sector partners, AIDN can also take a leadership role to steward the estimated annual increase in distributions from Australian giving funds of AUD \$15–20 million to international causes in future years following 2026's giving fund reforms.

Image 1.1: Event with the Funding Network 2023



Chapter 2:

Understanding the Growth, Effectiveness and Engagement of AIDN's Core Activities and Outputs

Since 2018, AIDN's brand has significantly grown, our network has widened and deepened, and core activities have expanded. As per our [Theory of Change](#)⁴ 2025, our core activities now include:

- Regular newsletters.
- Active social media.
- The AIDN Beat.
- Philanthropod.
- AIDN events and webinars.
- Insight Tours.
- Networking and platforms.
- International funding resources and publications, such as the Better Giving Framework.
- Policy submissions.

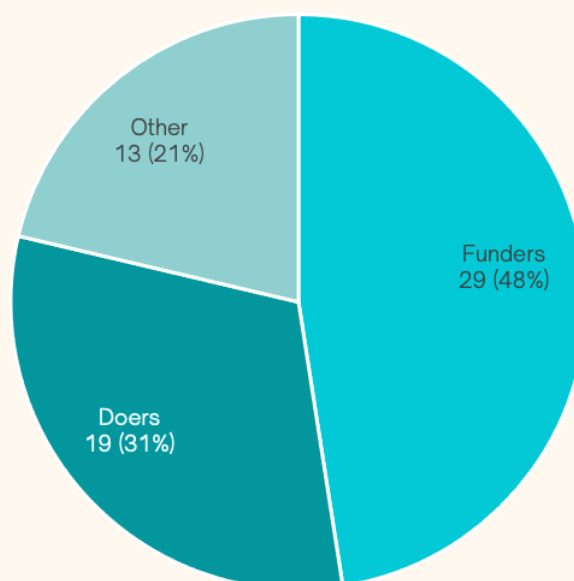
In this chapter, we provide an in-depth and detailed analysis of the growth, effectiveness and engagement of each individual AIDN activity and their outputs. To do this, this section combines and relies on Data Collection Methods #1, #2 and #3. Data Collection Method #1 involved collecting available data on growth of AIDN's activities and outputs (such as newsletter open rates or LinkedIn follower growth).

⁴ AIDN's Theory of Change "one-pager" is available on our website. Our more detailed and internal Theory of Change that lists our activities and outputs is available upon request.

Data Collection Method #2 refers to AIDN's Impact Survey deployed between November 2025 - February 2026. 61 respondents completed the survey. 29 (48%) self-identified as funders, 19 (31%) as doers, and 13 (21%) as "other"⁵. "Other" respondents include international development intermediaries, advisory professionals, think tanks, academics, social enterprises, networks, and retirees engaged in the sector. Data Collection Method #3 involved collating anecdotal data on the impact of AIDN's core activities collected since inception via various communication channels.

In this chapter, we find that the growth of both our activities (such as Philanthropod episodes) and outputs (such as Philanthropod download rates) reveal that AIDN is responding to a market gap in international development information, resources and events. AIDN is also contributing to the building of a stronger and more inclusive Australian international development sector with increased visibility and opportunities for funders, doers and intermediaries.

Respondent Profile for AIDN's 2025 Impact Survey



Graph 2.1: Respondent profile for AIDN's 2025 Impact Survey (n=61).

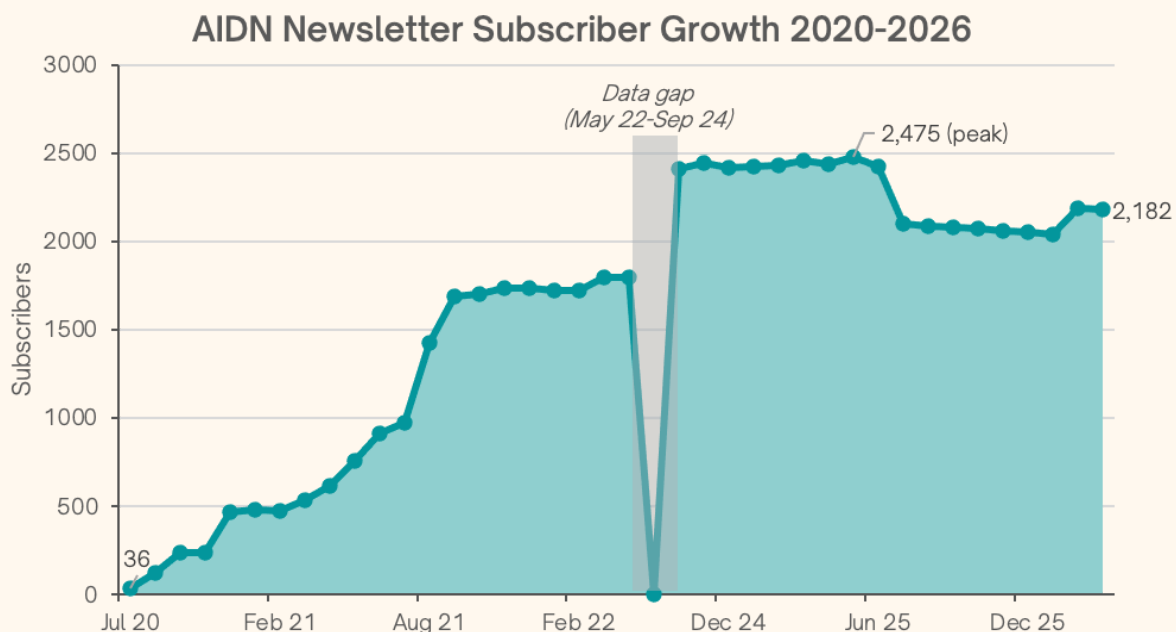
⁵ Limitations and learnings from our methodology are further detailed in Appendix 7(A).

2 (A): AIDN communications (newsletters and social media)

AIDN aims to release 10-12 newsletters each year via Electronic Direct Mail (EDM), including our special edition newsletters, and maintain an above average NFP industry newsletter open rate of 25%. AIDN also aims to post 2-3 LinkedIn posts per week (or 104-156 a year) with LinkedIn followers organically increasing by 20% each year – in line with organic follower growth rates for small to medium sized NFPs.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in communications to ensure that trends, information, access to change-makers and events in international philanthropy and development are more readily available for Australian funders and the sector more broadly.

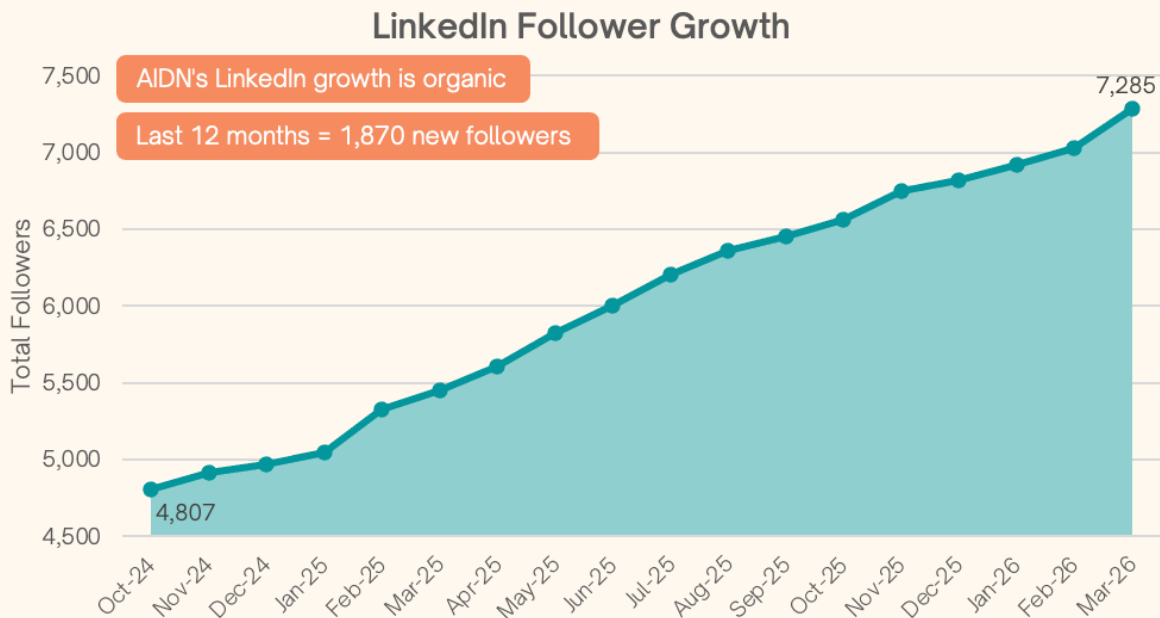
We invest in communications to ensure that there are greater platforms and opportunities for diverse international development leaders, experts, and actors in Australia and globally.



Graph 2.2: AIDN's newsletter subscriber growth rate from July 2020 to December 2025. Data gap denotes a switch from MailChimp to Hubspot.

As per Graph 2.2, AIDN's newsletter subscriber rate has seen steady increase since launching in July 2020. The Impact Project survey further demonstrated that newsletters are AIDN's most widely engaged activity, with the majority of respondents (over 80%) selecting newsletters as the key activity they engage with.

AIDN's regular newsletters also scored highly in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents. Notably, newsletters received almost no "less effective" votes, suggesting a near universal consensus on their value as an AIDN activity.

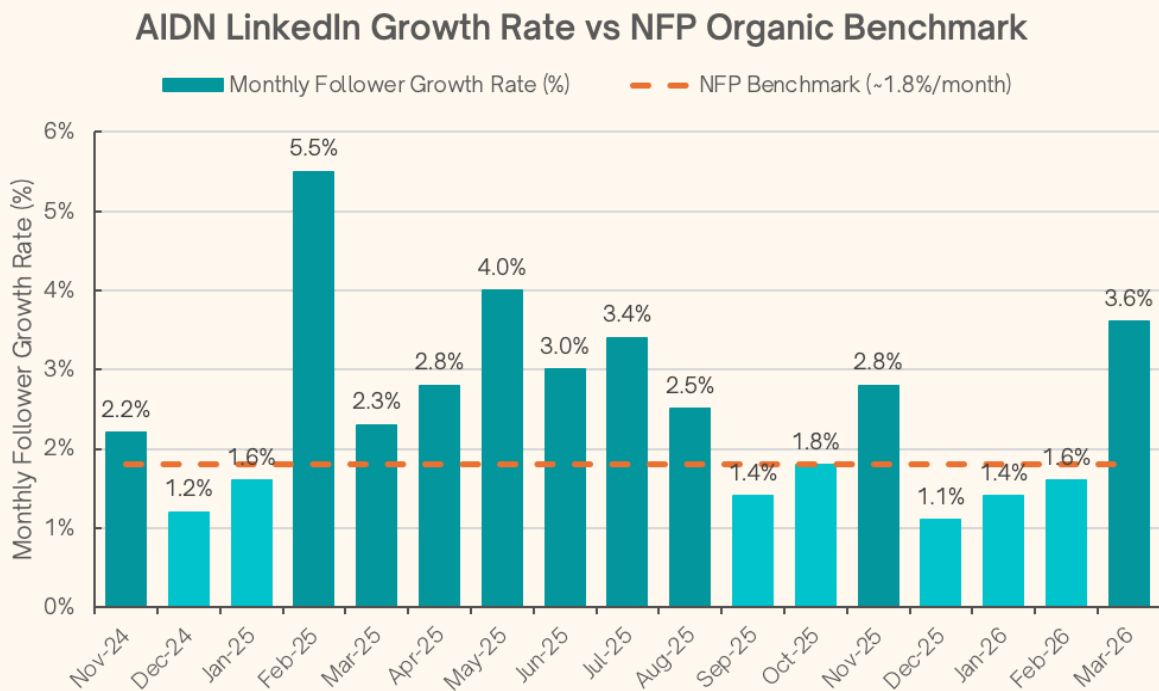


Graph 2.3: AIDN's LinkedIn follower growth from October 2024 to March 2026.

AIDN has also seen significant LinkedIn follower growth: from 4,807 followers in October 2024 to 7,285 in March 2026. This increase of 2,478 followers (+51.6%) was organic and did not involve any paid promotion. In the last 12 months alone AIDN gained 1,870 new followers.

'AIDN provides more than just a vehicle to invest in international causes. It provides a selection of vetted opportunities through the Insight Tour program, a platform to connect with like-minded people through various events, networking opportunities and newsletters.'

Australian Funder and Survey Respondent



Graph 2.4: AIDN's LinkedIn growth rate vs NFP organic benchmark November 2024 to March 2026.

Graph 2.4 demonstrates how AIDN is averaging 2.5% monthly follower growth against an NFP sector benchmark of approximately 1.8% per month. In peak months (February 2025 at 5.5%, May 2025 at 4.0%), AIDN grew at more than double the benchmark rate. 44% of respondents in The Impact Survey noted that they engage with AIDN's social media. This denoted a fairly broad reach, and concentrated among doers and other stakeholders, rather than funders.

Together, these newsletter and LinkedIn results not only demonstrate the increasing popularity of AIDN's brand, but also that there is a market gap for informed communications on trends, information, and events in Australian international philanthropy and development.

'AIDN has created such a valuable publication for our international development community in Australia and beyond. And AIDN in general is such an important and meaningful space, thanks for leading us in better development.'

Angela O'Connell, Grants Manager at So They Can

'Thank you so much for your support in highlighting UNHCR's Ebola Outbreak Appeal on LinkedIn and the AIDN website.

We're so appreciative – your support is helping bring critical visibility at a time when over 2 million displaced people and 11,000 South Sudanese refugees are living in high-risk areas and needs are rapidly escalating. UNHCR's teams are working to scale up prevention measures, deliver essential hygiene supplies, and strengthen community awareness in displacement settings to help reduce the risk of transmission, and your partnership is helping make this possible.'

Nyah Gutierrez, Head of Philanthropy and Partnerships at Australia for UNHCR

Image 2.1: MSI-Asia Pacific in Cambodia. MSI-Asia Pacific was featured on The AIDN Beat in 2025 and 2026.



2 (B): The AIDN Beat

Following the closure of ProBono News in 2023, AIDN launched [The AIDN Beat](#) in October 2023 to become an inclusive online platform for thought leadership pieces on international philanthropy and development. AIDN aims to publish 18 guest Beat pieces and 5-6 Beat Spotlights a year, and send out 5-6 Beat EDMs. We aim for our Beat EDM open rates to maintain the above average NFP industry newsletter open rate of 25%.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in the publication of The AIDN Beat to ensure that there are greater platforms and opportunities for diverse international development leaders, experts and actors in Australia and globally.

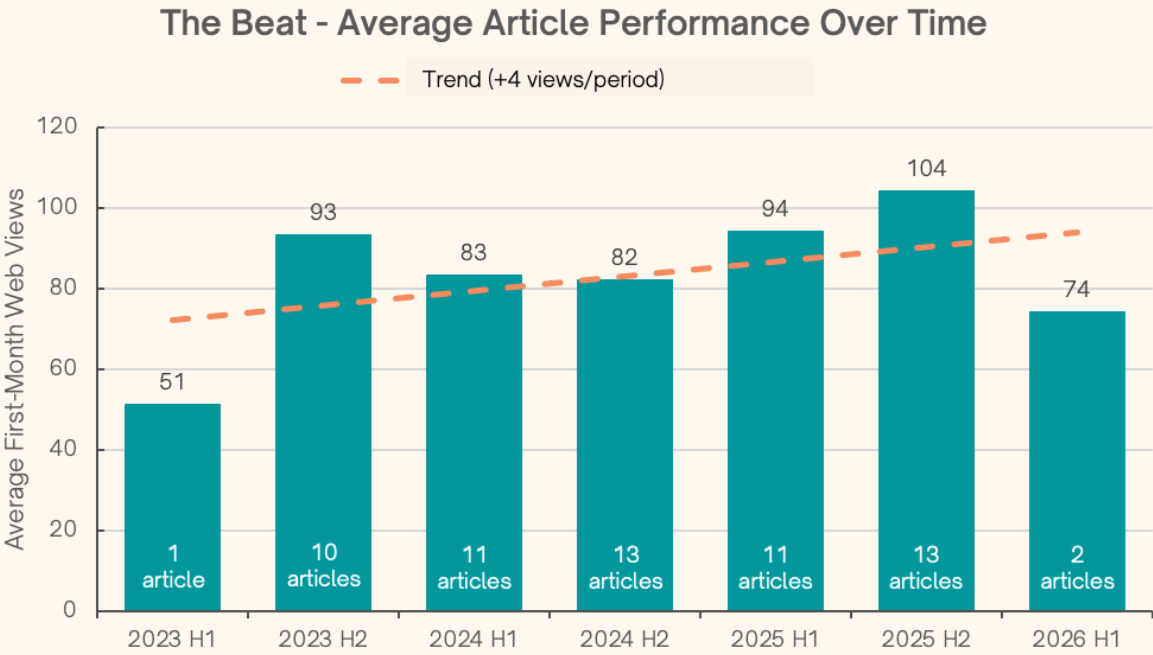
We invest in the publication of The AIDN Beat so that there is increased interest in global giving, and an environment is created for the international philanthropic and development sector to engage with and contribute to "more" and "better" global giving.

Overall, The AIDN Beat has seen steady engagement. Since launching in 2023, we have published 66 thought leadership pieces (12 in 2023, 24 in 2024, 25 in 2025, and 9 in 2026 so far) from a range of funders, doers, intermediaries, CEOs, and Executives, including from [The Intrepid Foundation](#), [The Hunger Project](#), [Educate Girls](#), [IsraAID](#), [Center for Policy Development](#), [DECJUBA Foundation](#) and Scalzo Family Foundation.

Since launching, AIDN has not needed to solicit any guest pieces. Instead, we maintain a steady growth of direct pitches to the AIDN Beat's Editor. Given the readership, reach and popularity of The AIDN Beat, in 2024 one piece was written in collaboration with the University of Melbourne to attract a relevant audience and promote a Masters of Leadership in International Development. AIDN's Google Analytics data further reveals that The AIDN Beat acts as a draw card activity to the AIDN website.

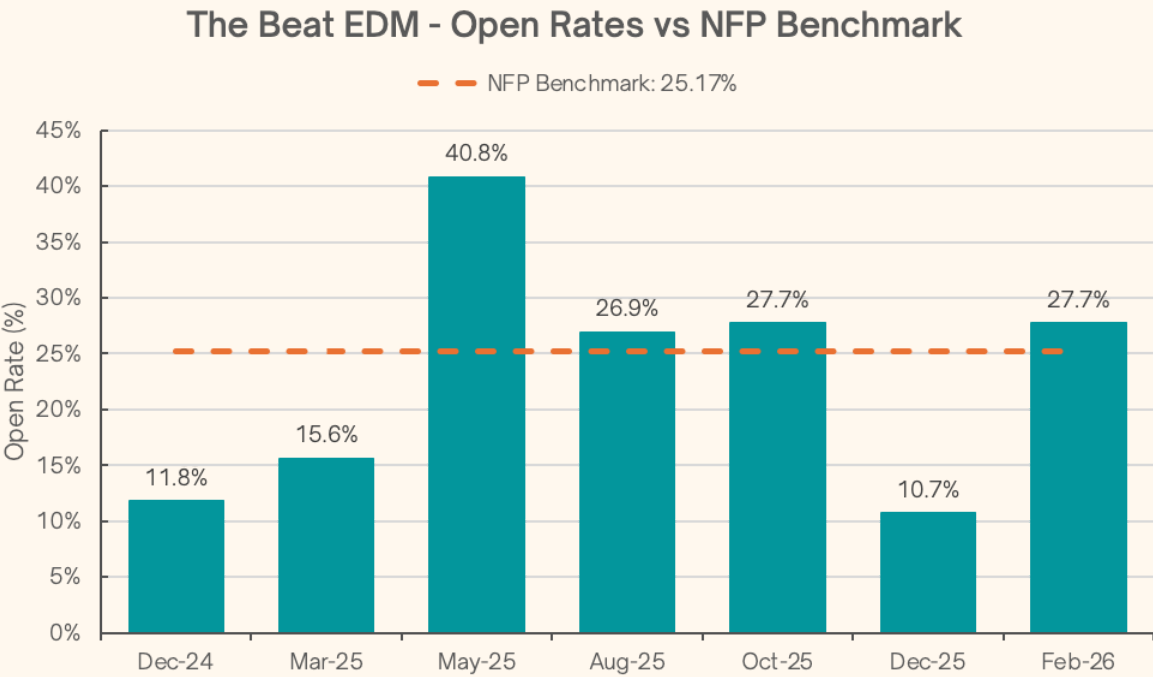
'Thank you for giving me my first shot at publishing how I genuinely feel about the world of development via AIDN... You opened the door for [our organisation].'

Zack Petersen, Founder Black Licorice



Graph 2.5: AIDN's The Beat - average article performance over time from the first half of 2023 to the first half of 2026.

Graph 2.5 demonstrates how average first-month views of The AIDN Beat are on an upward trajectory: rising from 51 views per article in early 2023 to 104 views per article in the second half of 2025.



Graph 2.6: AIDN's The Beat EDM - open rates vs NFP benchmark December 2024 to February 2026.

AIDN's Beat EDM open rate has also averaged 23%, in line with the NFP industry benchmark. Since data collection of Beat EDM open rates, over half of the editions have performed above the NFP industry benchmark of 25.17%.

'It is an honour to have my work shared with your community [via The AIDN Beat], and I truly appreciate the visibility you have given to these important issues. I am very passionate about my research in development and advocacy especially on marginalised communities in Kenya.'

Hadija Bonaya, International Development Policy and Advocacy Specialist

Overall, the Impact Project survey demonstrated that The AIDN Beat is one of AIDN's most widely engaged activities, with 57% of respondents selecting The Beat as a key activity they engage with, and coming in as the third most engaged activity behind newsletters and events/webinars.

The Beat also scored strongly in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents.

'Thank you so much for helping us to put together our piece to include in the latest Beat edition. It is quite surreal to see it amongst all the other amazing stories, which are involved in such positive change, on such grand scales, across so many countries, in a huge variety of ways. It blows my mind!'

Australian NGO Founder Working in Uganda

2 (C) Philanthropod

AIDN launched our flagship podcast, “Philanthropod”, in 2021. Philanthropod highlights leading examples of funders, doers, and “more” and “better” giving and investing in the international development sector. We aim to release 2-3 seasons (or 6-9 episodes) of Philanthropod a year and strive for an increase in our download rate of 10% annually.

Examples of funders featured on Philanthropod include:

1. [Dave and Kerry Rickards](#), founders of the [DAK Foundation](#) and the [DAK International Network](#).
2. [Andy Bryant](#), former Executive Director of the [Segal Family Foundation](#).
3. [Logan Whitaker](#), Global Engagement Manager from [The Cotton On Foundation](#).

And examples of doers featured include:

1. [Weh Yeoh](#), author of [Redundant Charities](#) and founder of [OIC Cambodia](#) and [Umbo](#).
2. [Tahina Booth](#), founder of [Grass Skirt Project PNG](#).
3. [Isabelle Kamariza](#), founder of [Solid’Africa](#).

As per AIDN’s Theory of Change, we invest in Philanthropod to ensure that there are greater platforms and opportunities for diverse international development leaders, experts and actors in Australia and globally.

We invest in Philanthropod so that there is an increased interest in global giving, and an environment is created for the international philanthropic and development sector to engage with and contribute to “more” and “better” global giving and investing.

We invest in Philanthropod so that funders are connected to “doers” and given a greater in-depth insight into NFP operations and contexts.

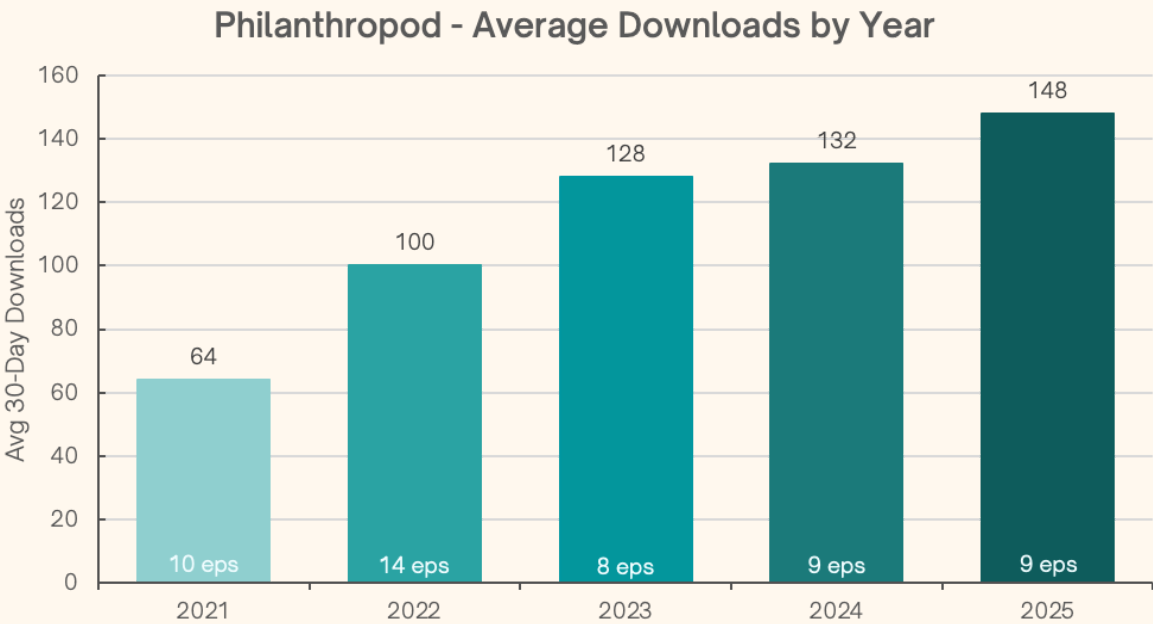


AIDN has been notified of eight occasions whereby Australian funding has been catalysed to international organisations following a funder listening to Philanthropod.

Anecdotal Data Point #1

‘Podcasts and meetings with doers at AIDN events have encouraged me to move funding candidates from the “to do” list to the “done” list.’

Mark Cubit, Australian Funder



Graph 2.7: AIDN's Philanthropod - average downloads per episode by year from 2021 to 2025.

Graph 2.7 demonstrates an upward trend in annual downloads across 50 episodes, spread over five years since launching in 2021. Graph 2.8 on p.21 similarly shows how average first month downloads have grown from 64 per episode in the earliest year to 148 in the most recent year, a 131% increase, well ahead of AIDN's target of 10% annual growth in download rates.

‘I refer donors to AIDN for intelligent discussions about international giving.’

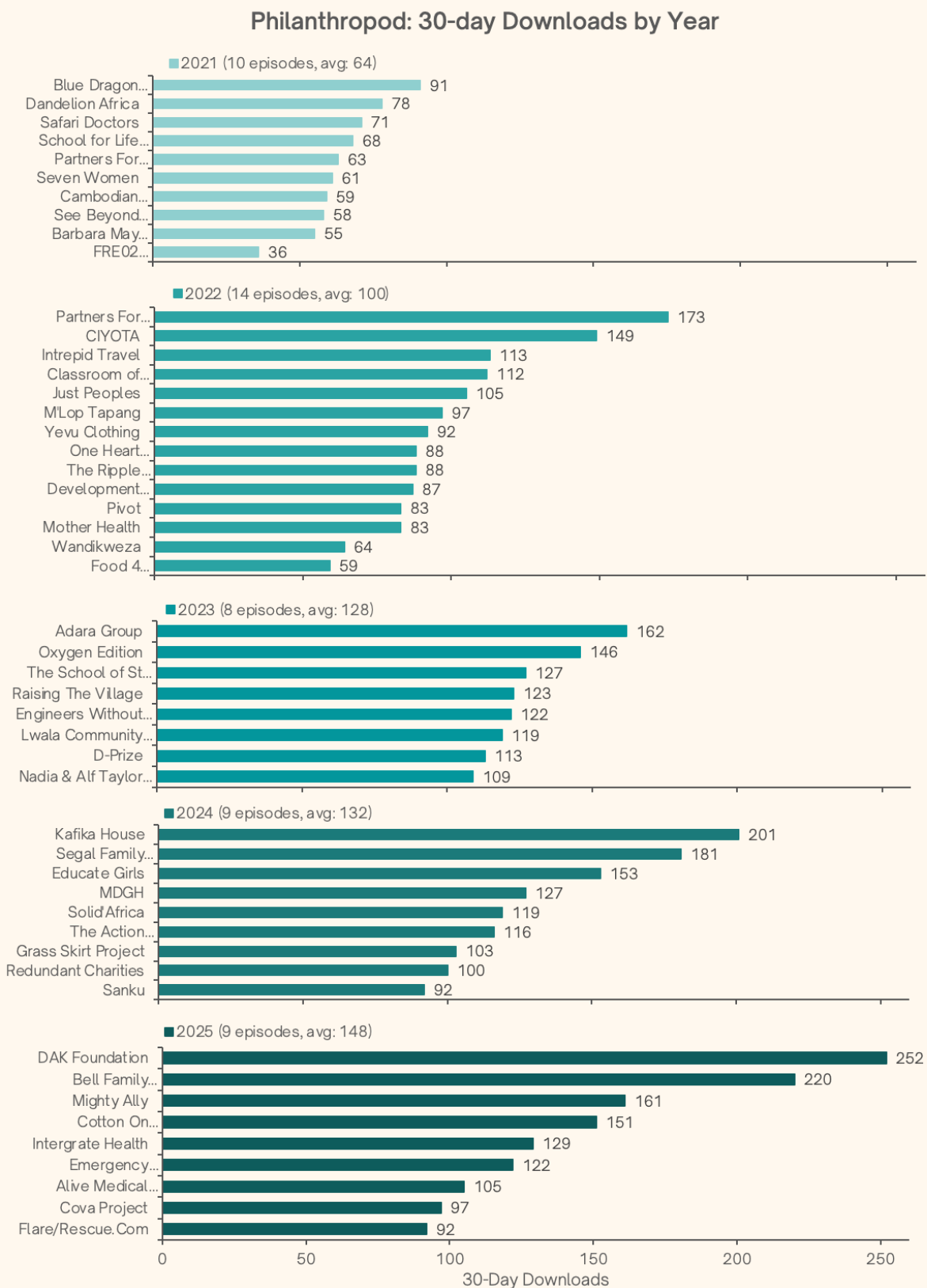
Cassandra Treadwell, Co-founder and CEO of So They Can

Overall, the Impact Project survey demonstrated that Philanthropod is engaged with by 54% of respondents. Philanthropod also scored positively in terms of effectiveness for influencing both “more” and “better” global giving for respondents. It drew a consistent surplus of “most effective” over “less effective” votes on both measures.

As per Anecdotal Data Point #1, AIDN has also been directly notified of at least eight occasions whereby grants have been catalysed to international NGOs following an Australian funder listening to Philanthropod. These are only the cases reported to AIDN, and additional instances may have occurred but not been reported.

Image 2.2: AIDN has released 13 seasons of Philanthropod (as at March 2026), hosted by Anubha Rawat and featuring a range of international development leaders including Wawira Njiru ([Food 4 Education](#)), Michael Brosowski ([Blue Dragon Foundation](#)), Julius Mbeya ([Lwala Community Alliance](#)) and Tara Winkler ([Cambodian Children's Trust](#)), pictured.





Graph 2.8: AIDN's Philanthropod - average 30-day downloads by year from 2021 to 2025. Full names of organisations and guests interviewed are available on AIDN's [website here](#).

2 (D): AIDN events and webinars

AIDN aims to host or co-host 6 in-person events or webinars each year. These events or webinars are designed to be timely and inclusive, and respond to key trends in the Australian philanthropy and international development sector.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in hosting events in order to position AIDN as a thought leader and convenor in international philanthropy and development, such as AIDN's 2026 [‘Open Ground’](#) at Women Deliver 2026.

We invest in hosting events to ensure that trends, information, access to change-makers and events in international philanthropy and development are more readily available for Australian funders and the sector more broadly. Examples include AIDN's 2026 [‘Provocation on Localisation’](#) that featured Tara Winkler ([Cambodian Children's Trust](#)), Evelyn Omala ([Partners for Equity](#)), Alice Hall ([UNICEF Australia](#)) and Dr. Sureka Goringe ([Uniting Church in Australia](#) and [CAN DO](#)).

We invest in hosting events so that collaboration and networking both within the international philanthropy and development sector and with external sectors is fostered, such as our regular [‘Global Givers Socials’](#) held in [Melbourne](#), [Sydney](#), [Perth](#) 2025 (co-hosted with [Minderoo Foundation](#)) and [Adelaide](#) 2025 (co-hosted with [The Life You Can Save](#)). We also host regular [Global Leaders Dialogues](#) alongside [ACFID](#) and the [Judith Neilson Foundation](#) at key sector convenings such as the [Philanthropy Australia Conference 2024](#) and [ACFID Conference 2025](#).

Crucially, we also invest in hosting events so that we can actively catalyse funding for overseas NGOs and causes, such as our [annual fundraising event](#) with [The Funding Network Australia](#) (refer to graph 2.8).

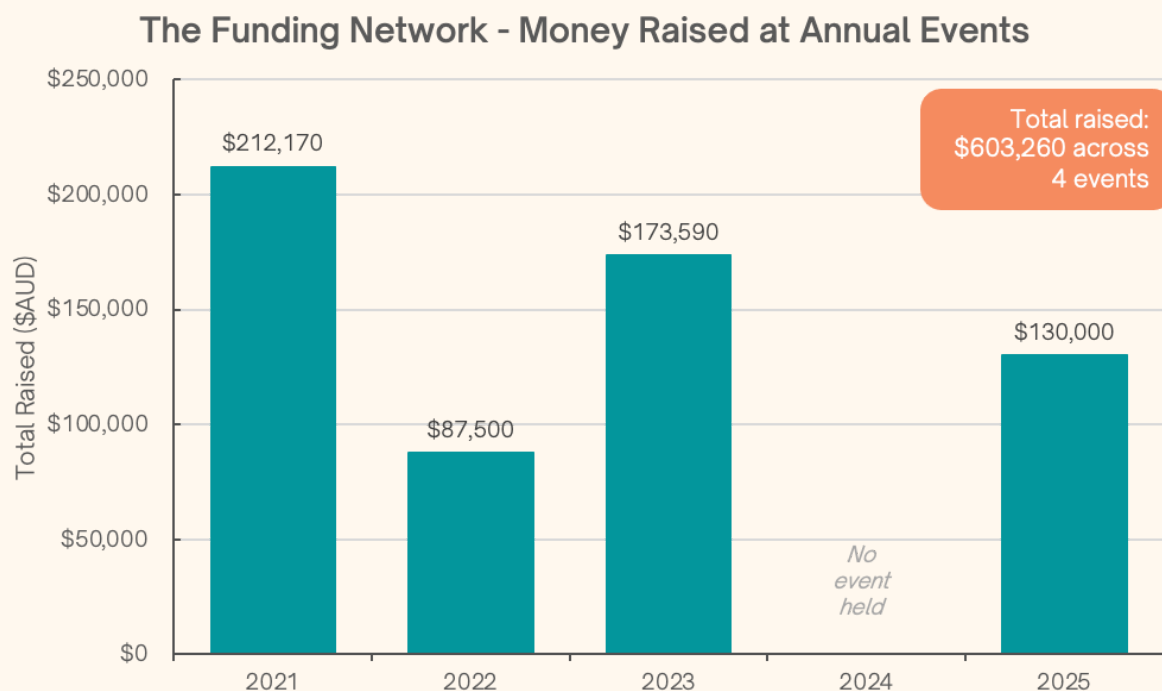
Overall, we have seen a steady growth in the attendance and demand for our events. AIDN hosted 21 events in 2025 alone (excluding Insight Tours) and recorded its largest ever webinar sign up rate in February 2026 for our [“From Passion to Impact: How Can Young People Shape the Future of International Development?”](#) webinar alongside [Young Australians in International Affairs](#).

AIDN is also agile and regularly experiments with new event formats. In April 2026, AIDN hosted [‘Open Ground’](#) alongside [Women Deliver 2026](#). AIDN's [‘Open Ground’](#) was a free three-day gathering space at the Boatbuilders Yard at South Wharf, Melbourne for the global development community to meet with colleagues, network with new friends, or have some time out. At Open Ground, AIDN provided a platform for implementers, practitioners and advocates from across the globe through Lightning

Talks series: short, informal sessions spotlighting voices from the Pacific, Africa, Southeast Asia and beyond. Attendance at Open Ground averaged 152 registrations each day, underscoring the popularity and relevance of our events.

‘Webinars and panels have been really helpful to better understand issues and local contexts. We have also found new organisations through Insight Tours. Providing links to and the operational contexts of organisations and issues internationally has been so helpful to us.’

Erin Watkins, Australian Funder and Insight Tour Attendee



Graph 2.9: Funds raised at The Funding Network Australia and AIDN co-hosted events 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025. 2021: [Smiling Hearts](#) (Uganda), [Indigo Foundation](#), Forget Me Not (Nepal). 2022: [The Cova Project](#) (Uganda/Liberia), [Classroom of Hope](#) (Indonesia), [Aminata Maternal Foundation](#) (Sierra Leone). 2023: [Bright Futures](#) (Australia/Kenya), [Cambodian Rural Students Trust](#) (Cambodia), [Grass Skirt Project](#) (PNG). 2025: [Positive Change for Marine Life](#) (Solomon Islands), [Sewing the Seeds](#) (India), [Everymum](#) (Cambodia).

As per graph 2.9 our annual fundraising events with [The Funding Network Australia](#) serve as a direct conversion point for funders meeting international organisations.



One doer confirmed that, following an AIDN event in 2025, a new grant was secured with an Australian funder worth over \$450k over three years.

Anecdotal Data Point #2

Alongside The Funding Network Australia, AIDN plays a key role in bringing in donors to these events, promotion and operations. A total of \$600,000 has been brought in from these events alone.

Overall, the Impact Project survey revealed that events and webinars are one of AIDN's most widely engaged activities, with 80% of respondents selecting events and webinars as a key activity they engage with, second only to newsletters.

AIDN's events and webinars also scored the highest in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents. They received almost no "less effective" votes, almost a near consensus on their value as AIDN's 'highest conversion' activity.

Image 2.3: "Beyond Localisation: Who Decides? A provocation on power, funding and INGOs" held at Canva HQ in Sydney in February 2026.



‘Through [AIDN] events and people I’ve met it has helped us think more about how we engage donors in lending.’

Cameron Neil, Co-founder and Director of LendForGood

‘[AIDN’s] Open Ground was a genuinely inspiring space. Sitting in the audience as organisations like Educate Girls and Mary’s Meals shared their work, I was struck by the depth of commitment and determinations.

And the Global Givers Social in the evening? It didn’t just energise the room. It gave me the clearest sense of purpose I’ve felt in a long time. A reminder that connection is not a nice-to-have in this movement; it’s the foundation.’

Suzanne Wu, International Development Feminist and Operations Specialist

2 (E): Insight Tours

AIDN's Insight Tours to low-income countries with development needs are designed to give engaged funders an in-depth insight into the work of a variety of NGOs in different sectors, and their operating context, with a particular focus on locally-led organisations.

AIDN aims to host 2-3 Insight Tours every 2 years, to co-host with a new funder and/or intermediary organisation and to visit new and diverse organisations on each tour. We also strive to ensure that attendees diversify on each tour.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in hosting Insight Tours so that funders are connected to "doers" and given a greater in-depth insight into NFP operations and contexts.

We invest in hosting Insight Tours so that funding for overseas NGOs and causes is catalysed.

We invest in hosting Insight Tours so that funders are empowered to give through AIDN's key giving resources and information.

'The AIDN trip to East Africa was nothing short of game-changing for me personally. I've been involved with philanthropy for over 20 years, but I've never learned so much as I did on this trip. It was as much about our fellow travellers as it was the projects and partners that we met. The group were all so smart, passionate, empathetic and logical, that collectively they helped me change the way I think about philanthropy. Plus, it was a lot of fun too! Can't recommend future AIDN trips highly enough.'

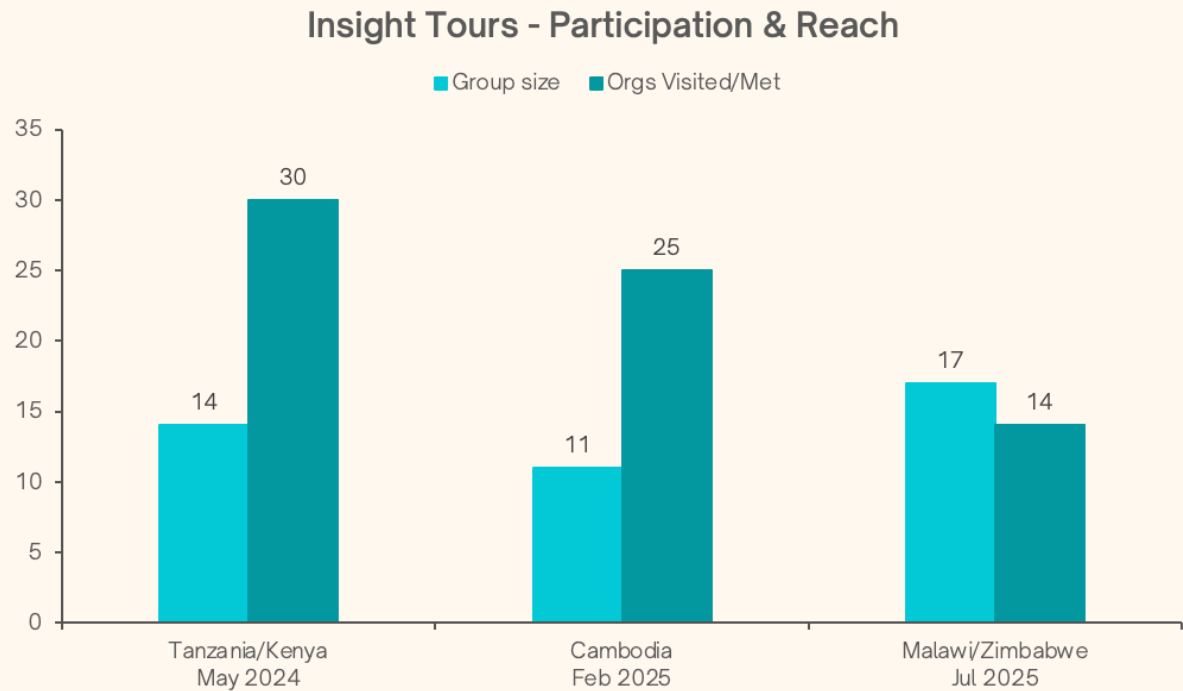
Darrell Wade, Australian Funder and Insight Tour Attendee

- AIDN hosted our first [Insight Tour in 2023 to Uganda and Rwanda](#), including a visit to the [Segal Family Foundation](#) Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.
- In 2024, AIDN hosted an [Insight Tour to Kenya and Tanzania](#) in partnership with [The Life You Can Save](#).
- In February 2025, AIDN hosted an Insight Tour to Cambodia in partnership with [Myriad Australia](#).
- In July 2025, AIDN hosted an [Insight Tour to Malawi and Zimbabwe](#) in partnership with the [Segal Family Foundation](#).
- In April 2026, AIDN hosted its first conference style [Insight Tour to the Skoll World Forum](#) in Oxford, England.



Following an AIDN Insight Tour, at least two Australian funders started funding internationally for the first time. This catalysed further giving, including funding for Women Deliver.

Anecdotal Data Point #3



Graph 2.10: AIDN's Insight Tours - participation & reach (3 tours from May 2024 to July 2025).

'AIDN has helped us connect with aligned funders and new supporters... strengthening our ability to grow support for international work.'

Sally Miles, CEO of SeeBeyondBorders Australia

The Impact Project survey revealed that Insight Tours are an activity with a narrower reach but high conviction. AIDN's Insight Tours are engaged with by around a third of respondents (33%). The narrower reach is not surprising with Insight Tours being the most high-touch and involved AIDN activity (with overseas travel required and high costs relative to other AIDN activities). While representing a self-selecting group interested in giving, Insight Tours scored very highly in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents. It was found that Insight Tours also play a vital role in funder-to-funder networking and collaboration.

Insight Tours received the most balanced endorsement across funders, doers and other stakeholders of any activity, suggesting that while reach is narrower, the tours are rated as among AIDN's most concentrated drivers of actual giving.



Following an Insight Tour to East Africa, one funding organisation significantly changed their core giving and measurement framework to include a more rigorous focus on local-leadership.

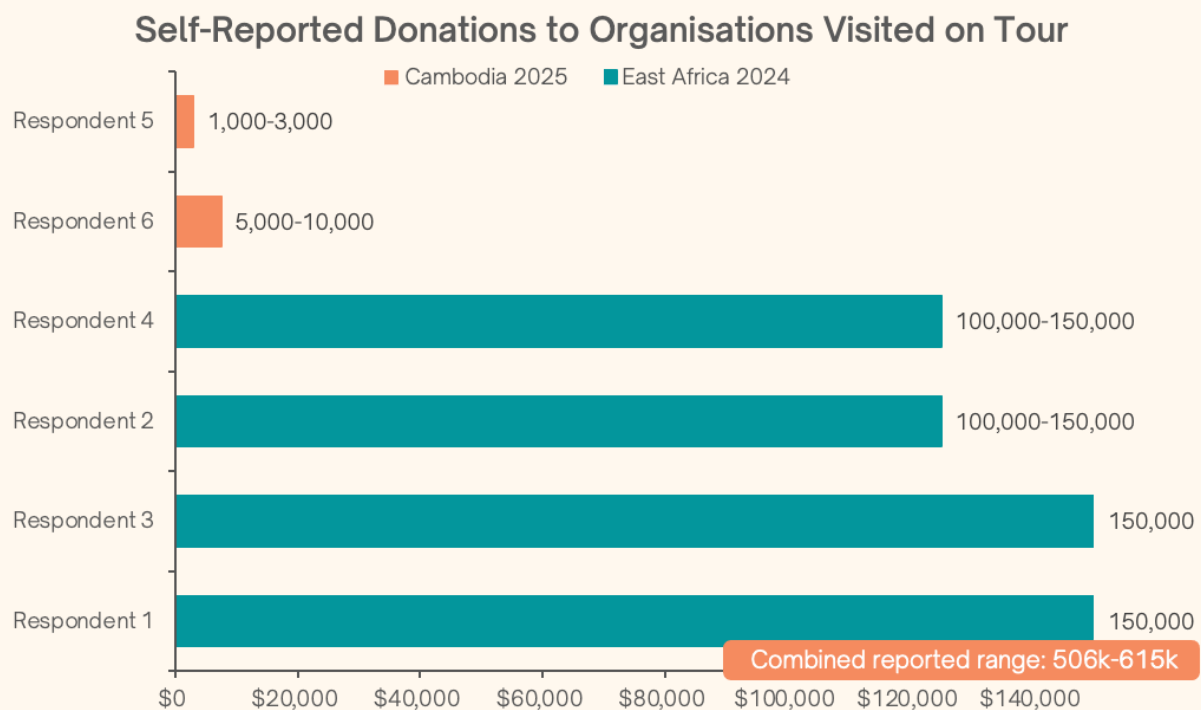
Anecdotal Data Point #4



Following a 2025 AIDN Insight Tour, one funder created five new, locally-led funder/doer relationships.

Anecdotal Data Point #5

Graph 2.11 demonstrates the direct giving uplift reported from the 2024 East Africa Insight Tour and 2025 Cambodia Insight tour⁶ with a combined reported range of \$506-615k. It should be noted that this data is only representative of funders that chose to report their grants, and does not capture all grants following AIDN's Insight Tours. AIDN is also aware of additional funding (not reported in the survey) from attendees following Insight Tours, which is shown in Chapter 3 (D).



Graph 2.11: Anonymised self-reported donations to organisation visited on Insight Tours (6 respondents)

⁶ It should also be noted that this survey data was not taken for the 2023 East Africa Insight Tour, and data is not yet available for the 2025 Malawi and Zimbabwe Insight Tour or 2026 Skoll World Forum Insight Tour.

2 (F): Networking, reaching out and introductions

AIDN's work also includes bringing together Australian funders to share expertise, resources and due diligence. This often occurs at events or on Insight Tours and should therefore be considered in relation to 2 (D)(E).

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we facilitate networking opportunities or introductions so funders are empowered to give through AIDN's key giving resources and information.

We facilitate networking opportunities or introductions so that funding for overseas NGOs and causes is catalysed through AIDN activities including Insight Tours, Philanthropod and The Funding Network events.

We facilitate networking opportunities or introductions so that there are greater platforms and opportunities for diverse international development leaders, experts and actors in Australia and globally.

Overall, the Impact Project survey demonstrated that the ability to contact AIDN for philanthropic advice or networking has a narrower reach, engaged with by 23% of respondents. However, this narrower reach is a self-selective and purposeful group: contacting AIDN scored positively in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents. This suggests that stakeholders who seek out support and advice from AIDN team members rate it as a meaningful driver of their giving.

'Meeting with [the AIDN Team] has been very helpful [in encouraging and supporting my giving].'

Australian Funder and Insight Tour Attendee

'As a doer, AIDN helps us connect with ethical, informed philanthropists who we know are already aligned with our NGO's development approach.'

Trusts and Foundation Manager, The Leprosy Mission Australia

'AIDN has played an important role in supporting Emergency Action Alliance as we established our place within the international development and humanitarian sector. By creating opportunities for engagement, facilitating valuable introductions, and providing platforms to share our work, AIDN has significantly increased awareness of EAA's collaborative emergency appeal model. Their support has also strengthened sector confidence in EAA, helping us build the relationships and credibility needed to maximise our collective impact.'

Kerren Morris, Executive Director of Emergency Action Alliance

'Without AIDN we would never have supported [a legal justice organisation] in Cambodia.'

Australian Funder and Survey Respondent

Image 2.4: Global Givers Social at Women Deliver 2026



2 (G): International funding resources and publications

AIDN strives to publish international funding resources and publications for funders to feel empowered to give and invest in international causes in line with the latest giving principles and trends. Leveraging our own resources, insights and data from The AIDN Beat, Philanthropod and policy submissions, AIDN aims to publish, update and maintain both 'The Better Giving Framework' and 'Pathways to Global Giving' annually.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in the research and publication of international funding resources and publications so that trends, information, access to change-makers, and events in international philanthropy and development are more readily available for Australian funders and the sector more broadly.

We invest in the research and publication of international funding resources so that funders are empowered to give through AIDN's key giving resources and information.

AIDN's Better Giving Framework

The [Better Giving Framework](#) is AIDN's key funding framework for international funders. The Better Giving Framework sets out the principles that AIDN believes underpin "better" giving and investing in today's international development sector. Published in October 2025, the framework is structured around six Guiding Principles; (1) Investing in Local Leadership ("those closest to the problem have the best solutions"), (2) Trust-Based Philanthropy, (3) Partnering for the Long Term (and Planning for Sustainable "Graduation"), (4) A Focus on Impact, (5) Consider Scale, and (6) Cross-Sector Collaboration and Partnerships.

The Impact Project survey revealed that the Better Giving Framework is engaged with by 38% of respondents. The Framework scored exceptionally high in terms of effectiveness for influencing "better" global giving for respondents. It received the second highest "better" score of any AIDN activity (behind only events), suggesting the Framework is doing exactly what it was designed to do.

'I've applied AIDN's Better Giving Framework in our organisation's pitches to funders. Why international giving is important, why equity matters, and what effectiveness looks like.'

Angela O'Connell, Grants Manager at So They Can

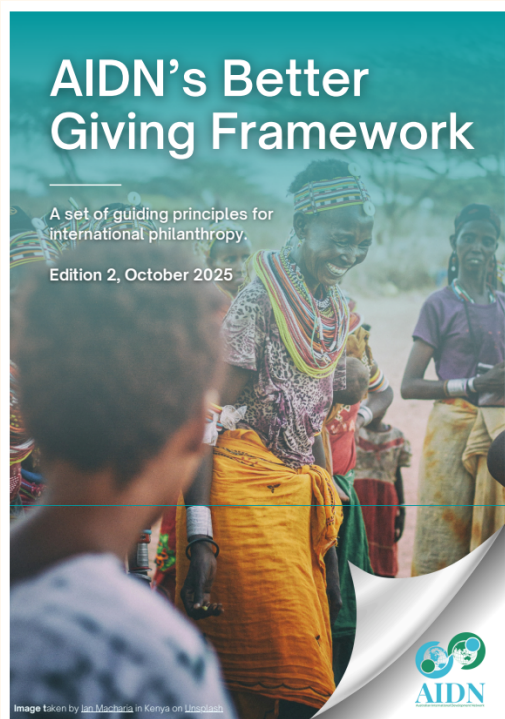


Image 2.5: AIDN's Better Giving Framework Cover.

'We started to experiment with trust-based philanthropy in 2020 and are now further along that pathway, with reduced reporting requirements for some grantees.'

Australian Foundation Executive Director

AIDN's Pathways to Global Giving

AIDN's [Pathways to Global Giving](#) is AIDN's introductory resource for Australians wanting to give to international causes. It explains how international giving works in Australia, and walks through the available "giving platforms" or DGR registered Australian organisations that act as a conduit between donors and on-the-ground programs overseas. The Pathways to Global Giving profiles each intermediary organisation's focus area, fees and country coverage.

The Impact Project survey revealed that the Pathways to Global Giving booklet is engaged with by 15% of respondents, narrower in reach than the Better Giving Framework. The Pathways to Global Giving scored close to neutral in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving, with the "most effective" and "less effective" vote counts almost balancing out on both measures.



Image 2.6: AIDN's Pathways to Global Giving Cover.

'Mary MacKillop Today has recently developed a Locally Led Action Policy and Locally Led Development Action Plan – directly inspired by AIDN's frameworks and events.'

April de Haan, Philanthropy Manager at Mary MacKillop Today

2 (H): Policy submissions

AIDN researches and publishes policy submissions to the Australian government, peak philanthropic and regulatory bodies in relation to international philanthropy and charitable giving policies and laws. While AIDN primarily works to increase Australian philanthropic giving to international causes, approximately four-fifths of Australia's international giving is provided through government-led Official Development Assistance (ODA) (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [2025](#); Philanthropy Australia [2023](#); Australian Philanthropic Services [2021](#)). Consequently, we also research and publish policy submissions to the Australian government in relation to ODA. Our aim is to publish 3-4 policy submissions or responses a year.

As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we invest in the research, analysis and publication of policy submissions in order to position AIDN as a thought leader and convenor in international philanthropy and development.

We invest in the research, analysis and publication of policy submissions so that trends and information in international philanthropy and development are more readily available for Australian funders and the sector more broadly.

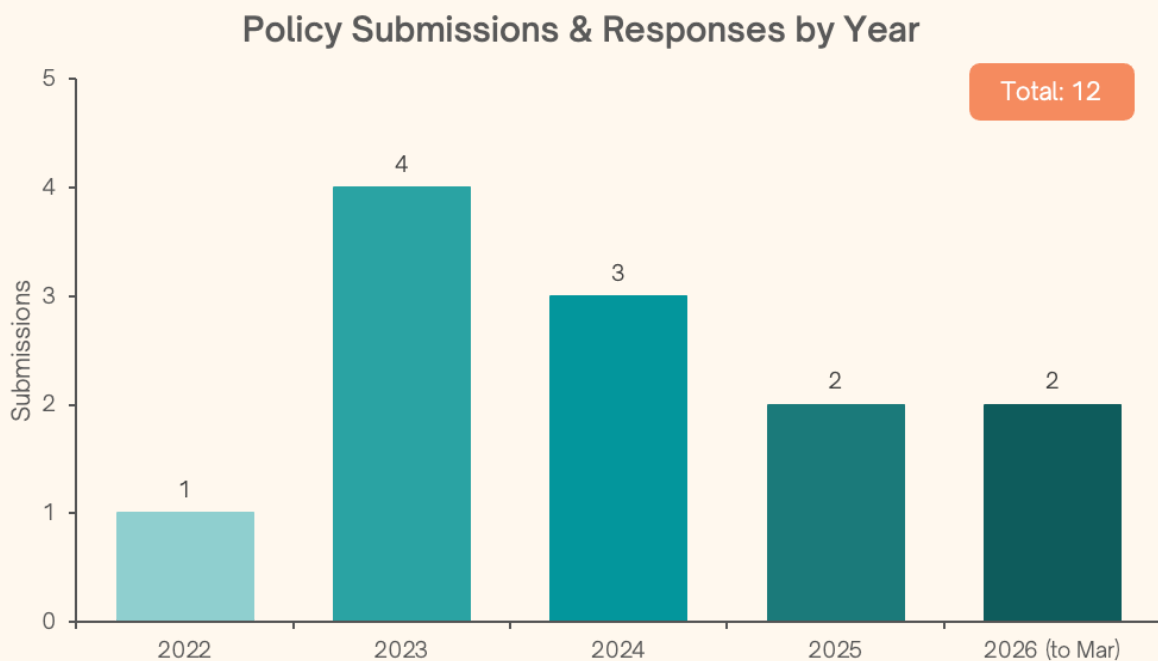
We invest in research, analysis and publication of policy submissions, so that funding for overseas NGOs and causes is catalysed through AIDN wider policy reform.

Since 2022, we have published the following policy submissions:

1. AIDN's submission on Australia's international development policy ([2022](#));
2. AIDN's submission to the Productivity Commission into Philanthropy ([2023](#));
3. AIDN summarises and responds to Australia's new Development Finance Review ([2023](#));
4. AIDN's submission to inform the new International Gender Equality Strategy ([2023](#));
5. AIDN's wrap up of the key themes that emerged in submissions to the Philanthropy Productivity Commission ([2023](#));
6. AIDN's response to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australian Philanthropy *DRAFT report ([2024](#));
7. AIDN's wrap up and response to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australian Philanthropy final report ([2024](#));
8. Timely and inclusive but implementation remains elusive: AIDN's response to the Australian Government's new Humanitarian Policy ([2024](#));
9. Holding down the fort but a missed opportunity for leadership: AIDN's response to the Australian Government's Federal Budget 2025-26 ([2025](#)).
10. AIDN's policy submission in relation to proposed "Giving funds" reforms ([2025](#));

11. AIDN's policy submission on the role of Australia's international development program in preventing conflict ([2026](#));
12. A step in the right direction, but a longer road ahead: AIDN responds to the Australian Government and Treasury's 2026 giving funds reforms ([2026](#)).

Graph 2.12 demonstrates a steady publication flow: 12 submissions produced since 2022. It is worth noting that AIDN's work is responsive to the sector. AIDN may aim for 3-4 policy submissions a year. However, this may increase or decrease as aid, philanthropy or development policies change or do not change, or inquiries requiring submissions are held or not held.



Graph 2.12: AIDN's policy submissions & responses by year from 2022 to March 2026.

The Impact Project survey demonstrated that policy submissions are one of AIDN's narrower reach activities, engaged with by 16% of respondents. Policy submissions also scored as the portfolio's lowest performing activity in terms of effectiveness for influencing both "more" and "better" global giving for respondents.

However, these scores need to be read against the activity's purpose. Policy submissions are a long term advocacy and positioning tool, not a direct giving conversion channel. Anecdotal Data Points #6, #7 and #8 underscore how AIDN's policy contributions translate into sector-wide structural change to ultimately strengthen Australia's ODA and philanthropic landscape, and enhance the amount of funds flowing from Australia to overseas causes – even if this impact is difficult to capture.



In June 2025, the Australian Government and Treasury commenced a consultations process related to proposed reforms for the regulation of Public and Private Ancillary funds (renamed “giving funds”). Proposed reforms included aligning the annual distribution rate between public and private giving funds, a possible increase in the minimum distribution rate (from 4% for PuAFs and 5% for PAFs to 5–8%) and allowing giving funds to smooth the minimum rate of distribution across multiple years.

In July 2025, AIDN responded to this consultation process with our own policy submission. In addition to agreeing with the Australian Government’s proposed reforms, we outlined a number of further policy reforms that we believe are essential for Australia to emerge as a global leader in progressive philanthropy. We suggested encouraging “spend-down” or “sunset” clauses on giving funds, and setting a minimum requirement for the relevant endowments/corpus’ of giving funds to be invested with impact investment partners. We also continued to advocate for reform of the “deductible gift recipient” (DGR) system more broadly.

Following the consultation process, in February 2026, the Australian Government announced it will improve support for Australian charities by increasing the distribution rate for both types of giving funds to 6% and expanding the number of organisations that can seek endorsement under the community charities Deductible Gift Recipient category.

While we should wait for an official Treasury estimate and be mindful that many giving funds may have already been distributing above the minimum rate, given that there is currently an estimated AUD \$11 billion in PAFs and \$8 billion in PuAFs, then the effective increase of 1% in mandatory annual distribution might plausibly mark an additional AUD \$150–250 million a year flowing to registered charities from Australian giving funds.

If it follows that currently ~10% of Australian philanthropic giving goes internationally (JBWere data – see chapter 4(B)), then we can estimate an increase of AUD \$15–25 million a year to international charities from these reforms.

Anecdotal Data Point #6



AIDN has produced 5 policy submissions in response to Australia's Official Development Assistance policies (including Australia's Humanitarian Policy, International Gender Equality Strategy, Development Finance and Emergency Response Policies).

We are also a member of the "Safer World Campaign" which advocates for an increase of Australia's aid budget to 1% of the Federal Budget.

This policy advocacy is impactful. In 2025, the world saw the biggest ODA cuts in history – led by the dismantling of USAID.

While Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending (0.65% in 2025 and 0.63% in 2026), AIDN welcomes the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to previous levels of ODA at a time when aid budgets have been slashed globally

Anecdotal Data Point #7



At the end of 2025, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT), through the Foreign Affairs and Aid Subcommittee, commenced an inquiry into the role of Australia's international development program in preventing conflict. The inquiry was referred by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Hon Penny Wong.

In January 2026, AIDN responded to this inquiry through a policy submission and argued that Australia's international development program and wider ecosystem already plays (with a limited budget) and should continue to play (with an expended budget) a decisive role in building healthier and inclusive societies that can prevent and are more resilient in conflict.

In April 2026, AIDN was invited as a representative to the hearing for the inquiry into the role of Australia's international development program in preventing conflict.

Anecdotal Data Point #8



Image: AIDN Event in
Sydney - In Conversation
with Dame Graça Machel

Chapter 3: “More” and “Better” Giving?

Comparing AIDN's Activities

In this chapter, we move away from individually analysing AIDN's core activities and outputs in relation to growth and engagement. Instead, we cross-compare AIDN's core activities to understand their overall effectiveness in contributing to “more” and “better” giving and investing from Australians to international causes.

To do this, this section combines and relies on Data Collection Method #1⁷, #2⁸ and #3⁹. This chapter reveals initial evidence of giving behaviour change. 82% of total survey respondents reported that AIDN encourages “more” giving and 93% “better” giving. 24% of the funders surveyed said AIDN encouraged them to give more. However, of the remaining surveyed funders, 55% qualified that they were already committed to international giving. For this group, AIDN still plays a meaningful role in bringing the sector together and encouraging their existing giving to be “better”. Events and webinars, newsletters, and Insight Tours are revealed as the clearest AIDN activities that drive “more giving”. Events and webinars, the Better Giving Framework, and Insight Tours are shown to be the clearest AIDN activities that drive “better” giving.

This chapter also makes a conservative estimate that AIDN can currently claim contribution to the catalysation of between AUD \$10,000,000 to \$14,500,000¹⁰ from Australia to international causes. While not claiming direct contribution, we also highlight our role in advocating for the Federal Government's 2026 giving fund reforms through policy submissions, which are estimated to increase distribution to international causes by \$15–20 million annually in future years.

NB: The statistical significance of survey results is limited due to the sample size, and respondents may be predisposed to view AIDN more favourably as they are some of the most engaged members of our network.

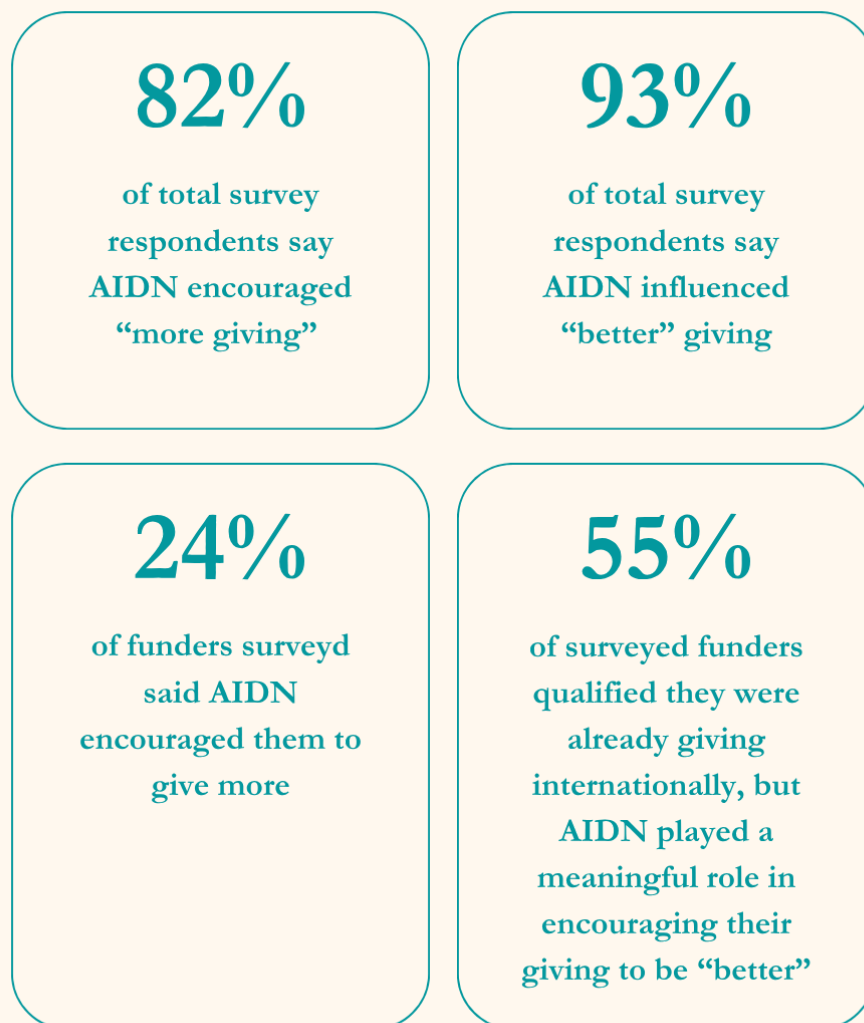
⁷ Data Collection Method #1: collecting available data on growth of AIDN's activities and outputs.

⁸ Data Collection Method #2: collecting data on AIDN's core activities via a network wide survey.

⁹ Data Collection Method #3: collating anecdotal data via various communication channels.

¹⁰ Exact figure estimated is AUD \$9,892,260 - \$14,460,260. To simplify this figure throughout the report, we have rounded this to AUD \$10-14.5 million.

3 (A): Initial evidence of behaviour change: headline figures

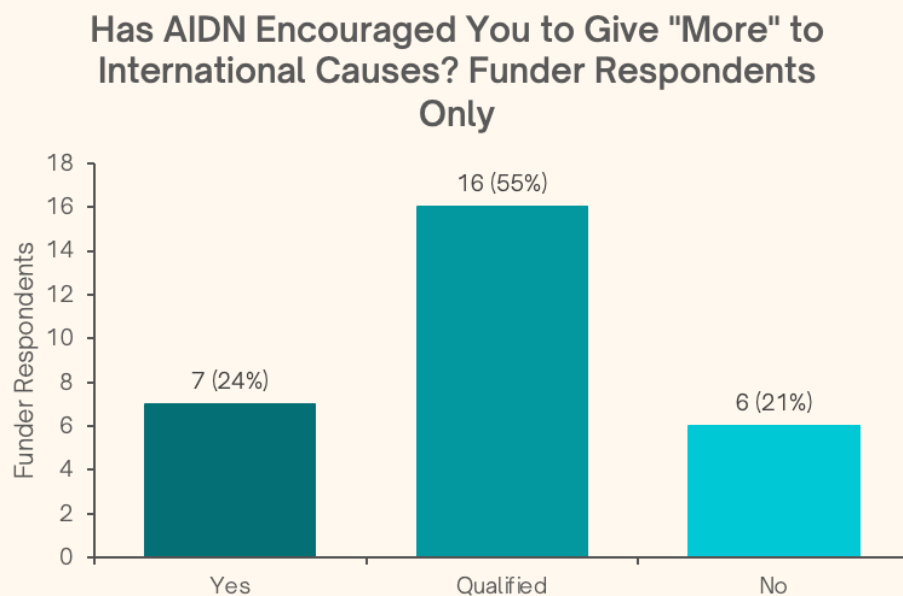


Graph 3.1: Headline survey stats from AIDN's 2025 Impact Survey (n=61).

Question 1 of the Impact Survey asked: "Has AIDN encouraged/influenced you to give "more"? Question 2 of the Impact Survey asked: "Has AIDN encouraged/influenced you to give "better"? The key headline from this approach was that both questions showed positive results (82% and 93% respectively).

It is not surprising that the number of respondents who said that AIDN influenced them in relation to "better" giving was higher than those who said AIDN influenced them for "more" giving. This is due to the fact that *all* respondents (doers, intermediaries and funders) can reasonably engage with the concept of "better" giving. Whereas only 29 of 61 of respondents were funders.

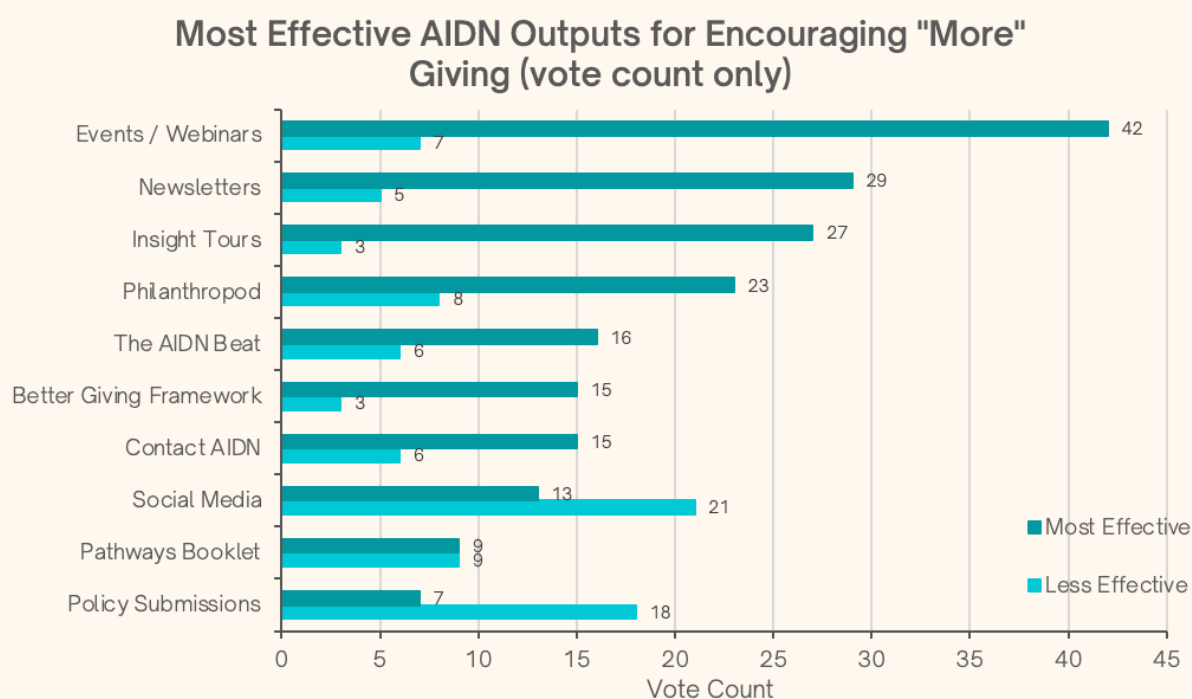
Accordingly, graph 3.2 further zooms in only on funders to understand if, within this group alone, AIDN has encouraged “more” giving to international causes. Within the 29 funders who responded to the survey, 24% (7 respondents) said that AIDN had encouraged them to give more. However, of those that said no, 55% of respondents (16 respondents) gave a qualified response: including the fact that they were already committed to international giving before encountering AIDN (such as pre-existing Australian giving fund holders), but that AIDN has played a meaningful role in bringing the sector together and encouraging their existing giving to be “better”. Typical responses from funders included: ‘No, only because we have prioritised giving overseas from inception’ and ‘AIDN hasn’t encouraged us to give more but encouraged the giving that is being done’. This finding remains in line with our contribution framework.



Graph 3.2: Has AIDN encouraged you to give more to international causes? (funder respondents only) (n=29).

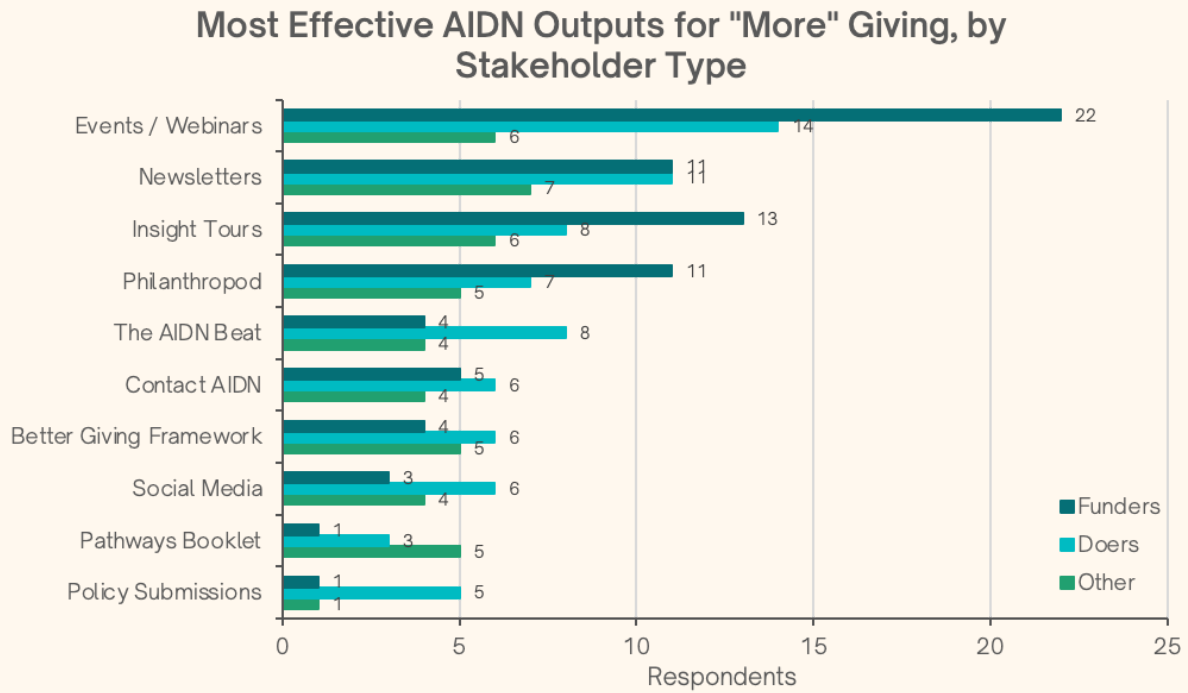
3 (B): Which specific AIDN activities influence “more” giving?

It is also important to understand which of AIDN's activities have specifically influenced “more” giving. Graph 3.3 demonstrates that events and webinars were the clearest driver of “more giving”, drawing 42 “most effective” votes against just 7 “less effective” – the strongest net result. Newsletters (29 vs 5) and Insight Tours (27 vs 3) follow closely behind. As noted in Chapter 2, however, Insight Tours have limited engagement (due to high commitment required) but very high effectiveness for more giving – meaning that, in reality, they are likely on par in terms of effectiveness with events and webinars, and newsletters.



Graph 3.3: Most effective AIDN activities for encouraging “more” giving (vote count only).

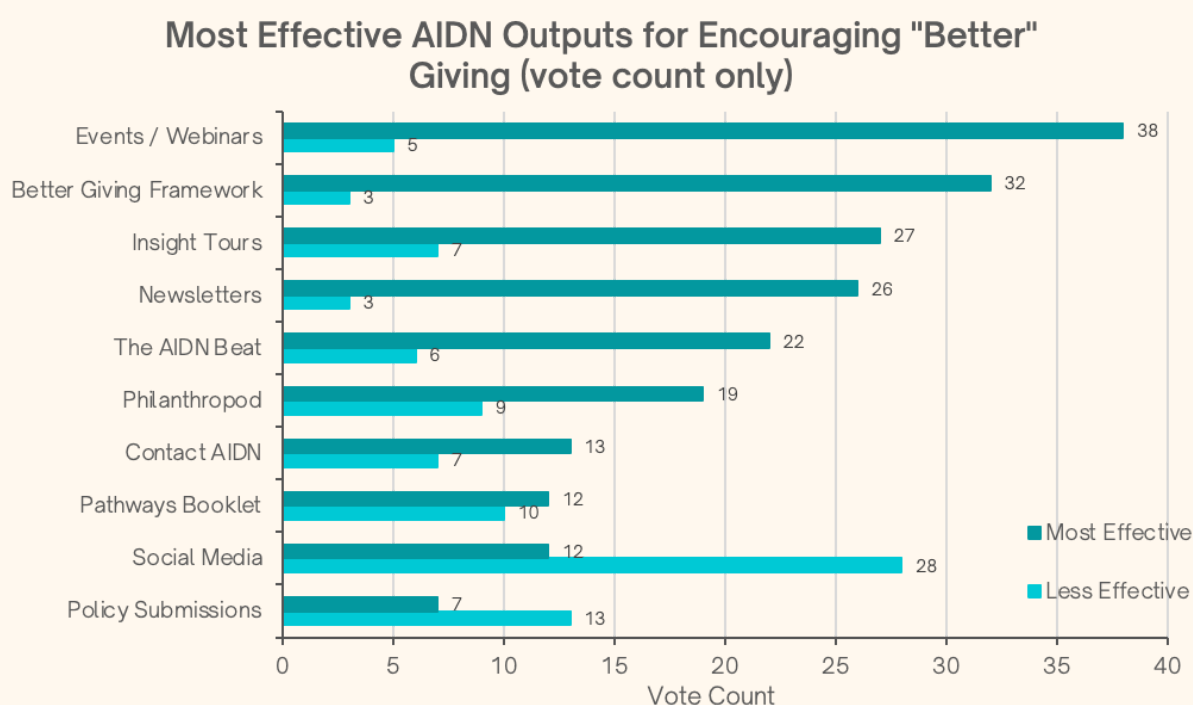
When analysed by stakeholder type, graph 3.4 further demonstrated that events and webinars drew the strongest funder specific endorsement (22 of 29). Newsletters and Insight Tours followed second, with funders giving Insight Tours their second highest endorsement (13 funders).



Graph 3.4: Most effective AIDN activities for encouraging "more" giving, by stakeholder type.

3 (C): Which specific AIDN activities influence “better” giving?

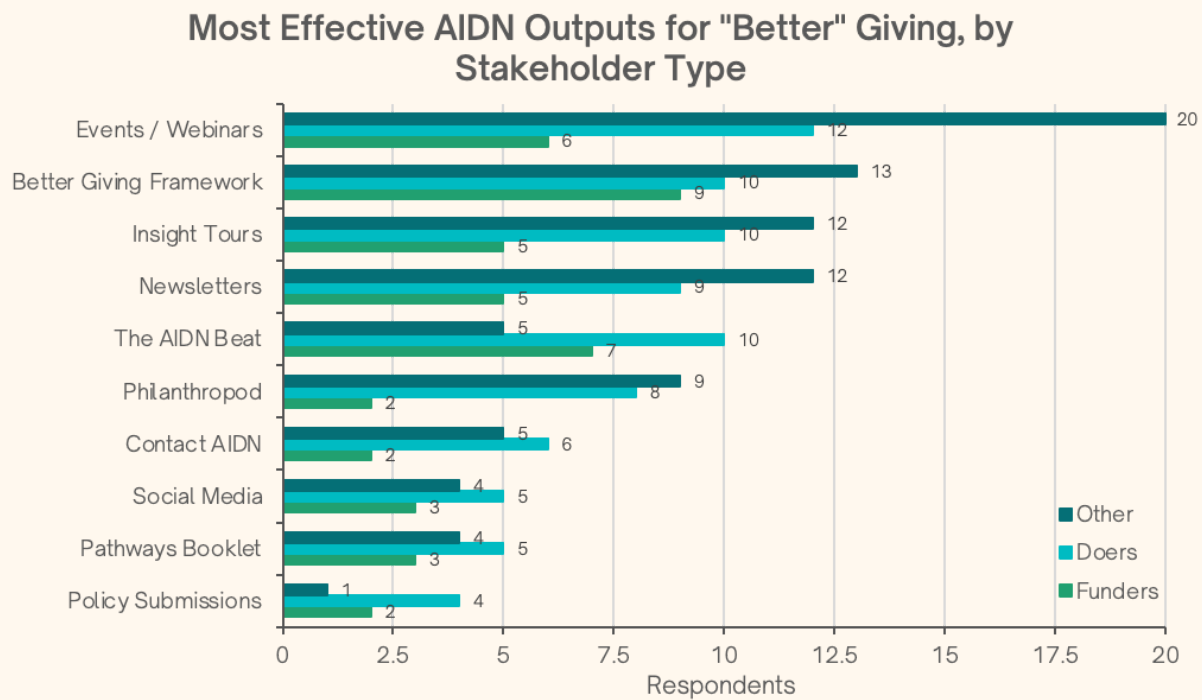
It is also important to understand which of AIDN’s activities have most effectively influenced “better” giving - as largely defined by AIDN’s Better Giving Framework¹¹. Graph 3.5 demonstrates that events and webinars lead the field once again with 38 “most effective” votes for “better” giving, followed by the Better Giving Framework (32) and Insight Tours (27). The Better Giving Framework’s strong showing on this measure second only to events is consistent with its design intent.



Graph 3.5: Most effective AIDN activities for encouraging “better” giving (vote count only).

¹¹ It should be noted that when capturing the survey data, AIDN’s Better Giving Framework was flagged as a resource for respondents to understand how AIDN understands “better” – which may raise circularity concerns. However, it should also be noted that AIDN’s Better Giving Framework was only published in 2025, and how “better” was defined in the resource was a result of an iterative process of learning, consultation and survey with our network over a year. In short, our definition of “better” giving was defined by our network.

For funders specifically, graph 3.6 demonstrated that events and webinars were once again leading as the “most effective” AIDN activity for encouraging “better” giving – with 20 of 29 “most effective” votes. The Better Giving Framework ranked second among funders (13). Doers give particularly strong endorsement to the AIDN Beat (10 of 19) and Insight Tours (10 of 19).



Graph 3.6: Most effective AIDN activities for encouraging “better” giving, by stakeholder type.

3 (D): Estimating how much funding AIDN has directly contributed to

As explained in the Appendix 7(A): Methodology, in this report we employ a contribution lens commonly used in international development monitoring and evaluation (Mayne, [2008](#); Mayne, [2012](#); BetterEvaluation [n.d.](#); Stern et al. [2012](#)). Through analysis of AIDN's core activities in Chapters 2 and 3, it is clear AIDN has contributed to the building of a stronger and more inclusive sector with more visibility and opportunities for funders, doers and intermediaries alike.

However, in order to further understand if AIDN has contributed to “more” and “better” giving and investing from Australians to overseas causes, it is also useful to estimate how much funding AIDN may have directly contributed to. Leveraging data in Chapters 2 and 3, and particularly leveraging data whereby donors in our network have chosen to share grantmaking related to AIDN activities with us, we are able to calculate a conservative estimated range of funding to international causes that AIDN has directly contributed to.

Centering our contribution analysis lens, it should be noted that this a conservative estimated range. This is because AIDN is a network and thus our contribution to catalysing international funding will always be one of many factors. Moreover, as AIDN is not a dedicated grantmaking organisation, we do not currently have financial grantmaking structures to consistently capture this data. This means that relevant cases of funding are often not reported to us.

In Chapters 2 and 3, we observe the following:

- At least 8 reported funder/doer relationships emerged from [Philanthropod](#), leveraging up to \$3.3 million (p.18);
- A reported \$450,000 (over 3 years) funder/doer relationship in 2025 following an AIDN event (p.24);
- Reported \$603,260 from 4 The Funding Network Australia (TFN) events between 2021-2025 (p.23);
- Combined reported range of \$506-615,000 from the [East Africa Insight Tour 2024](#) + Cambodia Insight Tour 2025 (p.29);
- At least \$390,000 to five new organisations following a 2025 Insight Tour (p.29);
- An additional reported approximate \$7 million to international causes from Australian funders who attended an AIDN Insight Tour, following the Insight Tour;
- Reported \$2 million catalysed for overseas emergency response with AIDN's support;
- New international funding to Women Deliver of up to \$100,000 (p.27);
- \$21,000 distributed from an Australian funder to a Malawian organisation following the Showcase Day on the Malawi Insight Tour last year.

We therefore estimate that AIDN can conservatively claim contribution to the catalysation of between:

AUD \$9,892,260 - \$14,460,260

We are confident with the data used in this estimation, with the majority being direct reports to AIDN. Nevertheless, we have taken a conservative approach to not overstate our impact.

For example, as outlined in Anecdotal Data Point #6 (p.37), it is estimated that there will be an additional \$15-25 million a year distributed to international charities from Australian giving funds in future years following an increase in the minimum distribution rate for both public and private giving funds to 6% following 2026 reforms. While we do not claim direct attribution, we believe our ongoing investment in policy advocacy and formal submissions played a contributing role in shaping this policy reform. Nevertheless, we do not include this in our above estimate.

Likewise, due to the significant volume of Official Development Assistance in comparison to philanthropic giving, we do not include any contribution related to ODA in our estimate. However, AIDN has published 5 policy submissions in response to Australia's ODA since inception and believe it is reasonable to highlight AIDN's contribution to an environment whereby the Australian Government has committed to ongoing levels of ODA through policy advocacy.

Moving forward, it is clear that AIDN should consider how to formalise our data collection processes to more fully estimate how much funding to international causes we are contributing to each year. As AIDN's role is to connect, convene and strengthen the sector rather than distribute funding, AIDN should formalise partnering with organisations explicitly set up for grantmaking, such as Myriad Australia or Partners For Equity, to better track Australian global giving, and AIDN's role within this.

Chapter 4: Evaluating the Wider Australian International Giving and Investing Ecosystem - External Data Source Analysis

Chapters 2 and 3 of this Impact Report are dedicated to understanding the impact of AIDN's activities on "more" and "better" giving. While these findings point to growing engagement with and effectiveness of AIDN as an organisation, the data was primarily drawn from a self-selecting group within AIDN's existing network. To balance this perspective, it is also important to examine trends in the Australian international giving and investing landscape more broadly.

To do this, Data Collection Method #4 of this project involved collecting data from a range of external data sources on Australian philanthropy, investing and ODA to international causes, such as ACNC, JBWere and AFR Top 50 Philanthropy Lists. The full list can be found at Footnote 16 on page 85, and is also detailed in each discrete section in this chapter. We do this to both track wider sector trends and changes since AIDN's establishment in 2018, and to reflect on AIDN's potential contribution and alignment to such trends.

Through ACNC charitable giving and JBWere total philanthropic giving, we find that Australian international philanthropic giving has grown in both scale and sophistication over the past decade. AFR Top 50 Philanthropy lists tell us that the number of philanthropists with an international focus has expanded over the last decade, with this growth in part being driven by new cohorts of donors, particularly tech founders. Broader trends such as gender lens investing, the intergenerational transfer of wealth and diaspora giving will also create significant opportunities for the future of Australian international philanthropy. While Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending, Chapter 4 also finds that the Australian Government ODA has remained largely steady, even when aid budgets have been slashed globally. While we do not

claim direct contribution to macro trends, AIDN's activities are aligned with and complementary to this growth.

However, Chapter 4 also reveals that there are also structural challenges within our sector. International aid is increasingly competing with domestic priorities and while High Net Worth contributions are rising in size, overall and public giving has declined. Australia's international impact investing market remains immature despite increasing appetite. ODA will also continue to be challenged in the current climate.

Given AIDN's unique and neutral role in connecting donors, intermediaries, and doers; our role in catalysing international funding; the increasing engagement and demand for our core activities; and our ongoing policy advocacy, these structural challenges should be understood as opportunities for AIDN and inform AIDN's strategic direction moving forward.

Image 4.1: Site visit to Marty MacKillop Today in Timor-Leste



4 (A): ACNC Charities Reports

AIDN analysed the eight ACNC Australian Charities Reports covering FY2015-16 to FY2022-23 (ACNC ([2016](#)), ACNC ([2017](#)), ACNC ([2018](#)), ACNC ([2019](#)), ACNC ([2020](#)), ACNC ([2021](#)), ACNC ([2022](#)), ACNC ([2023](#))).

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the federal regulator of Australia's charitable sector and the only national source of standardised audited financial data for all registered charities within the country. Each year, ACNC publishes the Australian Charities report, using data from the Annual Information Statement that all ACNC registered charities with DGR status are legally required to file. This snapshot draws from eight reports covering the financial year of 2015/16 to the financial year of 2022/23 to show the size and trajectory of overseas charitable giving by registered Australian charities alongside the total revenue of the sector.

'The most common overseas locations [in the Asia-Pacific region] continue to demonstrate a strong commitment from Australia's charities to causes and communities.'

ACNC Charities Report, 2019, p.10

It is important to note that overall ACNC revenue (for example, \$222 billion in 2023) is dominated by domestic service providers in Australia who are also registered as charities, such as universities (who receive tuition fees) and hospitals (who receive government funding). To specifically understand Australian funding to international causes - relative only to philanthropic giving - refer to JBWere data sources at 4(B).

Analysis of the ACNC Charities Reports revealed that the years between 2016 and 2023 were significantly impacted by external events and crises. First, the Black Summer bushfires in 2019/20, then the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the war in Ukraine in 2021, and finally a domestic cost-of-living crisis driven by inflation in early 2022. Nevertheless, with domestic pressure to focus money at home, international giving did not contract. Instead, it grew.

Table 4.1 sets out a year-by-year picture of Australian giving to international causes through ACNC registered charities between 2016 and 2023. Each financial year shows the dollar value of grants going overseas, total ACNC-registered sector revenue, the share of overall sector revenue directed internationally, and the year-on-year growth rate. The far-right column adds short contextual notes drawn from each year's ACNC report so that trajectory can be read alongside the events that shaped it.

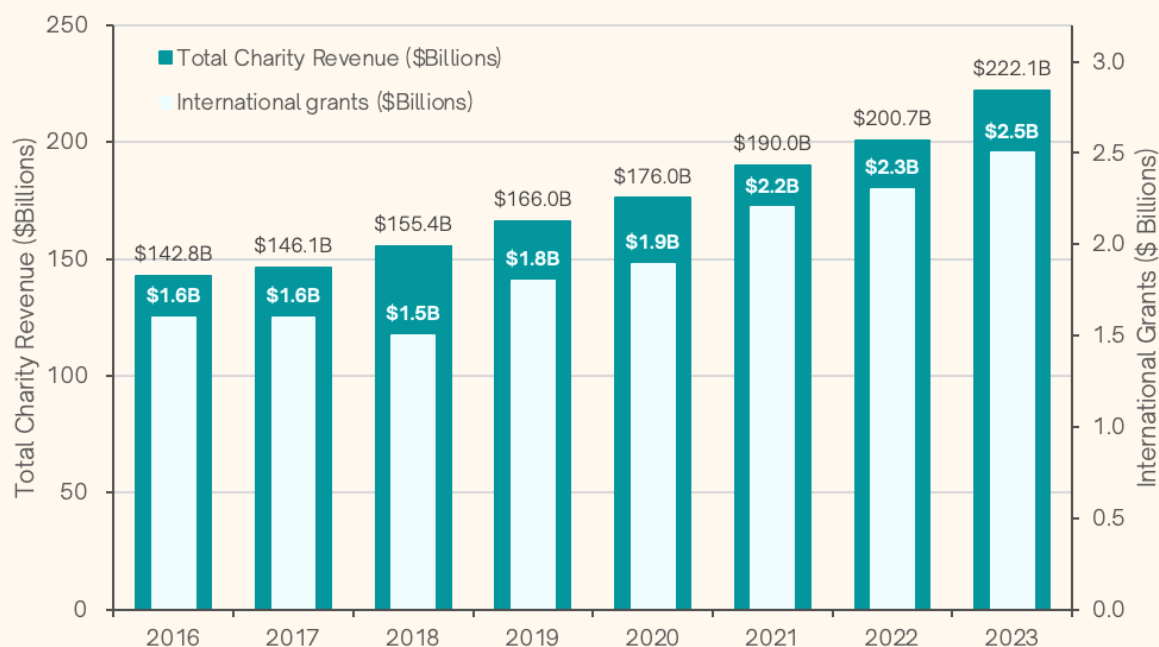
Growth in Australian international giving to registered ACNC charities 2016-2023					
Year	Amount going overseas	Total revenue	Overseas grants as % of overall ACNC revenue	% growth of international grants from previous year	Context and additional commentary
2016	\$1.6B	\$142.8B	1.12%	0%	2016–2018: International charitable giving remained largely stagnant between \$1.5 billion and \$1.6 billion (ACNC, 2016), (ACNC, 2017), (ACNC, 2018).
2017	\$1.6B	\$146.1B	1.10%	0%	
2018	\$1.5B	\$155.4B	0.97%	-6.3%	
2019	\$1.8B	\$166.0B	1.08%	+20%	2019: Charitable giving rose to \$1.8 billion, a 20% increase from the previous year (ACNC, 2019).
2020	\$1.9B	\$176.0B	1.07%	+5%	2020: Despite COVID-19, international grants grew by 5% (to \$1.89 billion) (ACNC, 2020).
2021	\$2.2B	\$190.0B	1.16%	+16.4%	2021: A massive surge. International grants jumped 16.4% (to \$2.2 billion) (ACNC, 2021).
2022	\$2.3B	\$200.7B	1.15%	+4.5%	2022: Growth slowed. International grants increased by 4.5% (\$2.3B) (ACNC, 2022).
2023	\$2.5B	\$222.1B	1.13%	+8.7%	2023: Structural growth continued. Charitable giving reached \$2.5 billion, an 8.7% increase from the previous year, even as mass-market donations flatlined (ACNC, 2023).

Table 4.1: Australian international charitable giving by year, 2016-2023 (Dollar figures rounded).
Data source: ACNC Charities Reports, 2016-2023.

Graph 4.1 plots the total ACNC-registered sector revenue against the dollar value of grants going to overseas causes for each year from 2016-2023. Together Table 4.1 and Graph 4.1 demonstrate how international giving has grown in absolute terms¹², from \$1.6 billion in 2016 to \$2.5 billion in 2023, even as it has remained a small fraction around ~1% of the much larger ACNC revenue total. The pattern shows international giving moving in step with broad sector growth rather than being squeezed out by it.

¹² NB: ACNC total revenue is not adjusted for inflation or Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

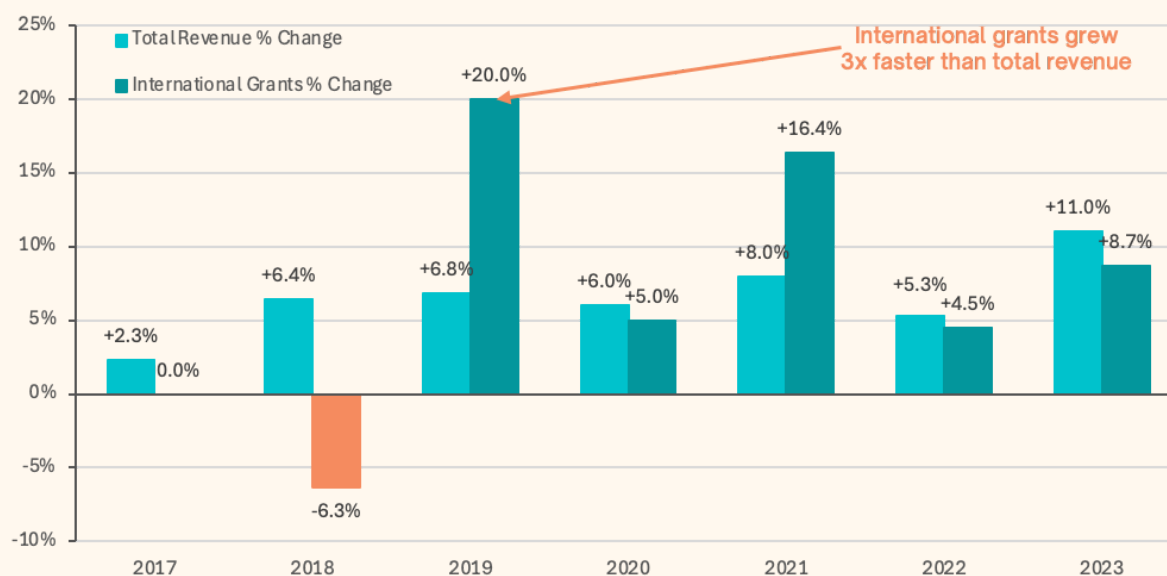
Total Charity Revenue vs International Grants Overlaid ACNC Charities Reports (2016-2023)



Graph 4.1: Total charity revenue vs international grants 2016-2023 (International grants shown on secondary axis).
Source: ACNC Australian Charities Reports, 2016-2023.

Graph 4.2 places the year-on-year growth rate of international grants directly alongside the year-on-year growth rate of total ACNC sector revenue, for each year between 2017 and 2023. International grants outpaced the wider sector in five of the seven years measured - most strikingly in 2019 (+20% vs +6.8%) and 2021 (+16.4% vs +8.0%). This chart most directly demonstrates that international giving has kept pace with or even surpassed total ACNC revenue growth over the past decade.

Year-on-Year % Change: Total Revenue vs International Grants ACNC Charities Reports 2017-2023



Graph 4.2: Year-on-year % change: total revenue vs international grants 2017-2023. Source: ACNC Australian Charities Reports, 2016-2023. Year-on-year change calculated from reported figures.

4 (B): JBWere Publications

JBWere is a major contributor to Australian philanthropic sector research. AIDN analysed JBWere publications including: The Support Report (2018)¹³, JBWere NAB Charitable Giving Index – 1st edition (2021), 2nd edition (2022) and 3rd edition (2023), and The Bequest Report (2024).

Through this analysis, it was found that international giving accounts for approximately 10 cents in every dollar of Australian giving¹⁴. It is important to note that JBWere data focuses on analysing Australian philanthropic giving (such as donations, bequests and giving fund distributions) and excludes revenue to domestic service providers registered as charities (such as hospitals and universities) included in ACNC data outlined in 4(A) – that can significantly undermine the percentage of international giving.

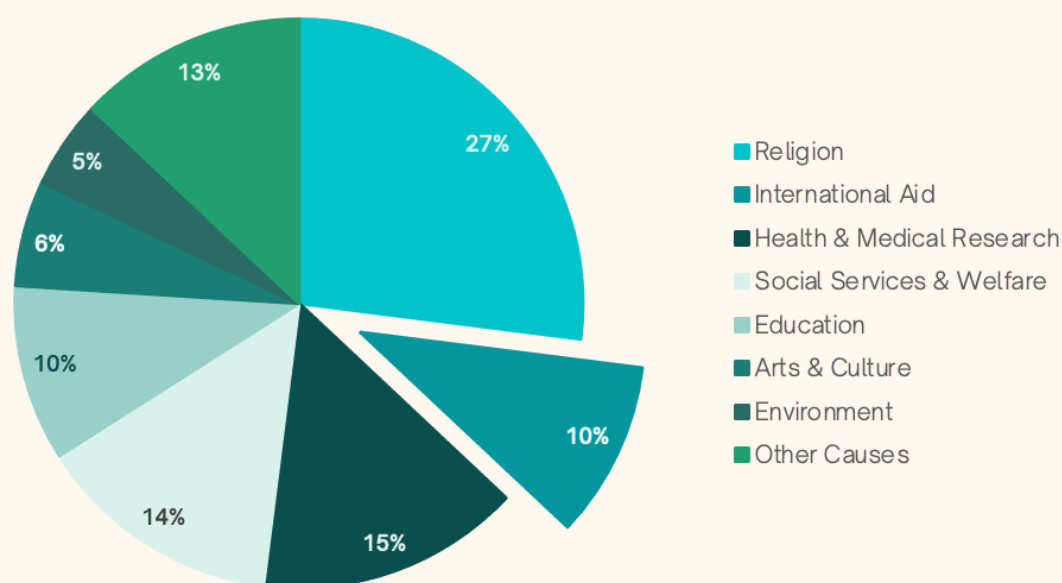
Graph 4.3 illustrates the estimated share of Australian individual donations by cause area, with international aid as ~10% share.

¹³ Data limitation note: Historical ACNC data on Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs) that informs The Support Report report may understate international giving. Earlier reporting appears inconsistent, with some years showing unusually low offshore giving relative to known sector activity. This may reflect reporting practices rather than actual funding flows as PAFs/giving funds may route international donations through Australian organisations operating abroad (e.g. World Vision Australia or similar entities), or may not consistently classify downstream offshore disbursements as international giving in their returns. As a result, ACNC figures on international giving via PAFs/giving funds are likely conservative. This may further represent an opportunity for AIDN to strengthen the sector and support Australian funders to effectively register their international giving.

¹⁴ While JBWere does not publish a single standalone percentage for “international giving as a share of total giving,” the ~10% figure is consistent with and supported by multiple JBWere data points including:

- The Support Report (2018), Diagram 43: Shows international activities as one of the largest recipients of donations and bequests. When mapped against all cause areas, international aid’s share is consistent with approximately 10% of total individual giving.
- The Bequest Report (2024): International aid accounts for approximately 10% (~\$130–150 million annually) of total charitable bequests in Australia.
- The Support Report (2018) also highlights Private Ancillary Fund distributions: PAFs allocated 7% of cumulative distributions to International Affairs (2001–2013), roughly ~\$210 million.

Estimated Share of Australian Individual Donations by Case Area



Graph 4.3: Estimated share of Australian individual donations by cause area.

Source: Derived from JBWere; The Support Report (2018), Diagrams 19 & 43 & related data. (Approximate proportions - International aid ~10% highlighted).

Key takeaways for AIDN:

Through analysis of JBWere publications, it was found that religion and international aid were the two largest cause areas for individual mass-market charitable donations. International aid organisations also rely heavily on philanthropic support, making the health of Australia's international giving culture directly material to AIDN's work.

However, JBWere publications also revealed that international aid is the cause "most at risk" of having a declining share as donor behaviour shifts toward universities, arts, and culture. Those who are giving are giving more, but the overall number of donors is declining (overall donor participation rate). This shows the urgency of AIDN's advocacy for overseas giving and ongoing work with philanthropists and High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs).

‘International aid already enjoys a large share of giving but given its donor base, maintenance of that share would be a good result.’

JBWere, The Support Report, 2018, p.5

International Aid Trends since 2014

The JBWere NAB Charitable Giving Index, published across three editions (2021–2023), also tracked the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on all Australian household giving. Total household giving fell 3-4% annually in 2020–2021 (equating to ~\$1 billion per year in lost income), before recovering to surpass the pre-pandemic FY2019 record by 10% in FY2023. An estimated \$3 billion in cumulative donations was permanently lost. Importantly, JBWere noted that international aid donations ‘fared well’ relative to other cause areas during this downturn, though donor numbers dropped, ‘continuing a challenging trend’.

JBWere: International Aid Trends 2014-2023	
Period	JBWere Finding on International Aid
Pre-pandemic (2014-2019)	Total donations and bequests across all causes grew \$4.2 billion (+60%). International aid maintained its position as the 2nd largest individual donation cause area.
COVID-19 impact (2020-2021)	Overall giving fell 3-4% annually (~\$1 billion/year lost). International aid donations “fared well” relative to other causes. However, donor numbers dropped “continuing a challenging trend.”
Recovery (2022-2023)	Household giving rose 10% in FY2023, surpassing the FY2019 record. An estimated \$3 billion was cumulatively lost across 2020–2022.

Table 4.2: International aid trends 2014-2023.

Source: JBWere, The Support Report 2018 and NAB Charitable Giving Index editions 1-3 (2021-2023).

4 (C) Australian Financial Review Top 50 Philanthropists

The [Australian Financial Review's Philanthropy 50 List](#) is an annual ranking of Australia's largest philanthropic givers, published each year by the AFR magazine based on confirmed grant and donation data from foundations, family offices, and individual donors.

AIDN analysed seven consecutive editions of the list from 2017/18, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25¹⁵, to track how Australia's largest givers have shifted their focus over time, with an emphasis on analysing international giving. Overall, AFR Top 50 philanthropic giving grew from \$554.2 million (2017/18) to \$1.56 billion (2024/25), marking a 182% increase.

Table 4.3 below demonstrates the number of Top 50 philanthropists each year with a confirmed international component to their giving (whether through international aid, cross border grants or funding of overseas programs), their reported giving totals (domestic and international), and their combined share of total Top 50 giving (domestic and international).

Important Note: These figures represent the total giving (domestic and international) of donors who have an identified international component to their philanthropy – not the international portion alone. For most givers listed, international giving may only represent a percentage of their total donation, with the remainder directed to domestic Australian causes. Accurate disaggregation is not possible from AFR data alone, as the AFR does not break down by domestic vs. international allocation.

Nevertheless, Table 4.3 demonstrates how the number of philanthropists with an international component to their giving has significantly grown from 2017-2025. Total giving from givers with an international component grew from \$128.8 million (2017/18) to \$735.0 million (2024/25) – a 471% increase.

¹⁵ No online links to lists are available to the public.

Growth in international giving within AFR Top 50 Philanthropists 2017/18 to 2024/25				
Year	Total Giving (\$m)	Total Giving by Intl. Givers (\$m)	Intl. Giver Count	Intl. Giver Share (%)
2017/18	\$554.2	\$128.8	7	23.2%
2018/19	\$748.5	\$195.9	8	26.2%
2019/20	\$964.0	\$369.9	8	38.4%
2020/21	\$942.2	\$383.1	9	40.7%
2021/22	\$1116.0	\$439.0	11	39.3%
2022/23	\$1247.5	\$558.6	9	44.8%
2023/24	\$1375.0	\$689.0	10	50.1%
2024/25	\$1563.3	\$735.0	11	47.0%

Table 4.3: AFR top 50 philanthropy - total giving and international share 2017/18 to 2024/25.

Source: Australian Financial Review Top 50 Philanthropy lists, 2018-2025 (eight annual editions).

As per Table 4.4 and 4.5, [Minderoo Foundation](#) has been the most consistent international giver, appearing in the Top 50 in every year from 2017/18 through 2024/25. The [Lowy Family/Foundation](#) was another steady presence across seven of the eight years. [Yajilarra Trust](#)'s climate related giving entered in 2019/20 and has grown to become a #1 or #2 giver. Climate philanthropy inherently has global implications, even if the Trust's primary focus may be domestic. The [Canva Foundation](#) (Obrecht/Perkins) appeared from 2021/22, representing a new wave of tech wealth and international philanthropy, including significant partnerships with [GiveDirectly](#).

Overall, almost half of the international givers listed in Table 4.4 and 4.5 have a significant international focus: [Planet Wheeler Foundation](#) ('international development'), [The Charitable Foundation](#) ('international aid'), [Canva Foundation](#)/Obrecht & Perkins (GiveDirectly), [DAK International Network](#) ('international health'), [Ripple Foundation](#) ('international development'), and [Judith Neilson Foundation and charitable trusts](#) ('sub-saharan Africa').

Finally, it is also important to note that while this analysis reveals that more and more of the Top 50 are giving overseas (with the number of international givers on the list growing from 7 (2017/18) to 11 (2024/25)), many additional donors with international portfolios haven't appeared in recent rankings because they fall below the AFR Top 50 cutoff.

AFR Top 50 Philanthropy Lists: International Givers by Year 2017/18 - 2020/21			
2017/18 (7 givers with international component, \$128.8m combined total giving):	2018/19 (8 givers with international component, \$195.9m combined total giving):	2019/20 (8 givers with international component, \$369.9m combined total giving):	2020/21 (9 givers with international component, \$383.1m combined total giving):
1. Minderoo Foundation (\$60.4m) 2. Lowy Foundation (\$22.0m) 3. Kinghorn Foundation (\$17.9m) 4. Gandel Philanthropy (\$16.7m) 5. The Charitable Foundation (\$4.0m) 6. Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation (\$4.0m) 7. Reuben Meyer Trust Fund (\$3.8m)	1. Minderoo Foundation (\$75.4m) 2. Judith Neilson Foundation and charitable trusts (\$48.9m) 3. Lowy family (\$21.2m) 4. Kinghorn Foundation (\$19.6m) 5. Gandel Philanthropy (\$16.0m) 6. Harold Mitchell and Foundation (\$5.9m) 7. Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation (\$4.6m) 8. The Charitable Foundation (\$4.3m)	1. Judith Neilson Foundation and charitable trusts (\$125.5m) 2. Minderoo Foundation (\$88.7m) 3. Yajilarra Trust (\$81.3m) 4. Lowy family (\$23.2m) 5. Kinghorn Foundation (\$20.5m) 6. Gandel Philanthropy (\$15.5m) 7. Planet Wheeler Foundation (\$11.1m) 8. The Charitable Foundation (\$4.1m)	1. Minderoo Foundation (\$109.7m) 2. Yajilarra Trust (\$104.1m) 3. Lowy Foundation and family (\$69.8m) 4. Kinghorn Foundation (\$26.2m) 5. Estate of Julianna Lowy (\$25.0m) 6. Judith Neilson Foundation (\$20.6m) 7. Gandel Foundation (\$14.0m) 8. Planet Wheeler Foundation (\$9.3m) 9. Besen Family Foundation (\$4.4m)

Table 4.4: International givers among AFR top 50 Philanthropists by year 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Source: [Australian Financial Review](#) Top 50 Philanthropy lists, 2018-2025 (eight annual editions).

AFR Top 50 Philanthropy Lists: International Givers by Year 2021/22 - 2024/5			
2021/22 (11 givers with international component, \$439.0m combined total giving):	2022/23 (9 givers with international component, \$558.6m combined total giving):	2023/24 (10 givers with international component, \$689.0m combined total giving):	2024/25 (11 givers with international component, \$735.0m combined total giving):
1. Yajilarra Trust (\$165m) 2. Minderoo Foundation (\$136m) 3. Judith Neilson Foundation & trusts (\$41m) 4. Kinghorn Foundation (\$34m) 5. Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins (\$15m) 6. Gandel Foundation (\$15m) 7. Planet Wheeler Foundation (\$9m) 8. Besen Family Foundation (\$9m) 9. Phillips Foundation (\$5m) 10. Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation (\$5m) 11. The Charitable Foundation (\$5m)	1. Minderoo Foundation (\$224.9m) 2. Yajilarra Trust (\$185.3m) 3. Lowy Foundation and Family (\$29.1m) 4. Kinghorn Foundation (\$29.1m) 5. Judith Neilson Foundation & trusts (\$25.1m) 6. Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins (\$20.0m) 7. Gandel Foundation (\$20.0m) 8. Marc Besen & Besen Family Foundation (\$14.3m) 9. Planet Wheeler Foundation (\$10.8m)	1. Yajilarra Trust (\$214m) 2. Minderoo Foundation (\$210m) 3. Estate of Marc Besen & Besen Family Foundation (\$144m) 4. Judith Neilson Foundation & trusts (\$33m) 5. Kinghorn Foundation (\$31m) 6. Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins (\$19m) 7. Gandel Foundation (\$19m) 8. DAK Foundation (\$8m) 9. Tony and Maureen Wheeler & Planet Wheeler (\$6m) 10. Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation (\$5m)	1. Minderoo Foundation (\$317.6m) 2. Yajilarra Trust (\$242.5m) 3. Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins (\$40.1m) 4. Judith Neilson Foundation & trusts (\$32.5m) 5. Kinghorn Foundation (\$31.9m) 6. Gandel Foundation (\$15.0m) 7. Tony & Maureen Wheeler and Planet Wheeler Foundation (\$12.3m) 8. Estate of Marc Besen and Besen Family Foundation (\$12.0m) 9. Prue & Alasdair MacLeod, Macdoch and Lansdowne foundations (\$11.4m) 10. DAK International Network (\$10.1m) 11. Ripple Foundation (\$9.6m)

Table 4.5: International givers among AFR top 50 Philanthropists by year 2021/22 to 2024/25.

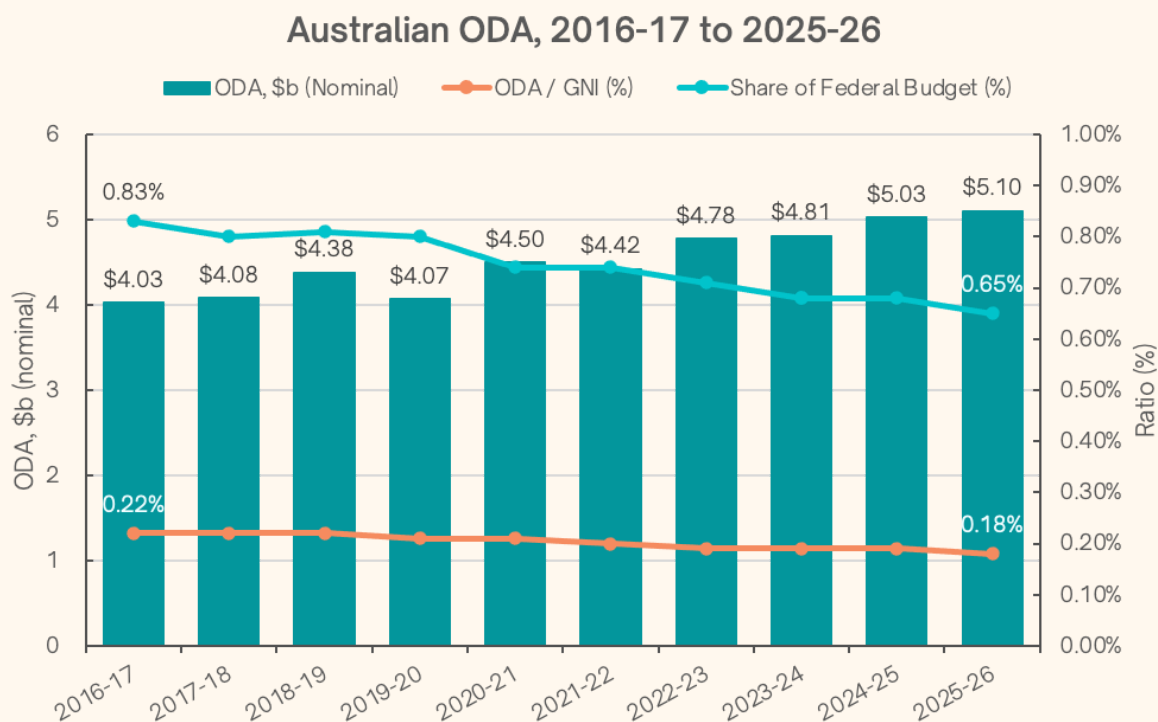
Source: [Australian Financial Review](#) Top 50 Philanthropy lists, 2018-2025 (eight annual editions).

4 (D): Australia's ODA and global aid cuts

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is government aid directed towards the economic development and welfare of developing countries. In 1970, the United Nations set the international benchmark for the percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) for high-income economies to direct towards low-income economies as 0.7%.

However, in 2025, the world witnessed the largest contraction of ODA in our history. The four largest donors – the US, UK, Germany and France – cut ODA simultaneously, with global ODA falling by around US \$41 billion in 2024-25, and with further falls projected in 2025-26 (OECD, [2025](#)). The Trump Administration froze foreign assistance for 90 days on the 20th of January 2025 (White House, [2025](#)), and then on the 10th of March 2025, Secretary Marco Rubio announced 83% of USAID programs would be cancelled (Center for Global Development, [2025](#)). The United Kingdom will also cut UK ODA from 0.5% to 0.3% by 2027-28 to fund a defence increase (UK House of Commons Library, [2025](#)). The Netherlands announced a 30% cut in February 2025 (OECD, [2025](#)), Belgium cut ODA by 25% (Devex, [2025](#)), and France cut €742 million in 2024 and further reduced ODA appropriations by 37% in 2025 (Focus2030, [2025](#)).

Amongst this devastating backdrop, the Australian Labor Party continues to support an ODA/GNI target of 0.5% (ACFID, [2023](#)). While not meeting this target, Australia has demonstrated a relative steadiness compared to our peers. In the 2025/26 Federal Budget, Australian ODA reached its highest-ever nominal level at ~\$5.10 billion AUD. However, ODA as measured against share of Gross National Income (GNI) and share of Federal Budget has demonstrated a gradual decline since 2016.



Graph 4.4: Australian ODA, 2016-17 to 2025-26 - nominal \$b with ODA/GNI and Share of Federal Budget (%).

Source: [Australian Aid Tracker](#) (Development Policy Centre) for nominal \$ AU values; [ACFID 2025-26 Federal Budget Analysis](#) and [DFAT ODA Development Budget Summary](#) 2016-27 to 2025-26 for ODA/GNI and Share of Federal Budget ratios. Nominal figures in \$b. Ratios rounded.

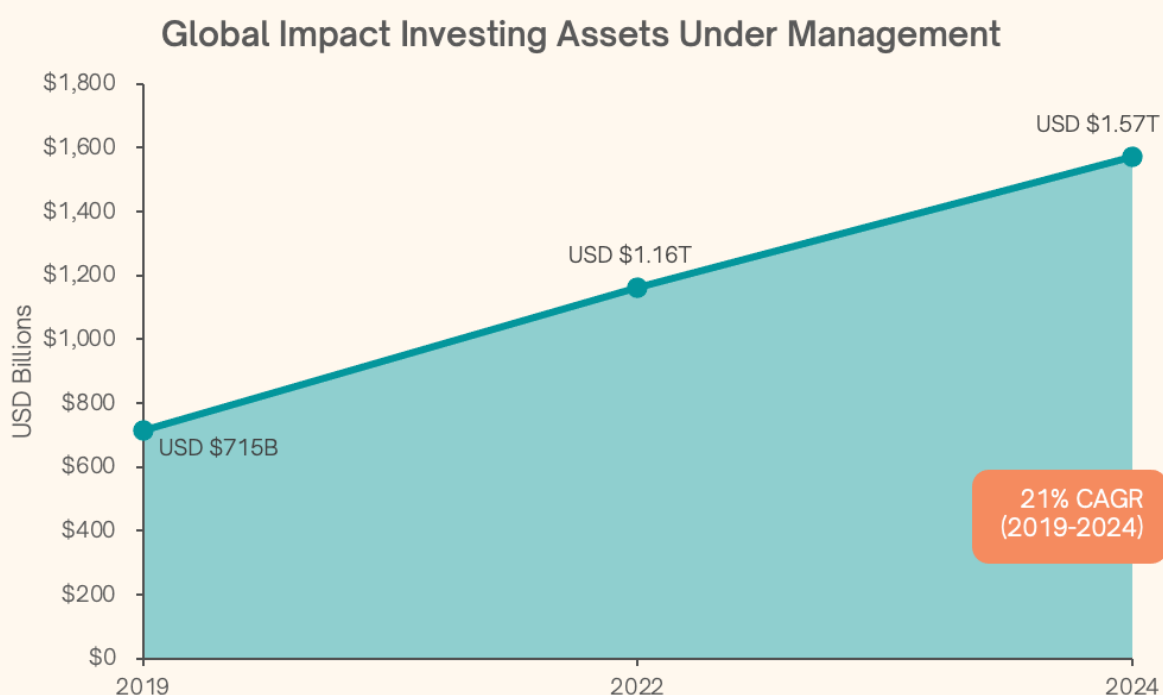
While AIDN's primary focus is international Australian philanthropy, ODA remains the dominant flow of Australian funds moving to international causes. Consequently, both before and after 2025's global aid cuts, AIDN has actively invested in policy advocacy in relation to Australia's ODA (see Anecdotal Data Point #7). We are also a member of the "[Safer World Campaign](#)" which advocates for an increase of Australia's aid budget to 1% of the Federal Budget.

This policy advocacy is vital. While Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending (0.65% in 2025/26), AIDN welcomes the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to previous levels of ODA at a time when aid budgets have been slashed globally.

4 (E): Australia's international impact investing market

In order to understand the size and trajectory of Australia's international impact investing market, AIDN also analysed numerous reports published between 2020 to 2025 including the Impact Investing Australia's Benchmarking Impact Reports ([2020](#)) and ([2025](#)), GIIN's Sizing the Impact Investing Market ([2024](#)) and State of the Market ([2025](#)), Koda Capital's Impact investing without limits ([2025](#)) & Koda Capital's Rising Tide Survey ([2024](#)) and UNSW Business School's Doing Good is Paying Off ([2025](#)). These provide the most comprehensive available picture of Australian international impact capital.

As per Graph 4.5, this process of analysis revealed that global impact investing assets under management have more than doubled since 2019, reaching USD \$1.571 trillion in 2024 across 3,907 organisations tracked by the GIIN. This confirms that the market has not just grown in absolute terms but is compounding at a sustained pace.



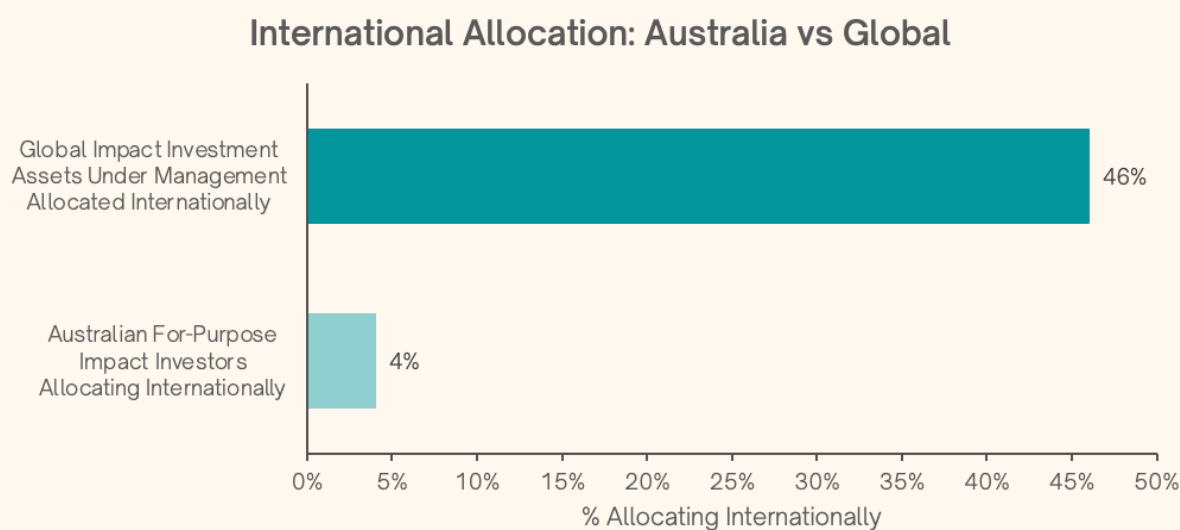
Graph 4.5: Global impact investing assets under management.

Source: GIIN, Sizing the Impact Investing Market [2024](#); GIIN State of the Market [2025](#) (429 orgs, 21% CAGR).

Australia's impact investing market has also experienced significant growth, expanding approximately eightfold from AUD \$19.9 billion (December 2019) to \$157.5 billion by 2025. This mirrors broader regional trends, with Oceania recording a 62% compound annual growth rate between 2019 and 2024, the fastest of any region (Impact Investing Australia [2020](#) & [2025](#); UNSW Business School [2025](#)).

The market comprises 197 impact products: 133 Green, Social and Sustainability (GSS) bond products totalling \$144.97 billion (92%), and 64 impact fund products totalling \$12.49 billion (8%). Both segments have grown approximately 4.3x since 2020. Of the GSS bonds, \$89.34 billion is onshore and \$55.63 billion offshore (Impact Investing Australia [2020](#) & [2025](#); UNSW Business School [2025](#)).

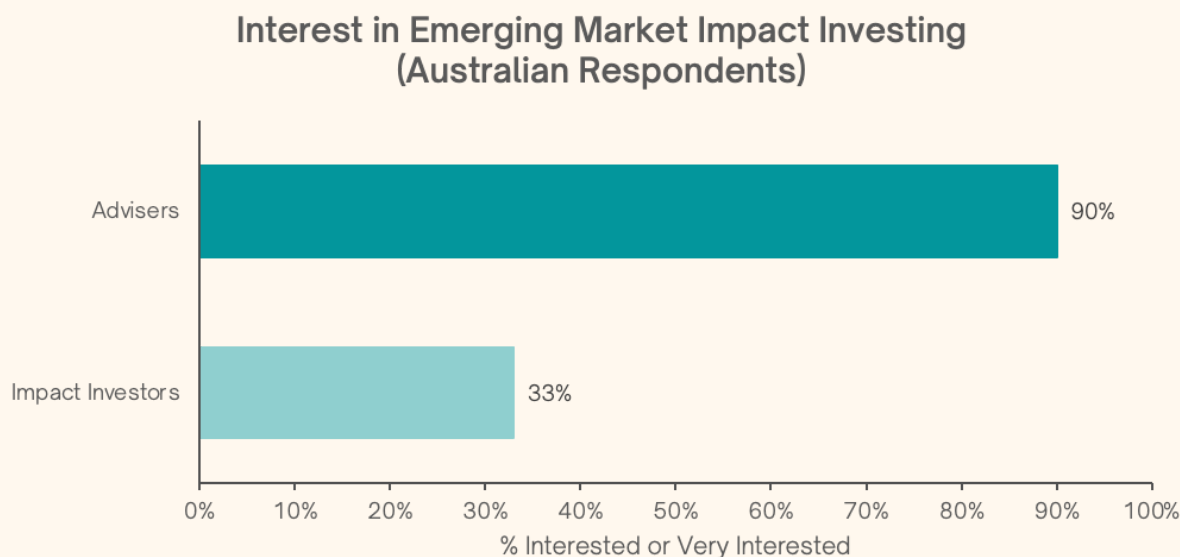
Crucially, a gap exists between Australian and global impact investing portfolios when it comes to international allocation. As per Graph 4.6, The Koda Capital Rising Tide Survey ([2024](#)) found that 57% of Australian for-purpose impact investors only allocate domestically and just 4% specifically allocate internationally. By comparison, the GIIN State of the Market ([2025](#)), found that 46% of global impact assets under management are allocated internationally.



Graph 4.6: International allocation; Australia vs Global.

Source: Koda Capital, "Impact Investing Without Limits", [2026](#); GIIN State of the Market [2025](#).

As per Graph 4.7, this gap persists even as 33% of Australian impact investors and 90% of advisers report rising client interest in emerging markets. This indicates that the constraint is not appetite but rather channels and structures.



Graph 4.7: Interest in emerging market impact investing (Australian respondents).

Source: Impact Investing Australia, Benchmarking Impact [2025](#), Section 1.8



Case Study 4.1:

Australian International Impact Investing: Good Return's International Impact Investing Fund

Good Return (formerly World Education Australia, est. 2003) is an Australian not for profit specialising in financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment across the Asia-Pacific. Their impact investing model demonstrates how a small amount of capital can generate outsized social returns.

In March 2025, Good Return launched its second fund: an AUD \$10 million vehicle projected to unlock \$50 million in loans every five years. The fund is open to investors with a minimum of AUD \$20,000 and targets returns comparable to major bank deposit rates.

Sources: Good Return (goodreturn.org.au/impact-fund-2); Macquarie Group Foundation; Proactive Investors, 2025



Case Study 4.2:

Australian International Impact Investing: Save the Children Global Ventures

The first Australia based impact investment fund launched in 2020, raising AUD \$7,425,000 with a \$7,400,000 anchor investment from QBE Insurance. This was followed by the Children's Impact Multiplier Fund (~USD \$2 million seed, targeting USD \$10 million within three years), launched in late 2022.

Sources: Save the Children (savethechildren.net); SCGV (scgv.org); Convergence Finance; Education Outcomes Fund; 2022 Australian Impact Investment Awards.

Image 4.2: Good Return meeting a microfinance client in Cambodia. Good Return was featured on The AIDN Beat in 2023.



4 (F) CAF World Giving Index and Reports

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has published the World Giving Index (WGI) since 2010, measuring charitable behaviour across three dimensions: helping a stranger, donating money to charity, and volunteering time. In 2025, CAF changed the index into the World Giving Report, which included two new separate publications: *Donor Insights* (covering public giving behaviours across 101 countries) and *Charity Insights* (surveying 3,115 charities across 27 countries).

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a major contributor to global philanthropic sector research. AIDN reviewed seven editions of the CAF World Giving Index ([2018](#), [2019](#), [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#) & [2024](#)) and the inaugural [2025 World Giving Report](#) which covers both Donor Insights and Charity Insights – to better triangulate Australia's position against global giving trends.

Key Takeaways for AIDN:

- 1) Global generosity has broadly recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. The global WGI score reached a joint record high of 40 in 2024, with 4.3 billion people (73% of the world's adult population) giving their time, money, or helping a stranger.
- 2) Support for international charities remains comparatively low. The 2025 Donor Insights report found that 71% of charity donors gave to local/regional organisations, 46% to national charities, but only 23% to international charities working in their country and just 12% to international charities working outside their country.
- 3) As per Table 4.6, the global giving landscape is shifting as the Majority World rises to the top of the generosity index. Indonesia has topped the WGI for seven consecutive editions (2018–2024). African nations now dominate volunteering rankings, with the continent averaging 14.5 hours of volunteer time per person in 2024 - more than double Europe's 6.5 hours.

The 2025 Donor Insights report reinforced this trend with its new 'percentage of income donated' metric. Africa is the world's most generous continent (1.54% of income), and the top five most generous countries by income share are Nigeria (2.83%), Egypt (2.45%), Ghana (2.19%), China (2.19%), and Kenya (2.13%). By contrast, high income countries donate just 0.70% of income on average – half the rate of low-income countries (1.45%). Religion was also a powerful driver of generosity across the dataset.

- 4) Australia's strength has historically lied in its donation rate, which has consistently ranked in the global top 10 (3rd in 2018, 6th in 2022). However, Australia now reveals a declining donation rate: from 71% (2018) to 59% (2024). This matched broader high-income economy trends and JBWere's finding that international aid's share of giving is "most at risk" of declining as donor behaviour shifts.

CAF Giving Reports: Top 10 Most Generous Countries by Year 2018-2025						
Rank	2018	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (% income)
1	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia	Nigeria (2.83%)
2	Australia	Kenya	Kenya	Ukraine	Kenya	Egypt (2.45%)
3	New Zealand	Nigeria	USA	Kenya	Singapore	Ghana (2.19%)
4	USA	Myanmar	Australia	Liberia	The Gambia	China (2.19%)
5	Ireland	Australia	New Zealand	USA	Nigeria	Kenya (2.13%)
6	UK	Ghana	Myanmar	Myanmar	USA	Uganda (2.04%)
7	Singapore	New Zealand	Sierra Leone	Kuwait	Ukraine	Qatar (1.92%)
8	Kenya	Uganda	Canada	Canada	Australia	India (1.92%)
9	Myanmar	Kosovo	Zambia	Nigeria	UAE	UAE (1.92%)
10	Bahrain	Thailand	Ukraine	New Zealand	Malta	Malawi (1.80%)

Table 4.6: Top 10 most generous countries by year 2018-2025.

Source: CAF World Giving Index 2018-2024 & World Giving Report 2025.

Note: the 2025 ranking uses a different metric (percentage of income donated) under the new World Giving Report methodology and is not comparable to the WGI index scores (2018–2024).

(4) (G) Additional Australian philanthropy reports

(i) World Vision x Noble Ambition Whitepaper 2023

AIDN analysed the “Making a World of Difference” report ([2023](#)). Commissioned in November 2023 by World Vision, and produced by Noble Ambition, this Whitepaper strives to answer the question: How can we grow Australian philanthropic investment in international development to achieve greater scale and impact?

The report’s four major findings and key takeaways for AIDN were:

1. **INGOs’ retail fundraising has hindered high net worth philanthropic investment.** There has been a historical reliance on retail giving in the international development sector. However, this is now in decline. INGOs have typically been better at mass fundraising, but with the shift of giving coming from Higher Net Worth Individuals, there needs to be improved partnerships with philanthropists. There is also a skepticism by wealth-holders around larger charities’ administration and overhead costs.
2. **International development is complex – leading to ineffective communications.** Development issues are not typically at the forefront of Australian minds. Often major international issues feel too large or complex for the donor to feel like they can make a difference, or the Australian tax and regulatory frameworks come across as too complex. These barriers should be broken down with more effective communications.
3. **There is significant opaqueness around major gifts which makes it more difficult to encourage others in the community to follow and increase involvement.** Many of the so-called ‘mega gifts’ that are highly publicised in the sector are those that go domestically towards universities, art and culture, and health/medical research. High profile gifts can contribute to donor confidence around the sector’s ambition and ability to make large scale change and impact.

4. **There is enough ambition and energy, particularly in Next-Gen Philanthropists, to be optimistic about philanthropic growth.** There is expected to be an unprecedented intergenerational wealth transfer over the next 20 years that underscores significant opportunities for the Australian international development sector.

(ii) The Australian Tech Giving Report 2025

AIDN reviewed the Australian Tech Giving Report ([2025](#)) published by UNSW Centre for Social Impact, University of WA and Start Giving, to understand the rising tech giving landscape.

The key takeaways for AIDN were:

- As new wealth from the tech sector increases year-by-year, so too does the proportion of 'tech givers'. According to the AFR Rich List, the net wealth of tech rich listers has increased steadily from \$34billion in 2019, to \$117billion in 2024, and almost 20% of new wealth on the list comes from the tech sector (up from 10% in 2019). By 2030, it is predicted that GDP contributions from the tech sector will be over \$250 billion annually.
- The AFR Philanthropy 50 list saw an increase from 1 to 5 givers from the tech sector from its 2018/19 to 2023/24 lists, accounting for 20.9% of the giving in 2024.
- Tech givers are typically self-made, community-oriented, and don't see wealth accumulation or legacy as a priority. There is a lot more willingness to embrace experimentation with a comfortability in 'failing and learning' through their philanthropic journey.
- The tech sector seems to have a higher interest in environmental, human rights, and reconciliation causes than the traditional philanthropic sector, and lower interest in religious causes.

(iii) Australians Investing In Women: State of Gender-wise Giving Surveys

The State of Gender-Wise Giving Survey is AIW's flagship annual research initiative, developed in partnership with Social Ventures Australia and The Evolved Group. It is the only survey of its kind in Australia, surveying organisations listed in the AFR's Top 50 Corporate and Top 50 Philanthropic Givers to assess how gender is considered in their giving.

AIDN analysed four editions of the State of Gender-wise Giving Survey: the [2022](#) pilot and the three formal annual editions in [2023](#), [2024](#) and [2025](#).

The key takeaways for AIDN were:

- There has been increased interest and understanding of the need for gender lens investing: AIW has evolved from a small donor network to a nationally recognised advocacy organisation with the Governor General as their Patron.
- The State of Gender-wise Giving Survey shows rapid sector uptake: from 55% considering gender (2023) to 94% (2025). The Champions of Change Coalition partnership has been impactful: 73% of members now apply a gender lens to corporate community investment.
- A consistent finding across all three survey years is the gap between corporate and philanthropic sectors in their engagement with gender-wise giving. While philanthropic organisations have been faster to adopt gender-lens approaches, corporate givers continue to lag behind in key areas.

(iv) She Gives Report 2026

AIDN analysed the She Gives Report ([2026](#)): the largest mixed methods study of women's giving in Australian history and the second largest Australian study into giving overall. More than 2,000 women participated across surveys and individual and collective 'Stories of Giving'. An estimated AUD \$5.4 trillion intergenerational wealth transfer is underway in Australia over the next 20 years.

The key takeaways for AIDN were:

- In 2023, Australians gave \$18.9 billion to charities through donations and bequests, a \$5 billion increase, due almost entirely to a \$4.9 billion donation from Andrew and Nicola Forrest to the [Minderoo Foundation](#). Aside from that single gift, donations rose by less than 0.4% (\$54 million) compared to the previous year.
- Australians donated 0.73% of their income on average, compared to 1.04% globally.
- Australia's giving as a proportion of GDP (0.81%) is less than half that of New Zealand (1.84%) and lower than the UK (0.96%), Canada (1.0%), and the US (2.1%).
- Only 53% of Australians with taxable income over \$1 million give to charity and claim a deduction, compared to 90% in the US.
- Only 1% of Australian inheritances are left as bequests, compared to 3.7% in the UK.
- Despite the barriers, the majority of women want to give more. In the She Gives Network Group, 83% want to give more and 58% say they will increase their giving in the next financial year.

Table 4.7 shows international aid sitting at the bottom of women's giving priorities – supported by just 16% of Network respondents and 12% of National respondents.

Top giving cause areas for Australian women as identified in She Gives Report 2026			
Top Cause Areas	Network (%)	National (%)	Giving Aust. 2016 (%)
Social or public welfare	65%	44%	65%
Health	52%	51%	61%
Education	45%	15%	21%
Arts, culture & humanities	31%	7%	–
Environmental protection	28%	8%	25%
Animal welfare	18%	34%	15%
International aid	16%	12%	–

Table 4.7: Top cause areas from State of Gender Wise Giving Surveys.

Source: She Gives Report [2026](#).

Note: Totals exceed 100% as survey respondents could select multiple cause areas.

Chapter 5: Conclusions, Recommendations and Moving Forward

Strengthening the glue through AIDN's activities.

Since our inception in 2018, AIDN has been increasingly strengthening the glue that binds the Australian international development sector together.

Chapter 2 revealed that growth and engagement in our core activities and outputs capture how AIDN is responding to a market gap in international development information and events. Moreover, AIDN is contributing to the building of a stronger and more inclusive Australian international development sector with increased visibility and opportunities for funders, doers and intermediaries alike.

Chapter 3 revealed that AIDN's core activities are playing a positive role in fostering both "more" and "better" giving to international causes from the Australian market. We estimated that AIDN can claim direct contribution to the catalysation of between AUD \$10-14.5 million from Australia to international causes since our inception. With this number made up of direct reports to AIDN, we are confident in this figure. With many cases currently not reported to us and network contribution being complex to measure, we also believe it is a conservative estimation. AIDN events and webinars, Insight Tours, newsletters, Philanthropod and the Better Giving Framework were identified as the most effective drivers of these measures. While we do not claim direct contribution, we also highlight our role in advocating for 2026's giving fund reforms, which are estimated to increase distribution to international causes by \$15–20 million annually in future years.

Surveying the wider Australian international philanthropy and development sector, and understanding AIDN's role within it.

Chapter 4 revealed that the percentage of international giving as a share of the wider sector has remained stable since 2016, and that the sector has grown since AIDN's inception in 2018. ACNC data revealed that international charitable giving increased from \$1.6 billion in 2016 to \$2.5 billion in 2023 and, in several years, outpaced overall sector growth. According to AFR Top 50 Philanthropy data, total giving by philanthropists with an international component grew from \$128.8 million (2017/18) to \$735.0 million (2024/25) or a 471% increase. This growth is being driven in part by new cohorts of funders, particularly tech founders, whose contributions have surged from 1% to 21% of philanthropic giving between 2017/18 and 2023/2024.

Both She Gives and Australians Investing in Women data sources further identified the rise of gender lens philanthropy and investing, and reinforced the \$5.4 trillion intergenerational wealth transfer in the near future. Diaspora and Majority World giving will also shape global philanthropy moving forward. While Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending, Australian Government ODA has remained largely steady, even when aid budgets have been slashed globally. While we do not claim direct contribution to macro trends, AIDN's role in connecting donors, intermediaries, and doers; our role in catalysing international funding; the increasing engagement and popularity of our core activities; and our ongoing policy advocacy, suggest that AIDN's activities are aligned with and complementary to this growth.

From challenges to opportunities: shaping AIDN's future strategy.

However, alongside this stability and growth sit structural challenges. JBWere data analysis revealed that international aid is the cause "most at risk" of having a declining share as donor behaviour shifts toward domestic universities, arts, and culture. The number of overall Australian donors is declining, even if those who are giving are giving more. The Noble Ambition report likewise demonstrated that mass market/retail fundraising for international development is increasingly less successful, and that approximately half of top income earners in Australia are reporting making no donations. The CAF World Giving data revealed a drop in Australia's overall generosity rate: from 71% (2018) to 59% (2024).

Australia's total impact investing market has also scaled over AIDN's lifetime but most of that capital does not leave the border. Only 4% of Australian impact capital is directed offshore compared to the global average of 46%. This gap persists even as 33% of Australian impact investors and 90% of advisers report rising client interest in emerging markets. Given the current political climate, levels of ODA are also likely to continue to be significantly challenged moving forward.

Nevertheless, these structural challenges should be understood as opportunities for AIDN and inform AIDN's strategic direction moving forward. There is a clear opportunity for AIDN to make a difference through working closely with philanthropists, High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs), diaspora and tech giving.

- Through AIDN events, webinars, and Insight Tours, we can help to connect High Net Worth Individuals and philanthropists to relevant areas of international interests and organisations of all sizes.
- Through The AIDN Beat, Philanthropod and LinkedIn, our communications can help to break down information to be digestible to wide audiences, and provide real stories and conversations with the people doing the work.
- Through our international funder publications and networking opportunities, we can provide resources to support Australian funders to understand and demystify philanthropic systems, structures and processes.
- Through investing in policy advocacy, we can respond to the growing appetite for international impact investing, the need for streamlined structured giving and current threats to Official Development Assistance.

Finally, through AIDN's unique activity offering and neutral position within the sector, AIDN can and should take a leadership role to steward the estimated increase in distributions from Australian giving funds of \$15–20 million annually to international causes in future years – following the Federal Government's 2026's giving fund reforms.

Image: Insight Tour to
Tanzania and Kenya,
site visit to WAEV in
Tanzania 2024



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Chapter 7: Appendices

APPENDIX 7 (A) Methodology:

7 (A) i: 5-Phase design

Between November 2025 and March 2026, AIDN worked to understand our impact by following a 5-phase process of design (Phase 1), data collection (Phase 2), analysis (Phase 3), publication (Phase 4) and future impact reporting (Phase 5). The 5-phase process can be found in Table 7.1 below.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 included the identification, collection and analysis of four different data types to help us understand our impact since 2018. These four data types included:

1. Data on the growth of AIDN's core activities and outputs as per AIDN's Theory of Change 2025;
2. Data on the effectiveness and engagement with AIDN's core activities collected via a network wide survey;
3. Anecdotal data on the impact of AIDN's core activities collected since inception via various communication channels;
4. A range of external and public data sources¹⁶ on Australian giving to international causes including ACNC Charities Reports 2016-2023, AFR Top 50 Philanthropy lists 2018-2025 and more (See Footnote 1).

¹⁶External data sources reviewed included: ACNC Australian Charities Reports 2016–2023 (eight editions, FY2015–16 through FY2022–23); JBWere publications 2018–2024 (The Support Report 2018; NAB Charitable Giving Index editions 2021, 2022 and 2023; The Bequest Report 2024); AFR Top 50 Philanthropy lists 2018–2025 (eight annual editions); AIW's State of Gender-wise Giving Survey 2023–2025 (plus the 2022 pilot); ACFID 2025-26 Federal Budget Analysis and DFAT ODA Development Budget Summaries 2016-27 to 2025-26; The She Gives Report 2025; CAF World Giving Indices 2018–2024 and the 2025 World Giving Report (Donor Insights and Charity Insights); the Australian Tech Giving Report 2025; World Vision x Noble Ambition's Whitepaper 2023; and on impact investing specifically — Impact Investing Australia's Benchmarking Impact Reports 2020 and 2025, GIIN's Sizing the Impact Investing Market 2024 and State of the Market 2025, RIAA's Responsible Investment Benchmark Reports 2016–2025, Koda Capital's Impact Investing Without Limits (March 2025) including the Rising Tide Survey 2024, UNSW Business School's Doing Good Is Paying Off (November 2025), and Social Ventures Australia's Impact Investing & Aspire SIB Report.

AIDN's 5-phase Impact Report process		
Phase	Time	Outcomes
PHASE 1:	October 2025	Following the publication of AIDN's 2018 Manifesto , create an AIDN Theory of Change to take stock of, track and summarise AIDN's activities and their outputs that have emerged since 2018.
PHASE 2:	November 2025 - end of March 2026	DATA COLLECTION METHOD #1: Gather data on AIDN's core activities and their outputs as per our Theory of Change.
		DATA COLLECTION METHOD #2: Send out a survey to our network to better understand the impact, effectiveness and engagement of AIDN's core activities as per our Theory of Change.
		DATA COLLECTION METHOD #3: Collate anecdotal data on the impact of AIDN's core activities since inception via various communication channels.
		DATA COLLECTION METHOD #4: Collect additional data from publicly available external sources to both understand the state of Australian giving and investing to international causes broadly, and AIDN's role within this. The full list of these external sources can be found on page 85 under footnote 16.
PHASE 3:	March - June 2026	Review, collate and summarise all data into "AIDN's first Impact Project and Survey on the State of Australian International Giving and Investing". Estimate a range of funding from Australia to international causes that AIDN has directly contributed to - based only on direct reports or data we have received - since inception.
PHASE 4:	July/August 2026	Publish "AIDN's first Impact Project and Survey on the State of Australian International Giving and Investing" and share with our network.
PHASE 5:	August 2026 onwards	With relevant forms of data identified and data collection processes formalised, AIDN produces an updated report every August with: • Updated AIDN core activities/outputs growth and anecdotal data. • New survey every two years on the impact and effectiveness of AIDN's core activities. • Updated external data - following the release of the relevant new publications including the latest AFR Top 50 Philanthropy Lists, relevant JBWere resources and CAF Giving Reports.

Table 7.1 AIDN's 5-phase Impact Report process.

7 (A) ii: Survey Limitations

Data Collection Method #2 involved a survey sent to the AIDN network to understand the impact, effectiveness, and engagement with key AIDN activities in relation to our Theory of Change. The data resulting from this survey, while providing valuable insight into how our network engages with activities, will inherently be a self-selecting sample. First, only those that already engage with AIDN and therefore may see AIDN favourably would have seen the invitation to engage with the survey. Second, those that accepted the invitation to engage with the survey, may also have been a self-selecting, more engaged group that could skew results.

Furthermore, the number of respondents (n=61) is a limited sample, and the sub-group identified as “funders” (n=29) even smaller, so results within these samples can only have limited statistical significance. This response rate was out of roughly 2,000 in our email database, and over 7,000 from our LinkedIn audience. However, as per Table 7.1, in this report we triangulate these survey responses alongside three other types of data to maximise the effectiveness of this information.

7 (A) iii: Important note on direct impact vs contribution

As is laid out in our [2018 Manifesto](#), understanding the role of AIDN in contributing to “more” or “better” Australian giving and investing to international causes is one of the biggest methodological challenges of our work and this project.

First, AIDN is not an island. Instead, we sit within a wide-ranging and diverse ecosystem: from funders and philanthropists, to INGOs, NGOs, think tanks, government, and membership organisations. Second, there are many other organisations that do similar network-based work to AIDN, including ACFID and Philanthropy Australia, that also contribute to an environment for enhanced philanthropy. Third, giving can be a highly personal and complex process. While AIDN may play an important or decisive role in fostering more giving to an international cause, such as by taking a funder on an Insight Tour, a funder's decision to give will always be multifaceted. Fourth, the international development sector itself is deeply impacted by global events, including complex political economy dynamics, climate change, war and conflict, and global pandemics. Together, these events all play a significant role in how much funding is moving from Australia to overseas causes.

Consequently, and following methodological precedence, rather than claim sole causation, in this report we use a contribution lens. Contribution lens approaches are well established in international development monitoring and evaluation. Mayne's (2008; 2012) contribution analysis framework argues that complex social change interventions, like network building or sector advocacy are best assessed by building a credible case that an intervention plausibly contributed to observed outcomes alongside other factors, rather than proving sole causation. It is also consistent with BetterEvaluation's and ODI's practical guidance for network and sector level organisations, which recognise that influence on giving and policy outcomes is not often directly attributable to a single actor and is therefore more reliably assessed through triangulated evidence such as self-reporting, named cases, and behavioural data over time (BetterEvaluation, [n.d.](#); Stern et al., 2012).

To implement this, we asked stakeholders directly whether AIDN played a role in their giving decisions (including "more" or "better" giving), pair this evidence with specific named examples and then triangulate across multiple activities and their outputs and stakeholder types to assess how these can provide early evidence of outcomes. We then track these behavioural shifts through repeat engagement and surveys conducted after key touchpoints, such as Insight Tours. Finally, we also analyse relevant external data sources to help build a more robust picture of Australian international giving and investing. Together, this approach means we can describe a pattern in AIDN's contribution to "more" and "better" giving, while not over-attributing outcomes that are the product of many actors, relationships and movements.

In this report, we are reasonably able to:

1. Assess AIDN activities and their outputs, with some early evidence of outcomes.
2. Provide an estimated range of the amount of funding from Australia to international causes that AIDN has directly contributed to - based on direct reports or data we have received - since inception.
3. Reflect more broadly on AIDN's alignment to Australia's overall giving and investing to international causes, in addition to sector strength, visibility and opportunity.

4.



Image: Open Ground at Women Deliver 2026



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