

Our Granting Strategy

FY27–29

Our story

Founded in 1962 by Sir Vincent and Lady Nancy Fairfax, we are a thriving family foundation with family members spanning three generations active in our work. Over six decades, we have distributed more than \$230 million to Australian communities.

Our vision

In honouring our Founders' beliefs and intentions, VFFF seeks opportunities to benefit and care for Australians and our country.

Our geographic focus

Family members have strong connections to NSW and QLD. We support these parts of Australia, occasionally also targeting nationally focused work. We are committed to directing 60% of grants to rural and regional communities, driven by our Founders' love of the bush.



Strategic lenses

As a multi-generational family foundation, our goal is to balance our vision and retain relevance to future generations. Our grantmaking is guided by these lenses:



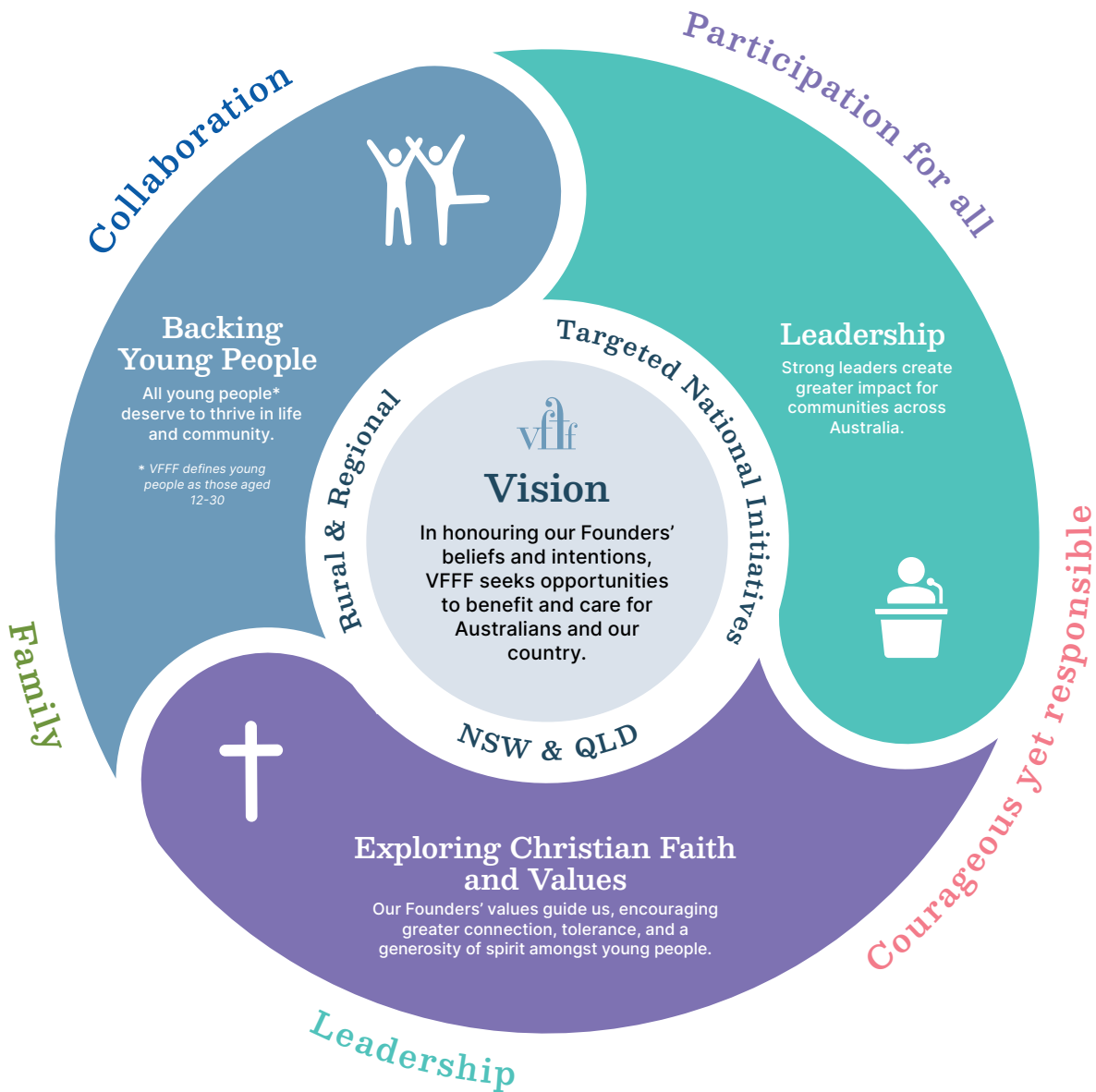
The way we approach our grantmaking

We proactively seek granting opportunities and initiate discussions with aligned organisations. We do not accept unsolicited applications from organisations.

Grant size and duration is assessed on a case by case basis, ranging from one-off grants to explore a discrete piece of work, to multi-year grants that support organisations to deepen their impact.

As a charitable trust, we have the flexibility to support individuals undertaking work with a charitable purpose and do so through the Backing the Future grant initiative. Backing the Future applications are assessed via an open grant round process.

Our granting strategy



Our priorities

AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO PRIORITISING LEADERSHIP AND CHRISTIANITY IN OUR GRANTMAKING, HONOURS OUR FOUNDERS' LEGACY. BETWEEN FY27-29 THE THIRD PRIORITY IN OUR GRANTMAKING IS BACKING YOUNG PEOPLE, IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ONGOING BELIEF IN THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH.



Priority One | Leadership

Strong leaders create greater impact for communities across Australia.

We partner with organisations developing effective and ethical leaders across all sectors, including the for-purpose sector.

We also seek to model leadership through our giving, whether that be by investing in strategic partnerships, joining collaborative initiatives that encourage giving, or supporting the development of the philanthropic sector in Australia.



Priority Two | Exploring Christian Faith and Values

Our Founders' values guide us, encouraging greater connection, tolerance, and a generosity of spirit amongst young people.

We support organisations that enable young people to gently explore Christian faith, make life choices informed by an understanding of Christian faith and values, and engage in interfaith activities.



Priority Three | Backing Young People

All young people* deserve to thrive in life and community.

We support organisations that are genuinely committed to providing opportunities for young people to inform their work, consulting them on the issues that affect them, and growing them as leaders.

We also back individual leaders creating change for young people in rural and regional communities.

*VFFF defines young people as those aged 12-30



Priority One | Leadership



“Let us remember that the power and wealth of a democracy is measured not only by the number and quality of its eminent leaders but by thousands of ‘little’ leaders who provide its real strength.”

SIR VINCENT FAIRFAX, 1983



We have a long history of giving, and model leadership in the philanthropic sector in multiple ways - investing in strategic partnerships, joining collaborative initiatives that encourage giving, and supporting the development of the sector.

For decades, we have partnered with organisations developing effective and ethical leaders across all sectors, including the for-purpose sector. We know that strong leaders create greater impact for communities across Australia.

Funding goal

VFFF is seen as a leader in the philanthropic sector through our effective giving practices and investment in leadership development.

We support Philanthropy Australia and sector-wide development initiatives to grow and develop a culture of giving.

We support organisations developing effective and ethical leaders across all sectors through two flagship leadership programs:

- **The Vincent Fairfax Fellowship**, delivered in partnership with the Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership and Monash University, and
- **Social Impact Leadership Australia (SILA)**, delivered by the Centre for Social Impact and supported in collaboration with The Myer Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund, the Paul Ramsay Foundation and Snow Foundation.

† Priority Two | Exploring Christian Faith and Values



“The Spiritual part of our being is exactly like a battery. If we don’t sit down quietly and recharge it there will be no light either inside for our heart, or outside for our personality.”

SIR VINCENT FAIRFAX, 1954

Christian faith was a central pillar in the lives and characters of our Founders, providing purpose, a robust ethical framework, and the basis of care for others.

Today, we continue to be guided by our Founders’ values, encouraging greater connection, tolerance, and a generosity of spirit to support young people.

Funding goal

Young people are able to make life choices informed by an understanding of Christian faith and values.

We’re looking for organisations that give young people the opportunity to gently explore and build their understanding of Christian faith and engage in interfaith activities.



Priority Three | Backing Young People

Backing Young People to connect and thrive by providing core funding to organisations with young people at their heart.

Our grantmaking has focused on Backing Young People since July 2021 – a focus that is well-aligned with the Foundation’s history, values and desire to remain relevant to the emerging interests of the youngest generation of the family.

We believe all young people deserve to thrive in life and have the agency to drive change on the issues that matter to them most. We therefore prioritise organisations that support young people facing social and economic barriers and that are genuinely committed to elevating the voices of young people in their work.

Grants we gift to organisations Backing Young People are directed towards supporting organisations to cover essential ongoing operating costs and build their capacity to strengthen their long-term effectiveness.

“In strengthening a spirit of unity young people have an essential part to play, and their enthusiasm needs to be used to the full.”

SIR VINCENT FAIRFAX, 1976



Our grant initiatives



For youth-led organisations

Funding goal – Support a generation of young changemakers by strengthening youth-led organisations.

We're looking for organisations working on issues that matter to young people and that are founded, governed, or run by young people, with youth voice, agency, and collective action embedded in everyday operations.



For grassroots rural and regional youth-focused organisations

Funding goal – Strengthen youth focused, grassroots rural and regional organisations through core funding to enable greater impact for young people in the community.

We're looking for small, community-led organisations working to address challenges impacting young people in their rural or regional community.



For youth-focused organisations

Funding goal – Strengthen youth focused organisations that influence and drive change alongside young people.

We're looking for organisations with a mission solely focused on young people, most likely working across multiple communities, that give voices to young people to shape decisions and drive change on issues that matter to them.



Backing the Future

Funding goal – Support emerging leaders with a big idea to create a better future for young people in rural or regional communities.

Through an open grant round process, we're looking for 20 individuals each year to provide them with \$50,000 to move their early-stage initiative forward.



VFFF acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and pays respect to Elders past and present.

in Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

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on VFFF's activities

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