



CENTRE
for **SOCIAL**
IMPACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA



Celebrating 15 years of catalysing social change

Our Story

Our beginnings

In 2008, the Centre for Social Impact (CSI) was established under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Professor Peter Shergold. CSI was supported by the Commonwealth Government with matched cash and in-kind contributions from partners and supporters Macquarie Group Foundation, AMP, National Australia Bank, PwC, Robin Crawford, the Gonski Foundation, Warwick Negus and Daniel Petre.

In November 2008, Elena Douglas, in her role at UWA, sparked a discussion with Peter Shergold to explore the possibility of establishing a CSI node at UWA.

The UWA Business School was identified as the best partner for the organisation in WA and a meeting was set up with UWA Vice Chancellor Alan Robson, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Bill Loudon and the then Dean of the Business School Tracey Horton, who saw the gap in the profile of the Business School in terms of social enterprise, the community sector and corporate social responsibility.

The establishment of CSI in WA at the UWA Business School was formalised in mid-2009 with Chancellor Michael Chaney as Chair of CSI (WA) Advisory Council (pictured below). CSI UWA has continued to be strongly supported by successive Vice Chancellors Professor Paul Johnson, Professor Dawn Freshwater and Professor Amit Chakma.



Collaborating for positive social change

A collaboration of The University New South Wales, The University of Western Australia and Swinburne University of Technology, CSI was established to improve the delivery of beneficial social impact in Australia through research, teaching, community engagement and the promotion of public debate.

Professor Paul Flatau was appointed the first Director of CSI UWA in December 2010, just weeks before the first intake of students into the Graduate Certificate for Social Impact (pictured below), which has been the spine of the CSI UWA education-based community. Paul remains the current Director of CSI UWA. Jan Stewart took over the role of Chair of the CSI (UWA) Advisory Council from 2013 to 2021. The present CEO of CSI is Armine Nalbandian and Greg Hutchison is the Chair of CSI.



Today the CSI collaboration also includes Flinders University and together as a network, our purpose is to catalyse positive change, to help enable others to achieve social impact.

15 Years in Review

- Total research income: \$ 12,773,483
- Over 170 projects
- 193 completions of the Graduate Certificate in Social Impact and 1,270 unit enrolments
- 916 enrolments in our undergraduate unit Changing the World: Social Innovation, Finance and Enterprise
- Over 1,200 participants in our Outcomes Measurement Workshops that were delivered online and in Perth, Kalgoorlie, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Darwin, Broome, Hobart, Adelaide and in the Pilbara.



Centre for Social Impact UWA

Research, Educate, Engage, Ignite Change

The Centre for Social Impact takes a systems approach to developing innovative solutions to the biggest social challenges today, with a vision for a better Australia tomorrow.

Part of the UWA Business School, The Centre for Social Impact UWA (CSI UWA) is a catalyst for change in our world, creating and delivering education that transforms, research that informs best practice, and public engagement that inspires and supports positive social change.



We **educate**, empower, and inspire the social impact leaders of today and tomorrow.



We **research** to discover and generate evidence and knowledge that matters, and connect our knowledge to people who deliver change. We evaluate the impact of social programs and initiatives using robust quantitative and qualitative tools of analysis.



We **engage** with people and organisations across all sectors to build a community of social impact practice and connect change makers locally and globally. Our events, partnerships and collaborative initiatives facilitate dialogue, debate, and action around social impact.



"The Centre for Social Impact UWA has been a driving force for positive social change since 2009. Our vision is simple yet ambitious: to empower individuals and organisations to achieve meaningful social impact. We believe in collaboration and innovation's potential to tackle today's complex social challenges."

Our researchers, educators and practitioners work closely with stakeholders from not-for-profits, businesses and government agencies to develop and implement sustainable solutions. We dedicate ourselves to delivering high-quality research and education programs that drive real change.

As we move forward, we are acutely aware of the challenges ahead. With a commitment to adaptability and openness, we are embracing new ideas and technologies to enhance our impact across the social purpose ecosystem. We strive to build a just, inclusive, and sustainable world through collective effort."

PROFESSOR PAUL FLATAU
DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT UWA



A legacy in education



At CSI UWA, we educate, empower and inspire students: the social impact leaders of today and tomorrow.

Beyond new knowledge and skills, our students gain a unique mindset to tackle the complex, systemic issues facing our world. Our faculty features leading experts in social impact, social investment, social enterprise, corporate social responsibility, social leadership and social innovation.

Undergraduate Unit

BUSN2102 Changing the World: Social Innovation, Finance and Enterprise highlights how innovation and entrepreneurship are driving transformative solutions to urgent global issues on the social and economic landscape, such as hunger, poverty, homelessness and intergenerational disadvantage and unemployment.

Graduate Certificate in Social Impact

The Graduate Certificate in Social Impact (GCSI) aims to enhance the leadership capabilities of professionals spanning corporate, government, and for-purpose sectors. This program equips students with actionable insights and practical expertise to drive impactful organisations, businesses, and social initiatives. Since its inception, the Graduate Certificate in Social Impact has recorded 1,270 unit enrolments.

Through a comprehensive curriculum, students explore fundamental areas such as social impact measurement, assessment and evaluation; social innovation; social finance and impact investment; social business and social enterprise; philanthropy; social design and codesign; systems approach to social change; social investment programs; social procurement; social leadership; social partnerships, collaboration and collective impact.

The Graduate Certificate in Social Impact is also pathway to the MBA (Flexible). The course draws on the GCSI courses for the Social Impact specialisation.

Master of Business Administration (Social Impact)

As part of an MBA (Flexible) with a specialisation in Social Impact, students upskill to fuse business and social impact for the betterment of communities, organisations, and yourself.

To learn more about the course content and the scholarships available, go to: csi.edu.au/education



"Through doing the Graduate Certificate in Social Impact, I really fell in love with social impact and all the potential that it has for the future. I gained frameworks, skill sets, tools, confidence, networks to be able to step into a social impact role. In fact, when a role came up in social impact, I went for it and I got the job. It's made my career so much more exciting, so much broader. I was ready to step into the social impact world."

ROSALIE FOSS | GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL IMPACT
SOCIAL IMPACT SPECIALIST, TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK



A hub of engagement

Outcomes Measurement Workshops

Since 2018, this two-day interactive workshop has empowered participants with practical tools and insights that guide how to measure, assess, and communicate social impact, driving meaningful change and growth.

With over 1,200 participants in total across the country coming from not-for-profit organisations, government, corporate organisations, social enterprises, or consultancy firms, the Outcomes Measurement Workshop has provided an opportunity for attendees to take away an outcomes measurement actionable plan for their organisation.

Social Impact Masterclass series

From program logic and visualisation to survey design and analysis, we offer practical learning designed to help participants elevate their impact. The masterclass series introduces key frameworks, tools and real-world examples, empowering organisations and individuals to create positive change in communities.

At CSI UWA, we connect local, national, and global change-makers to spark conversations, drive innovation, and inspire collective action for social impact.

Hosting the WA Social Impact Community

We host regular events, including public lectures and workshops, to unite, inspire, and educate the social impact community in WA and beyond, sharing research insights and encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Whether through networking, partnerships, or sponsorships, we collaborate with various organisations, groups, enterprises, and individuals to drive positive social change in our community.

Research Webinar series

Our public webinars showcase the latest research and evaluation in social impact, featuring professionals and academics, and hybrid discussions on pressing social issues, from mental health and workplace safety to homelessness.

These sessions include interactive Q&A periods, fostering meaningful dialogue and exchange.

Alumni engagement

We partner with the Alumni for Social Impact (ASI), a network of UWA alumni and students committed to advancing social impact in Western Australia.

ASI deliver initiatives that foster a community of best practice, benefiting students, alumni, and the broader community. Throughout the year, the alumni committee hosts engaging events including hot topics breakfasts, book clubs and professional development gatherings.





The Indigenous Business, Enterprise and Corporations Conference

In partnership with the UWA Business School and the UWA School of Indigenous Studies, CSI UWA launched the Indigenous Business, Enterprise and Corporations Conference (IBECC) in 2011. Further IBECCs were held in 2013, 2014 and 2016.

The two-day national conference provided an insightful forum for dialogue and exchange on how to foster the growth of Indigenous businesses, enterprises and corporations.



IBECC conferences covered a broad range of areas including business, ideas, community, enterprise, innovation, health, corporations, native title, the arts, education, research and Indigenous knowledge.

This unique conference series shaped opinion and understanding, and shared best practice and research on the role of Indigenous business and Indigenous corporations in expanding economic opportunities for Indigenous people and creating positive social and economic impact for Indigenous communities.



With a full schedule of up to 40 sessions with 150 speakers, IBECC brought together Indigenous business owners and operators, Indigenous Corporations, community organisations, native title and peak body organisations, academics, not for profit enterprises as well as those from the creative and corporate sectors.





Bankwest Foundation Social Impact Research Series

In 2015, The Bankwest Foundation and CSI UWA partnered to produce a **long-term series of research projects that would transform the way that social impact is assessed in the WA community sector.**

With the aim of supporting the development and growth of the community sector in Western Australia, this research program was the first of its kind in Australia.

This research was warmly welcomed by the community sector in WA, who had been calling for the opportunity to measure the difference community organisations made to the lives of West Australians.

Outcomes of the research program were delivered through a series of report launch events, panel discussions, and community and policy workshops (10 reports in total over four years). The research program focused on the key themes of 'Measuring outcomes in the Community Sector' and 'Improving the financial resilience of Social Enterprises'.



Research program aims:

- Improve the evidence base on the measurement of outcomes and the financial sustainability of WA's community sector
- Increase the understanding of what difference social enterprises in WA make and what factors can enhance the resilience and long-term financial viability of the state's emerging social enterprise sector
- Improve the financial resilience of social enterprises in WA and beyond, by better understanding their needs and behaviours with regard to accessing financial and other resources



The Social Impact Festival

In 2015, CSI UWA started hosting The Social Impact Festival, a platform for cutting-edge knowledge and ideas.

As the primary public engagement event for CSI UWA, the Festival celebrated initiatives that created positive social change in Australia and abroad. Bringing together cutting-edge speakers, community leaders, artists and organisations, the Festival generated and shared ideas for addressing complex social problems.

The Festival incorporated The Social Impact Summit, Impact Sparker Events, Public Lectures, Capacity Building Programs and The Good Market.



The Impact Labs brought together diverse stakeholders to design, facilitate, support and showcase innovation, design facilitation and collaborations to develop ecosystems of solutions to social and environmental challenges. As part of the Alliance to End Homelessness, CSI UWA developed and launched a ten-year Strategy to End Homelessness in 2018.

The launch was marked by a poignant musical performance involving over 1,000 performers through the Perth CBD of Gavin Bryars's 'Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet'.



The Good Market

The Good Market was a prominent ethical marketplace initiative as part of the Social Impact Festival. It served as a hub connecting Perth's conscious consumers with local ethically-conscious, sustainable and fair-trade retailers, social enterprises and eco-friendly producers that cared about how their way of doing business.





Danjoo Koorliny Walking together

CSI UWA was proud to provide a hosting platform for Danjoo Koorliny Walking Together from 2019 to 2025.

Danjoo Koorliny ('dan-joo koorl-in') was a large-scale, long-term, systems-change movement designed and led by Aboriginal people to help us all walk together towards 2029 (200 years of colonisation in Perth) and beyond.

The movement focused on improving the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Western Australia and promoting understanding, reconciliation and respect between our communities.

Danjoo Koorliny engaged in community events, workshops, cultural exchanges, on-country experiences, and education programs, fostering a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture, heritage, and history. These initiatives created opportunities for dialogue, storytelling and sharing knowledge between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to build stronger relationships and promote reconciliation.

By elevating Aboriginal culture, Danjoo Koorliny aimed at creating a better future for everyone when fundamental change has been needed across its four recognised environmental, social, economic and cultural pillars.

The leaders of Danjoo Koorliny were Dr Noel Nannup OAM, Dr Richard Walley OAM, Emeritus Professor Colleen Hayward OAM and Carol Innes AM.

Danjoo Koorliny's Ambassadors were The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Janet Holmes à Court AC, Professor Fiona Stanley AC and Professor Stephen Hopper AC.



Danjoo Koorliny Social Impact Festival

The Festival was a unique and important platform to bring together diverse perspectives, voices and ideas that would shape the future of Western Australia.

Catalysing dialogue, collaboration, and innovation, fostering a sense of community and shared vision, the Festival encouraged participants to challenge the status quo, question existing systems, and find new ways to address social, economic, and environmental challenges, ultimately forging a path towards a more equitable and thriving West Australia in the year 2029 and beyond.

Research with impact

With our expertise in social impact measurement and evaluation, we specialise in innovative methods for collecting evidence and measuring outcomes, including co-designing measurement frameworks and participatory approaches. Our experience extends to evaluating a wide range of programs addressing social issues like entrenched disadvantage, family and domestic violence, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse, to name a few.

Our multidisciplinary team has a strong track record of producing robust, user-friendly deliverables that align with contemporary government practices. Our researchers focus on understanding long-term social impacts and value to stakeholders and are skilled in developing tools and insights to support ongoing efforts to improve individuals' lives.

The Social Impact of Community Pools in the Pilbara

Empowering remote WA communities through education and programs

Royal Life Saving Society Western Australia (RLSSWA) is the largest provider of water safety education in Western Australia, and they depend on community pools to deliver this education.

Since 2003, BHP has partnered with RLSSWA, providing \$5.2 million to deliver the Water Safe WA program in the Pilbara region.

CSI UWA evaluated the social impacts of community pools and associated programs and initiatives in Port Hedland, Newman, Yandeyarra, and Jigalong communities. Reports demonstrated that these programs generate real social impact across health and well-being, social connection, safety and education, social cohesion, and employment and present targeted recommendations for further investment and growth.



Young Carers Program

Providing targeted support to youths with caregiving responsibilities

Through the Young Carers (YC) Program, Carers WA delivers interventions to support young people who provide unpaid care to a family member or friend living with disability and/or serious illness.

This unique youth-centric service focuses on improving the social and emotional well-being of young people who support a family member living with disability, mental health challenges, chronic health conditions or terminal illness, substance dependency, or who is frail due to age. Program clients can access youth needs assessments, peer support, and Carer Gateway supports (usually available to adults only).

CSI UWA assessed the service, which proved effective for YC in increasing self-awareness, improving well-being and quality of life, increasing parents' awareness, improving family relationships, and increasing school engagement.

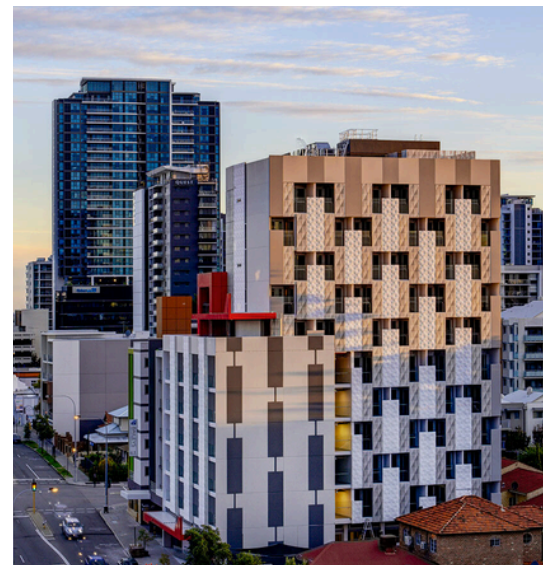
Foundation Housing's lodging and support services

Reimagining the role of lodging in ending homelessness

Traditional lodging is historically associated with insecure, unsafe, and marginalised living conditions, primarily providing shared facilities for men on low incomes.

However, Foundation Housing's Lodging (FHL) provides safe, secure, stable accommodation that empowers and engages residents.

CSI UWA evaluated FHL Accommodation and Support Service and asserted it provides a contemporary model of lodging houses and an effective long-term accommodation solution at low cost. It allows people to stabilise their lives and develop a long-term accommodation plan without the pressure of an imminent deadline while helping residents achieve stability and self-sufficiency by providing ongoing support and assistance.





Understanding the social impacts of drought

Building resilience in rural communities

The 'Understanding the Social Impact of Drought' report frames drought as a socio-economic phenomenon, comprehensively reviewing the evidence around its social impacts and factors that may mitigate the adverse effects.

Severe droughts have significant social and economic impacts on farming families and local communities, affecting various aspects of life, including employment, education, family relationships, and trust in government.

Therefore, building individual and community resilience is crucial for managing drought in rural areas, involving factors like personal attitude, community support, and adaptive capacity. Vulnerability assessments identify at-risk groups and inform drought management strategies by examining social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions.

CSI UWA's recommendations to mitigate the social impact of drought in rural communities include better availability and quality of infrastructures, better governance, population retention, an increase of local support service networks, stronger community social networks, and social capital, early recognition and effective response to poor mental health, and mapping government-funded program outcomes against resiliency and vulnerability frameworks.



Ngalang Moort Wangkiny Project (100 Families WA)

Looking Through an Aboriginal Lens

Extending from the 100 Families WA project, the Ngalang Moort Wangkiny (Noongar for "Our People Yarning") project reports on the experience of Aboriginal disadvantage in Perth and the significant lessons that the community sector should draw on ending entrenched disadvantage in Perth.

CSI UWA collaborated with 100 Families WA on a research project, partnering with leading Western Australian community services, health organisations, and universities.

Led by Aboriginal researchers Glenda Kickett and Tuguy Esgin, the Ngalang Moort Wangkiny project aimed to delve into the day-to-day challenges faced by Aboriginal families while also highlighting their strengths and resilience. The focus was not solely on the hardships but also on the positive aspects, recognising robust family, cultural, and community ties.

Voices within the project advocated for an increase in Aboriginal-led organisations, a positive trend supported by the government. While government policies target various areas for change, it is necessary for organisations and programs to engage with Aboriginal strengths and to promote Aboriginal culture. This transformative process would require new approaches to collaboration and relationship building.

She Gives: Women Shaping the Future of Philanthropy in Australia

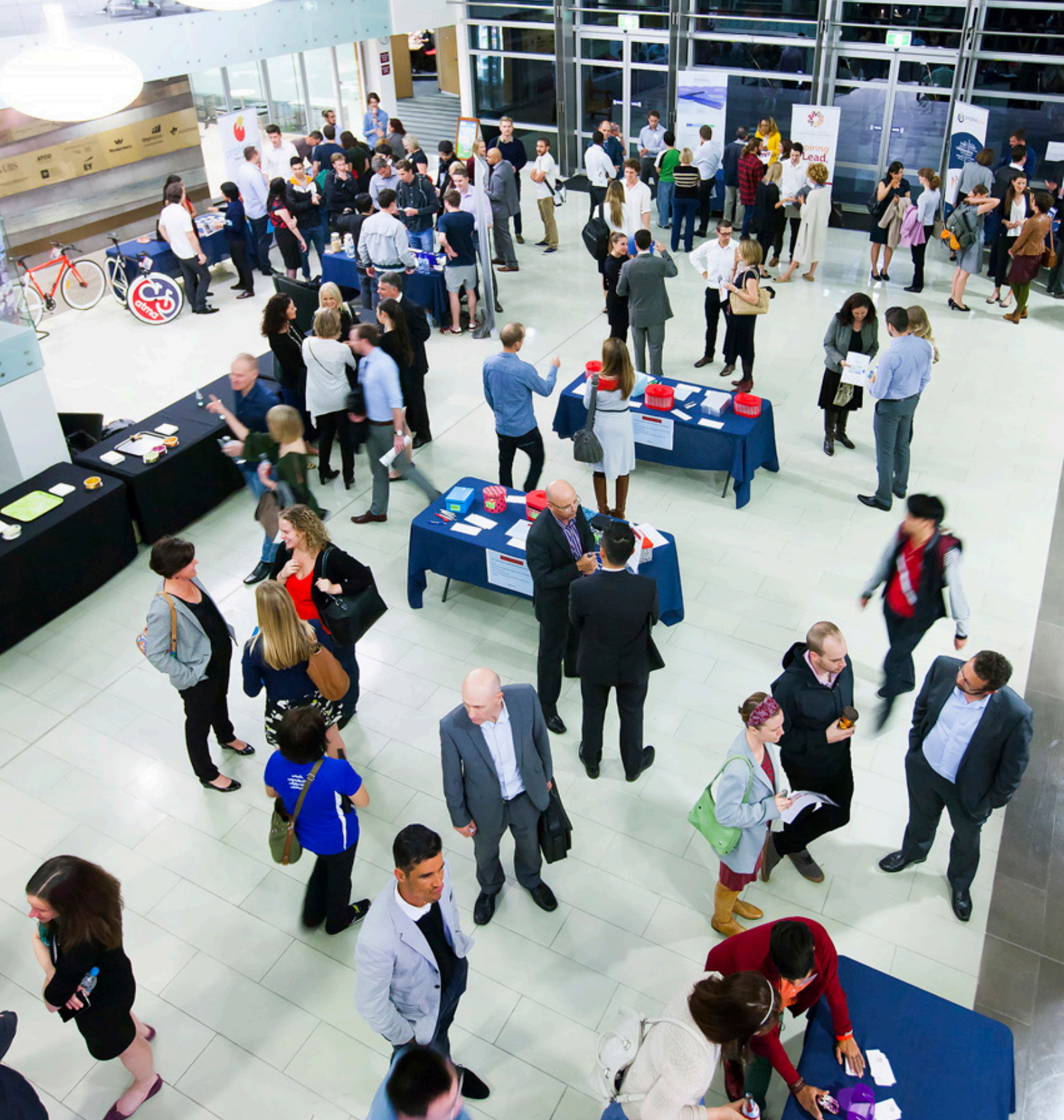
Empowering women to make a lasting difference

She Gives, a national campaign led by Melissa Smith and Paula McLean, celebrates and amplifies women's contributions to philanthropy across Australia, from volunteering locally to directing multimillion-dollar grants.

Drawing on insights from more than 2,000 women across the country, the report is the largest mixed-methods study of women's giving ever conducted nationally and the second-largest Australian study of giving overall. The CSI UWA team gathered insights via surveys, interviews, and roundtable discussions, capturing how women give, what motivates them, and the barriers or enablers influencing their philanthropy.

According to the report, the combination of existing decision-making power and rapidly growing economic influence represents one of the most significant — and underutilised — levers to strengthen Australia's culture of giving at a time of rising community need and increasing pressure on government spending.





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