



GROWTH SPURT

Gifts from Australia's biggest private givers has jumped to a record \$1.25 billion.

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AUSTRALIA'S THREE BIGGEST PHILANTHROPIC foundations gave out \$585 million last year, making up almost half of total spending by the top 50 givers.

Andrew and Nicola Forrest's Minderoo Foundation placed at No. 1 on the Financial Review Philanthropy 50 list for the first time, spending \$225 million. Minderoo was followed by Yajilarra Trust, established by MYOB founder Craig Winkler and his wife, Di, and the Paul Ramsay Foundation, which was set up after the billionaire died in 2014.

Overall spending by the country's high-net-worth givers jumped 12 per cent to a record \$1.25 billion in the 12 months to June 30, outpacing spending by companies and the mass market. "The big end is really marching along very solidly," says John McLeod, senior research consultant at JBWere Philanthropic Services, who has been compiling the list for *The Australian Financial Review Magazine* since 2017.

The Forrests overhauled Minderoo last year, injecting \$5 billion worth of Fortescue shares. After acknowledging it had targeted too many causes, the foundation said it would put more emphasis on Australia and the Asia Pacific and focus on three key areas: helping vulnerable communities, promoting gender equality and protecting oceans.

In the lead-up to the Voice referendum, the Paul Ramsay Foundation was the biggest donor to Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition, giving just over \$7 million to the charity behind the Yes23 campaign. The Yajilarra Trust donated \$4.5 million to the University of NSW's philanthropic unit, which has had a long association with the Voice through its Indigenous Law Centre. "Donations to support the Yes campaign for the Voice referendum were generally made with a view to advancing the lives of Indigenous Australians and so are considered a social issue, fitting under charitable causes," says McLeod,

adding this was different to supporting a political party. "The main organisations receiving the funds were registered charities with tax-deductible status."

McLeod notes that for five of the past six years, the Philanthropy 50 list has grown at a faster rate than the Financial Review Rich List. "We can always argue at what level everyone should be giving out. But the Rich List keeps going up, and it's really nice that the giving list has gone up at a faster rate." Universities, arts and medical research are still the main beneficiaries of high-net-worth philanthropy. But as the younger generation moves up the ranks, including Canva co-founders Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins and Atlassian's Mike Cannon-Brookes, there has been more spending on the environment and international aid.

Four major bequests made the list this year. McLeod says such bequests, along with the 16 charitable trusts and foundations established by founders who are now deceased, highlight the importance of the looming intergenerational wealth transfer to further boost philanthropy in Australia.

The 12 new names on the list include billionaire retailer Naomi Milgrom and Sydney pub baron John Lewis, who donated \$15 million to LifeFlight. The three returnees include Greg Poche and Kay Van Norton Poche, who donated \$20 million to set up a cancer clinical trials research centre at Royal North Shore Hospital, and Frank Lowy and family, who set up the Lowy International School at Tel Aviv University. James Packer and the Packer Family Foundation lifted spending to \$14 million, which included setting up a new centre at the University of NSW for mental health research.

To make this year's list, givers had to spend \$5.2 million. The 12 per cent rise in overall spending is bigger than the 10 per cent increase in both the AFR Corporate Philanthropy 50 and mass-market donations, says McLeod. ●

RANK	NAME	CAUSE AREA	GRANTS (\$M)
1	Minderoo Foundation	Vulnerable communities and early years, gender equality, oceans, projects responding to urgent issues	\$224.9
2	Yajilarra Trust	Australia's First Nations people, climate change, disability, Christian faith	\$185.3
3	Paul Ramsay Foundation	Thriving children, barriers to employment, justice & safety, communities & place	\$174.4
4	Estate of Colin and Margaret Roderick	James Cook University for literature studies, medical training & mental health	\$34.0
5	Ian Potter Foundation @ Cultural Trust	Arts, community wellbeing, early childhood development, environment, medical & public health research	\$33.3
6	Pratt Philanthropies	Food security, mental and medical health, arts, education, cancer care, Jewish life, environment, community	\$31.4
7	Susan McKinnon Foundation	Effective government and elected representatives, robust state institutions and quality policy dialogue	\$31.0
8	Lowy Foundation and Family	Lowy International School at Tel Aviv University, Lowy Medical Research Institute and Lowy Institute for international policy	\$29.1
9	Kinghorn Foundation	Medical research, poverty and talented Australian youth	\$29.1
10	Stan Perron Charitable Foundation	Community and wellbeing, particularly for children in Western Australia	\$25.9
11	Judith Neilson Foundation @ charitable trusts	Disadvantaged communities in sub-Saharan Africa, women/girls in Australia, arts	\$25.1
12	Gandel Foundation	Arts, education (including Holocaust and antisemitism), medical research, youth, Jewish identity and leadership, Indigenous programs	\$20.0
13	Cliff Obrecht and Melanie Perkins	Canva Foundation for international aid and microfinance	\$20.0

PHILANTHROPY 50

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14	Kay Van Norton Poche and Greg Poche	North Foundation for cancer research and development centre	\$20.0	27	Medich Foundation	Health and medical research, arts, community organisations	\$11.9	40	Ernest Heine Family Foundation	Health and medical research and social services	\$6.9
15	Naomi Milgrom	Art, design and architecture to improve Australian lives	\$20.0	28	Planet Wheeler Foundation	International development, health, education and human rights, refugees and climate change	\$10.8	41	Blackmore Family Foundation	Griffith University for Blackmore Chair and Leadership Summits for innovative business leadership	\$6.5
16	Peter and Lyndy White Foundation	Homelessness and disadvantage, youth, family and aged care	\$19.4	29	Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation	Health and medical research	\$10.4	42	Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation	Medical research, public hospitals and universities	\$6.1
17	Terry Snow and Snow Foundations	Canberra community and grammar school, education and employment, economic justice, medical research	\$18.4	30	Lang Walker Family Foundation	Macarthur medical research centre and Powerhouse Parramatta with Western Sydney University	\$9.6	43	Michael Drapac	Damion Drapac Centre for Equity in Health Education at Deakin University	\$6.1
18	Estate of Edna De Bathe	Animal Welfare League and Cancer Council in South Australia	\$15.2	31	Bertalli Family Foundation	Education for financially disadvantaged youth, arts, medical research	\$9.6	44	Cannon-Brookes Foundation	Relief of poverty and disadvantage, environment	\$6.0
19	John Lewis	LifeFlight	\$15.0	32	Miller Foundation	Health and medical research, social services, environment	\$8.8	45	Pamela Wall	Ian and Pamela Wall Chair in Electrical Engineering at University of Adelaide, Adelaide Festival Centre	\$6.0
20	Brett Blundy	Donation to Xprize Healthspan, age-related decline	\$14.7	33	Fox Family Foundation	Part of \$100m to NGV, arts, health and medical research (including Melanoma & Cancer Centre at The Alfred), family services	\$8.5	46	William Buckland Foundation	Disadvantaged Victorians through housing, health, education and employment, resilience in rural and regional communities	\$6.0
21	Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund	Arts, sustainability and environment, inclusion and equity, mental health, human, civil and legal rights	\$14.3	34	Eldon & Anne Foote Trust & LMCF Subfund	Social causes, environment, health, education, arts	\$8.5	47	McCusker Charitable Foundation	Medical research and advancement of science, youth development, aged and infirm, arts	\$5.9
22	Marc Besen & Besen Family Foundation	Arts including Eva and Marc Besen Centre at TarraWarra, Jewish community, early childhood education, environment	\$14.3	35	Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation	Sydney Biomedical Accelerator with University of Sydney, Art Gallery of NSW	\$8.0	48	Shine On Foundation	Social services, economic, social and community development	\$5.8
23	James Packer & Packer Family Foundations	Arts, mental health including James Packer Centre at UNSW	\$14.0	36	Scanlon Foundation	Improving social cohesion particularly for the transition of migrants into Australian society	\$7.6	49	Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation	Lasting transformational change for disadvantaged children and young people	\$5.6
24	Estate of Joy Balkind	Jewish Communal Appeal	\$12.9	37	Estate of John Kennedy	Cancer Council NSW	\$7.4	50	Andrew Thyne Reid Charitable Trust	Arts, higher education, medical research, welfare	\$5.2
25	Neilson Foundation	Arts, cultural diversity, disadvantaged communities	\$12.5	38	Tim Fairfax Family Foundation	Arts, education, regional and remote communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory	\$7.3	<p>HOW THE LIST IS COMPILED</p> <p>The amounts are those given to end recipients, mainly charities, in the 2023 financial year, by Australian individuals, families and bequests, both directly and through foundations. It does not include donations to foundations, anonymous gifts or corporate giving. With pledges and multi-year gifts, only the actual amount given to end recipients in financial 2023 is included. Where the exact amount for that year is not known, an average per year over the term of the pledge is assumed. Where the term is not known, five years is assumed. Researched and compiled by John McLeod of JBWere Philanthropic Services. Sources include the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, Fundraising Research & Consulting, and Fundraising & Philanthropy Australasia.</p>			
26	Vincent Fairfax Family Foundations	Youth, environment, Christian faith and values	\$12.0	39	JW & M Cunningham Foundation	St Vincent's Hospitals NSW	\$7.0				