

Foundation SA Strategy 2026 - 2031





Acknowledgement of Country

Foundation SA recognises and respects that we are working on unceded Kurna land.

We acknowledge the deep connection that First Nations peoples have to Country, culture and kin and their ongoing role as custodians of this land.

As an organisation, we are still young and strive to continually learn. We are committed to walking alongside Aboriginal communities in our work, listening, learning, and supporting self-determination as we strive together to build a connected, resilient, and sustainable South Australia for all.





Defining our community

Every community is unique, shaped by its members, with its own strengths and challenges. Our role at Foundation SA is to walk alongside the many and diverse communities that span our state.

Many of these are place-based communities and neighbourhoods in urban, regional and rural settings, while others are communities of interest with people coming together in person or online to tackle a specific issue. The strength of our communities is often most visible in times of crisis and in the aftermath of natural disasters. But that inherent strength and knowledge exists in every community, every day.

As a community foundation, we believe that our communities are best placed to determine the solutions to the challenges they face. We value and listen to community voices, perspectives and lived experience because no one knows a community better than the people who are part of it.





Introduction



Since our establishment in 2021, Foundation SA has experienced phenomenal growth. As awareness of our ambition and reputation for professional philanthropic services grew, so too did our community of donors and our impact. Our 2026-2031 strategy reflects the refinement and evolution of our role in growing community-led philanthropy in South Australia, and captures our ambitions to deepen our impact.

As a young community foundation, backed by generous support from The Wyatt Trust, Foundation SA will continue to explore, learn, adapt and iterate. We will continue to build new relationships and strong partnerships with values-aligned organisations to create positive outcomes for South Australian communities. Community is at the heart of all that we do. By activating statewide generosity, our goal is to see communities across South Australia thriving.



Guiding principles

Our principles guide how we work with communities, donors and partners to build a stronger ecosystem for community-led philanthropy.

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

We work collaboratively to connect resources with communities

- We value the strengths and expertise that exist within our communities, and we work collaboratively towards more resilient and sustainable futures.
- We are a bridge that connects communities and different causes with those that have resources to give.
- We embrace the hopes and dreams of our communities and support them to bring those dreams to life.

EMPOWERING OTHERS

We create relationships that empower communities to define and act on their own priorities

- We approach all our relationships with respect and honesty, meeting everyone at eye level.
- We listen to and uplift the voices of lived experience, particularly those from communities that are under-resourced.
- We think outside the box, bringing new connections and collaborators together in service of our communities.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

We grow through shared learning

- We act with humility and curiosity - listening, asking, reflecting and adapting as we go.
- We share knowledge, tools, and resources openly, knowing that everyone has something to give.
- We are transparent about what we know, what we can do and what our limitations are.
- We amplify community wisdom and leadership

Purpose Statement

*Unlocking and amplifying local generosity
to support **community-led change.***





Foundation SA Strategy

COMMUNITIES LEADING

RESOURCES FLOWING

IMPACTFUL AND
SUSTAINABLE FOUNDATION



Communities are powerful leaders of their own change.

- Build connections and create opportunities that engage a diverse mix of communities across different interest areas and locations.
- Embed clear ways to listen to communities in our work and adapt based on what is needed.
- Build strong relationships so communities feel confident sharing their hopes, ideas and dreams with us.



Resources (connections, knowledge and funds) flow at the right time and right place to support community-led change.

- Explore a mix of fund development, including Donor Advised Funds, Community Themed Funds, and Regional Community Funds.
- Consciously steward and grow Foundation SA's themed funds to ensure our communities and their changing needs are supported for generations to come.
- Develop strategies that support donors to explore new perspectives and approaches, including peer learning, community visits, sharing stories and personal introductions.
- Create opportunities that inspire the next generation of donors to get involved.



Sound governance, an engaged team and effective systems strengthen our capacity as a leader in community philanthropy.

- Create a sustainable organisational model that has good governance and financial independence.
- Resource and skill directors and staff to be fully equipped ambassadors for Foundation SA.
- Develop partnerships that increase community impact, attract new donors, and provide diverse expertise.



Foundation SA

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