

PHILANTHROPY CHECKLIST

Living your philanthropy throughout the year

Philanthropy is a life-long pursuit, a learned skill that evolves over time.

The busyness of daily life can sometimes limit the amount of time that can be invested in the family's philanthropy.

We have collated some ideas around how to "lightly" engage in your philanthropy, as well as deep-dive, if you have the capacity to.

If you would like more support to deepen your philanthropy, reach out to the team via activephilanthropy@eqt.com.au

ANNUAL MUST DO'S

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Update key information about you and your family	<p>Login to your Account and ensure that the below sections are current for you and your family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Profile • Account Stakeholders
Review successor information	<p>It is important to confirm to Equity Trustees who you would like to appoint or confirm as successor/s to your legacy. If you have no successors, Equity Trustees can carry out your giving wishes by following your Letter of Wishes and/or Giving Strategy.</p> <p>If you need to add a new successor to your Account, please email activephilanthropy@eqt.com.au</p>
Consider making a contribution to your Account	<p>Have you been considering building your Account further in order to increase your support in the community? All contributions into your Account are tax deductible. You can make a contribution to your account by clicking on 'contribute to my account' on the portal.</p>
Developing your Giving Strategy	<p>If you are just starting out on the structured giving journey, your spendable balance may still be modest and it may be a relatively easy decision to confirm where you give each year. But as your spendable</p>



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	<p>balance increases and you have more to distribute to the for-purpose sector, it may be the right time to draft your Giving Strategy.</p> <p>The Equity Trustees Giving Consultancy is a framework that helps families to develop a personalised strategy. The template can be accessed via the portal.</p>
Letter of Wishes	<p>Passing your wishes to the next generation (or to Equity Trustees, if you have nominated us to continue your legacy on your behalf) is important.</p> <p>You may have a Giving Strategy in place, but we also recommend that a Letter of Wishes is also prepared to provide additional context to your giving. This document outlines the “why” behind the establishment of your Account as well as your ongoing wishes. You may wish for your family to mirror your current giving, you may specific certain cause areas to be supported or completely hand over responsibility to the next generation.</p> <p>By recording the story of your philanthropy, it can be shared with your successors, the guardians of your legacy.</p>
Estate planning	<p>The giving that you’ve been doing throughout your life can be expanded after your death, should you wish to leave a portion of your estate to your Account within your will. If you are working with your solicitor to update your estate plan, we can provide appropriate wording relating to your sub-fund for inclusion in your will.</p>



ENGAGE

One of the joys of philanthropy is in learning more about your favourite causes and beneficiaries and understanding the impact that your contribution is creating.

WAYS TO ENGAGE	ACTIONS
Connect with your chosen beneficiary/s	<p>When Equity Trustees processes a donation on your behalf, for privacy reasons, your contact details won't be shared with the beneficiary.</p> <p>We would encourage you to reach out to the beneficiary – sign up to their newsletter or contact their fundraising team.</p> <p>Most organisations run regular events to update the community about their activities and share impact stories.</p>
Research	<p>Horizon: Stories from the Frontline is an Equity Trustees publication which shares inspiring stories from the for-purpose sector. You will find a link to these stories on the portal home page.</p> <p>Equity Trustees also produces an Annual Giving Review which captures grants and projects supported by Trusts managed by Equity Trustees. We facilitate over \$100m in grants to the for-purpose sector annually.</p>
Industry / Peak bodies Research Hubs	<p>If you are interested in a cause area and wish to learn more about the “eco-system” and the players creating impact in a particular area, then desktop research around industry / peak bodies might be useful. These bodies along with research hubs often produce reports that capture trends, highlight key issues and ideas around solutions.</p> <p>Social Ventures Australia and Centre for Social Impact are two examples of bodies we turn to for research.</p>



DEEP DIVE

If you have developed a Giving Strategy, this guide [implementing a giving strategy](#) will be useful to bring your strategy to life.

As the size of your annual granting increases, you may reach a point where you ask: is this the right organisation to partner with?

BENEFICIARY HEALTH CHECK

Your Account can only distribute to and support organisations that have *DGR1 endorsement*, which is provided by the ATO.

In Australia, we have over 25,000 for purpose organisations that have the appropriate DGR1 endorsement.

It's not realistic to undertake a beneficiary health check on every eligible charity, but once you have created your Giving Strategy, and have created a short list of suitable beneficiaries, then you may wish to consider the below when making a beneficiary decision.

We feel that the below are important considerations when looking at the health of a charity:



ELIGIBILITY

Your account can only support organisations with DGR1 endorsement. Within the portal, you can only choose charities with this status.

A search on [ABN Lookup](#) can also confirm an organisation's status. It is also recommended that you review the organisation's [ACNC](#) registration page to check whether reporting is up to date.

SUSTAINABILITY

A review of the organisation's Annual Report and financial statements (via their website or the [ACNC](#) register) is important. Is the organisation financially stable In the short, medium, long term?

If you are considering a significant gift to this organisation – will they have the financial and / or leadership capacity to manage and acquit the gift. And once your gift is expended, will that have a detrimental impact on the ongoing viability of the organisation? Does the organisation need your gift? Could your gift have greater impact with someone else?

Does the leadership have a plan around service and financial sustainability? An organisation that has an over-reliance on one revenue stream could be at risk in the event of unexpected macro environment changes.



GOVERNANCE

In Australia, all registered charities appear on the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC) [register](#). Via the search function, you can easily check whether an organisation is registered and whether their reporting is up-to-date. Board members are also noted on the register.

Are there any legal issues or reputational risks pending?

It is important to ensure that the organisation has the appropriate policies and procedures in place, especially if they include vulnerable cohorts among their beneficiary group. Who are their beneficiaries? Do the beneficiaries have a voice within the organisation – is service delivery reflective of “lived experience”?

THE ISSUE AND THE SOLUTION

Does the charity have a good understanding of the societal issue they are seeking to solve? Is their solution making a difference Is there evidence that backs their solution?

TRACK RECORD

Is there evidence that the charity has had success in executing the program and delivering the solution?

Will the work be measured and evaluated? What are the proposed outcomes (versus outputs) of the organisation’s activities?

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF CAPABILITY

Are the right people leading the organisation and working with beneficiaries?

While some of the above elements are compliance focused, others will require more subjective review, all are interconnected. The importance of each will be subject to personal preference.