

mannifera

Membership Guide



**Supporting
a stronger
democracy
and a fairer
Australia**



mannifera

Mannifera acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Mannifera members acknowledge that a history of colonisation, dispossession and disempowerment of First Nations peoples is woven into the fabric of our political and economic systems. We recognise that Australia cannot achieve a complete democracy or a fair economy without addressing this history, instating the rights and respecting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Mannifera is committed to listening to and learning from First Nations perspectives on the state of our democracy and economy with these perspectives informing funding decisions. Our implementation of this commitment is outlined in Mannifera's First Nations Inclusion Framework.

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Who we are



Mannifera is a collective of Australian philanthropic funders supporting a fairer Australia.

Our mission is to invest in civil society partners advocating for the structural change we need to strengthen our democracy and build an economy that works for everyone.

Our vision is a more complete democracy and an economy with fairness at its heart, protected by a robust and vibrant civil society sector.

The name Mannifera derives from the Eucalyptus Mannifera, also known as the brittle gum.

It is native to the Kangaroo Valley region, where the idea for this initiative took root.

Mannifera are resilient, surviving in poor conditions, much like the democratic movements we support. The trunk turns beautiful colours after rain, thriving when given resources.

Our values



Committed to First Nations peoples

We are committed to listening to and learning from First Nations perspectives and allocating a minimum of 20% of funding to First Nations-led work in our focus areas.



Non-partisan

A commitment to equality and the core principles of our democracy are not party-political positions. We include and encourage a diversity of values-aligned funders and civil society organisations in our work.



A partner to civil society

We are committed to strong, long-lasting partnerships with civil society that leverage our collective capabilities and resources.



Collaborative

We collaborate with civil society organisations and each other to strengthen our networks and build advocacy coalitions.



Humble and self-aware

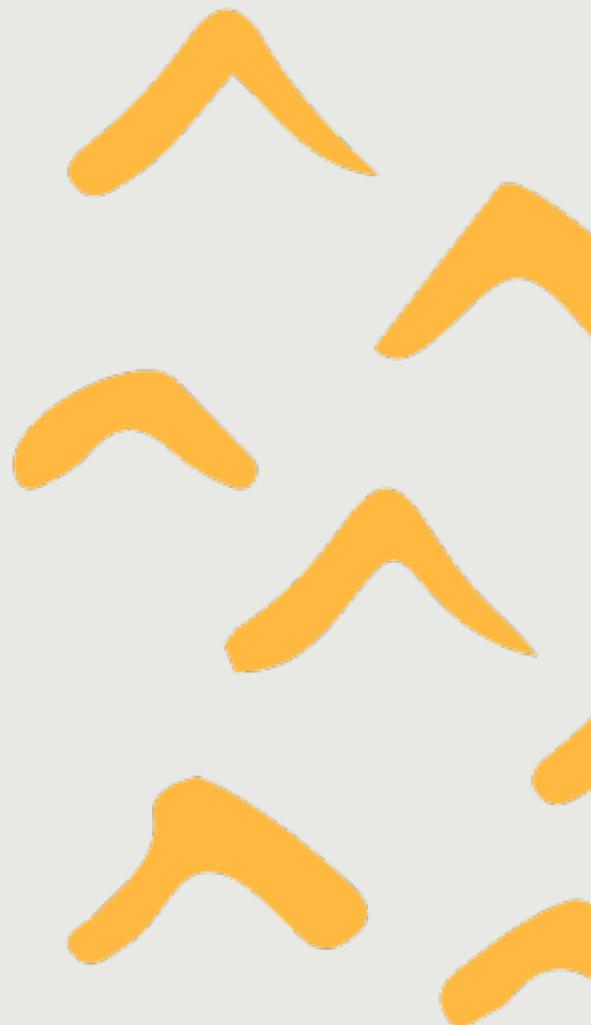
We prioritise our collective learning through practice and education opportunities, and focus on enhancing the impact of our civil society partners.

Our approach to philanthropy

Mannifera is committed to developing a different kind of philanthropy. In line with our values, we cultivate power-sharing partnerships with civil society organisations. We believe this approach enables us to most effectively contribute to the structural change we want to see.

Characteristics of our partnerships

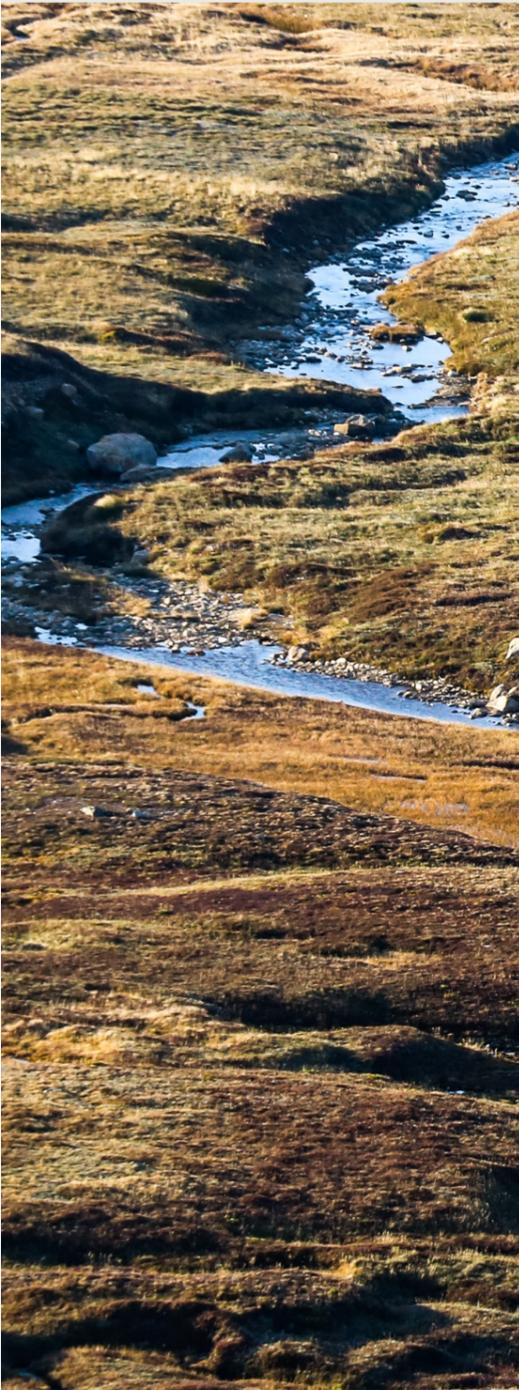
- **Civil society-led.** Mannifera members are informed by civil society leaders with intelligence and analysis of the political context and the most effective interventions to advance change.
- **Informed by people and communities.** Mannifera engages expertise that exists outside the mainstream, including the people and communities most impacted by the change we seek, to inform our learning, praxis and decision-making.
- **Responsive.** Mannifera considers the urgency of requests, especially when there is opportunity to take advantage of political and social moments.
- **Innovative and risk-tolerant.** Mannifera is willing to take calculated risks and support ideas and people with promising, new approaches and courageous, change-making campaigns. We acknowledge that not all efforts are successful and structural change takes time. We are prepared to respond in unusual, agile, untested and sometimes uncomfortable ways.



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Focus areas



Mannifera supports the advocacy work of civil society organisations, coalitions, campaigns and initiatives across four key focus areas.



Fairness in political participation

We support work that builds a strong civic culture of political participation, increasing fairness in political representation, greater transparency in political donations and setting campaign expenditure limits.



Fairness and quality in public debate

We support work that advances political education, exposes where vested interests capture public policy, supports the right of civil society to advocate, and increases the quality and diversity of media.



Civil society partner **First Australians Capital** is a national Indigenous-led organisation with a focus on early-stage and start-up Indigenous-run businesses.



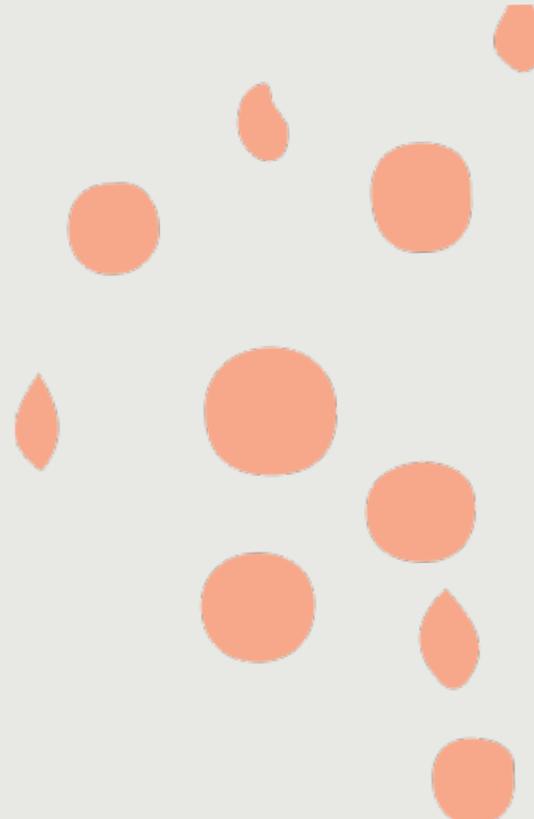
Fair, accountable and open government

We support work that advocates for strong integrity systems that protect whistleblowers and hold Ministers and public decision-makers to account and well-resourced accountability institutions.



A fair and equitable tax system and economic safety net

We support work that influences rational and reasoned policy debates and actions to achieve greater fairness in our tax system, equity in the public provision of services and an economic safety net.



Grant types

Mannifera's funding can support core operations or be project-specific, depending on the needs of our civil society partners. Most of Mannifera's collective grant decisions are made at annual strategic Musters held between March and April.

Signature Grants

Larger grants for core operations to advance significant advocacy and social change projects that align strongly with Mannifera's focus areas and priorities. These grants are awarded at the annual Mannifera Muster and can be recurrent.

Rapid Response Grants

Smaller grants awarded in pursuit of 'quick wins' or where there is a narrow window of opportunity for advocacy relevant to Mannifera's focus areas. These grants are usually one-off with strong possibility of unlocking other philanthropic support, and are decided by the collective outside the Muster process.

Capacity Building Grants

Smaller grants to develop stronger leadership, collaborations, convenings, strategic planning, or communications. These grants are usually once-off and can be awarded at the annual Mannifera Muster or as needed.



Civil society partner **Grata Fund** builds a fairer world by harnessing the power of high impact strategic litigation to create structural change. Taking a movement lawyering approach, Grata breaks down barriers to litigation in three key areas: climate justice, human rights, and democratic freedoms.



Civil society partner **The Centre for Public Integrity** is an independent think tank dedicated to preventing corruption, protecting the integrity of our accountability institutions, and eliminating undue influence of money in politics in Australia.



Civil society partner **The Rapid Advocacy Fund** supported organisations such as Tomorrow Movement to campaign against cuts to JobSeeker during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Governance and structure

Mannifera is led by a Taskforce of members and the Executive Officer. The Taskforce includes Chair and Deputy Chair roles which can be rotated, along with the broader Taskforce membership, at the annual Muster. The Taskforce meets up to nine times a year to plan and provide oversight of Mannifera’s activities.

The First Nations Inclusion Committee includes members working on the implementation of the First Nations Inclusion Framework.

Working groups are established to support the planning and implementation of processes, programming and the annual Musters.

Co-Chair

Niall Fay

Fay Fuller Foundation

Co-Chair

Dr Alice Hill

Executive Officer

Harriet McCallum



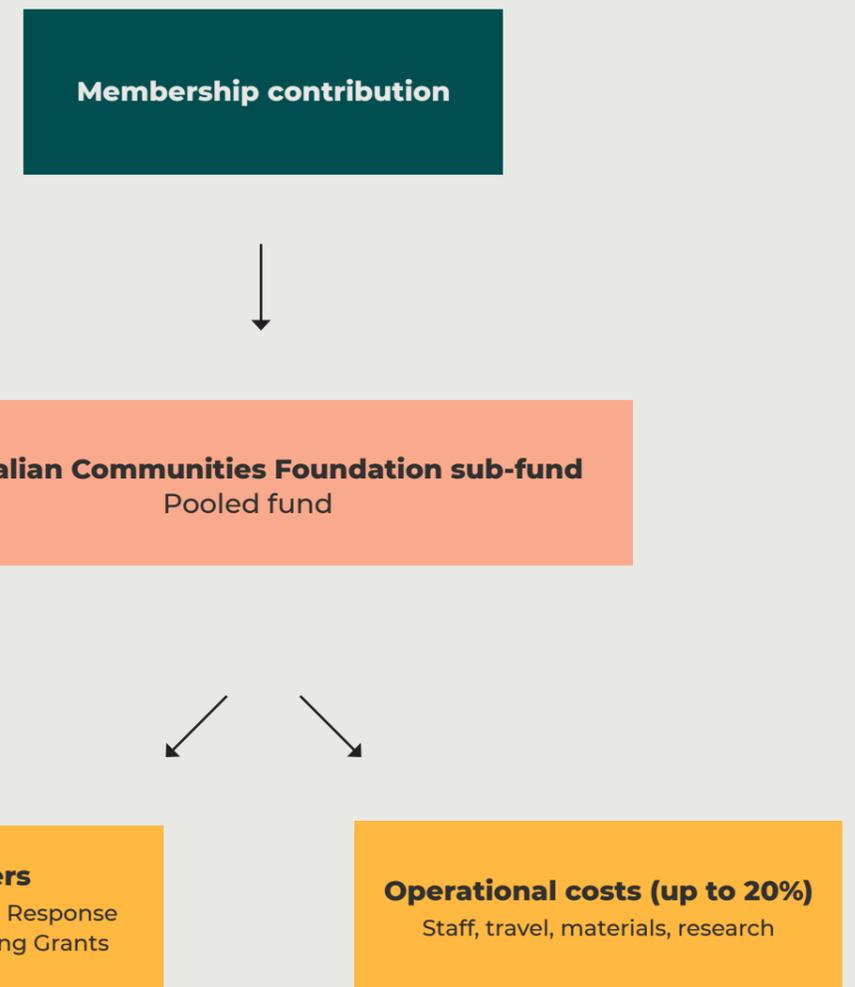
Civil society partner **Australian Associated Press** is Australia’s national news agency, delivering a continuous stream of breaking news, information and photographs direct to subscribers. Photo credit: AAP.



Legal structure

Mannifera is supported and enabled through a formal partnership between Philanthropy Australia (PA) and Mannifera founding members, Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) and Reichstein Foundation.

Process for funds



Joining Mannifera

Mannifera members contribute a minimum of \$65,000 per annum with a three year commitment.

Membership offerings

Through our collective giving and partnership approach, Mannifera increases the power and expands the potential of members' philanthropy by:

- Leveraging giving through pooled funding.
- Supporting a larger and more diverse range of organisations and projects with due diligence provided.
- Increasing and deepening civil society and philanthropic sector relationships.
- Advancing philanthropic practice through the collective model with a shared commitment to trialling new approaches.
- Engaging in an annual program of civil society and peer-led education and learning on the critical issues relevant to our democracy and economy.
- Participating in annual Musters that include collective funding decisions and strategic planning.

 Civil society partner **Australian Democracy Network** brings people and organisations together to campaign for the changes that make our democracy more fair, balanced, transparent, accountable, and participatory.



 Civil society partner **Women for Election Australia** is a non-partisan, not-for-profit that aims to strengthen our democracy by increasing the number, diversity and influence of women in Australian politics and engaging more women in the political process.

How does it work?

- Mannifera members include private ancillary funds (PAFs), fundholders within public ancillary funds (PuAFs), charitable trusts and individuals.
- Membership is formalised through the signing of an agreement that commits to at least the minimum contribution for three years.
- Between 10-15% of funding received is allocated to operational expenses which include staffing, administration, events and programming, with all remaining funding allocated to grants.
- Some organisational members choose to contribute 100% of their membership towards operations.
- Members are acknowledged on public documents unless they choose to remain anonymous.

Please contact Harriet McCallum, Executive Officer, on +61 432 754 728 or harriet@mannifera.org.au and visit mannifera.org.au for further information.



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