

SVA Indigenous Investor Circle

information brochure

Photo by: Raphaella Rosella, an emerging young artist and peer mentor in Beyond Empathy's BELeaders program

Pictured: Clint Lamb performing at Tennant Creek



'Supporting Australian Indigenous communities is critical to building our national pride, and business and philanthropy can play a key role. By supporting the work of SVA, I have seen the impact my funding has had on helping to realise the potential of young Indigenous leaders.'

Tony Berg AM, Gresham Partners

SVA Indigenous Investor Circle

contributing to sustainable change in Indigenous communities

SVA's Approach to Sustainable Change

Social Ventures Australia (SVA) was established in 2002 to identify visionary social entrepreneurs and support them to achieve sustainable social change.

We focus on five social areas: Young People, Indigenous Community Building, Ageing, Employment and the Environment.

SVA currently supports a number of Indigenous community building initiatives in our portfolio, as well as other projects where SVA is helping to build collaboration and knowledge sharing in the sector. We always take a long term approach towards supporting and funding such initiatives.

SVA is uniquely placed to leverage our experience in funding regional and remote community based education, transitions to employment programs and governance projects critical to sustained improvements in the quality of life and, ultimately, the life expectancy of Indigenous people.

SVA has established the Indigenous Investor Circle to unite our social investors and pool financial and strategic resources to benefit a range of ventures and projects to advance social change in this particular area of great need.

The Need

Australia's Indigenous people comprise 2.4 per cent of our population, and is growing rapidly with a birth rate (2.3 per cent) double that of non-Indigenous Australians (1.2 per cent).

They are significantly disadvantaged when compared to the non-Indigenous population:

- There is a 17 year gap in life expectancy to non-Indigenous people.

- Children are often three to five years behind non-Indigenous children by Year 7.
- 13 per cent of Indigenous people are unemployed.

Five of the 10 World Health Organization determinants of poor health are related to access to economic opportunities and employment.

Compelling evidence from around the world also reveals that sustained and measurable improvements in social and economic well-being only occurs when real decision-making power is vested in communities that build effective governing institutions reflecting the cultural values and beliefs of the people.

SVA's Investment Strategy

The causes and effects of disadvantage are complex and interrelated. Positive effects in one area will enhance improvements in others. But without sustained improvements in a number of areas the situation for Indigenous people in Australia will not improve.

SVA conducted a comprehensive analysis of this focus. It highlighted that economic development, education and governance are critical to sustained improvements in the quality of life and ultimately life expectancy of Indigenous people. These are our Indigenous community building priorities. We aim to leverage our education and economic development knowledge base, scale effective programs, build collaborative projects across Indigenous communities nationally and continue to identify innovative new ventures and projects to fund.

Upon joining the Indigenous Investor Circle, SVA will provide investors with a copy of our Investment Strategy for this focus area.

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Broadly, our strategic priorities for investment over the next five years are:

- **Economic Development:** Support economic independence for Indigenous communities and the creation of jobs in the private and social sectors.
- **Education:** Increase learning opportunities and career pathways for Indigenous young people.
- **Governance:** Support building sustainable management practices among Indigenous communities and enterprises.

Building awareness and respect for Indigenous people and culture is also integrated across these core areas.

How an Investor Circle Works

The SVA Indigenous Investor Circle is a powerful and effective approach to philanthropy providing:

- a vehicle to leverage your investment in social innovation and solutions.
- insight on current social issues.
- an opportunity to collaborate with others to facilitate change.

Now more than ever, economic growth and vitality in Australia is dependent on new innovations, not just in the for-profit sector, but also in the growing non-profit arena.

High-impact ventures whose social entrepreneurs bring innovative solutions to complex social problems are vital to this growth but they need support from visionary investors.

Today's social investor has an increasing interest in understanding the root causes of issues and a willingness to share expertise and resources to support social entrepreneurs in their efforts to accelerate social change.

Power of Pooled Investments

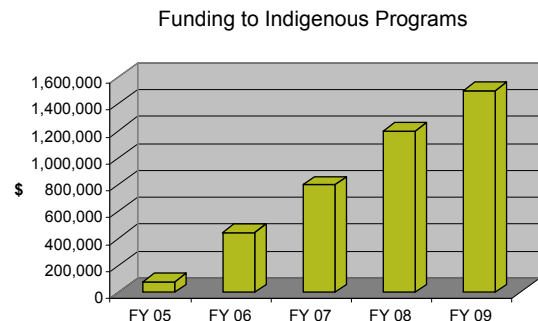
Sometimes social investors are unsure whether a program is an effective solution or if their funding is actually making an impact. Is it supporting a sustainable and scalable solution or just an isolated and localised short term change?

SVA assists investors to pool their funds and take considered decisions for effective social investment rather than an ad-hoc approach. Selected ventures and projects are supported by SVA's rigorous strategic, planning and management disciplines boosting their sustainability and impact.

Pooled investments of larger dollar value have greater impact and strategic focus.

Taking Innovation to Scale

The following table shows the total funding by SVA directed to Indigenous projects since June 2004 and our funding targets for the next two financial years.



How to Participate

in the Indigenous Investor Circle

SVA Indigenous Investor Circle

On joining the Investor Circle, you will receive:

- A copy of SVA's Investment Strategy for this focus area.
- SVA's Performance Report pack for this focus area.

Investors will have the opportunity to attend SVA briefings and regularly hear more about the ventures they are supporting and to gain insights into being an effective social investor.

We will also hold twice yearly briefings by respected thought leaders and experts from the community to share their knowledge.

These briefings and events provide the opportunity to connect to other SVA investors to share experiences.

SVA investors who already provide funding to our Indigenous focus areas will automatically be included in the Investor Circle.

Features of the Indigenous Investor Circle

- Help take effective solutions to scale through a pooled investment model to leverage funding dollars.
- Contribute to a cross section of non-profit programs and initiatives aligned to SVA's comprehensive Investment Strategy.
- Facilitate deeper understanding of social issues through access to indepth research and briefings.
- Attend thought leader events, connect to experts and participate in site visits around Australia.
- Receive regular updates on the Investment Strategy and reports on the progress of ventures and projects.

The Investment

The minimum contribution to the Indigenous Investor Circle is \$10,000 per annum. All social investments are allocated to our Venture Fund, are made annually and are fully tax deductible.

The Venture Fund provides capacity funding to support the organisations and strategic projects in our portfolio. Amounts contributed to the Fund are allocated as follows:

Eighty per cent is channelled directly to ventures and strategic projects. SVA decides which ventures receive the funding based on their current needs.

The remaining 20 per cent covers the capacity building services SVA provides, including a dedicated staff member to assist each venture with daily activities, mentoring support, strategic planning, performance measurement and introductions to SVA networks.

SVA works closely with ventures in the areas of:

- Vision, mission and program alignment.
- Organisational capacity building.
- Measurement and results.

Ventures and Projects

Indigenous Community Building

SVA Supported Ventures

- **The Beacon Foundation's 'No Dole' Program** now operates in 80 schools across Australia to develop independent will, confidence and skills among young people in order to help them join the workforce. Beacon is working with two schools in the Midland Swan Valley region of Perth to support Indigenous school leavers into employment and education and is looking at opportunities to expand this program across Perth and nationally.
- **Beyond Empathy** in regional NSW uses the arts to build culture, relationships, independence and leadership among young people who have been marginalised by hardship. The Mubali project, working with Indigenous young mothers, has had enormous success in connecting young women to pre-natal education and on-going support for those who would not otherwise access mainstream health services. Beyond Empathy is replicating this project across a number of regional communities and also looking at opportunities in Northern Territory and Western Australia.
- **The Big Picture Company Australia (BCPA)** is working to introduce vital change into Australia's education system by generating and sustaining innovative, personalised schools that work collaboratively with their greater community. BCPA's unique approach is to focus on the learner and how the school curriculum might best be customised to connect with each student to maximise learning outcomes. A future network of Big Picture schools and Big Picture inspired schools could help bring an alternative approach into mainstream schooling for Indigenous children. BCPA is currently being piloted in two public schools. One school in West Perth is working with a number of Indigenous students.
- **Centacare's 'Dream the Pathways'** program in regional NSW uses alternative out of school models to broaden the horizons and build the aspirations of Indigenous young people living in areas often beset by isolation and disconnection with traditional culture.
- **Ganbina** in Shepparton Victoria is working to address low school retention rates and high Indigenous unemployment by creating a local network of businesses and equipping young people with vocational skills. Within two years, Ganbina's Jobs 4U2 program has contributed to a 10 per cent increase in school retention across five local schools (currently only 33 per cent of Indigenous students complete Year 12). Ganbina is working with SVA to help share program success across a national collaboration group.
- **Hands On Learning** is a flexible in-school program that tackles the root of student disengagement before it becomes costly to manage and difficult to fix. It works with students in Years 7 to 10 who are struggling with mainstream schooling, identifying and treating negative attitudes before they become negative behaviours. Currently in eight Victorian high schools, Hands On Learning is now piloting in Cape York Queensland and is looking to replicate across the region.

SVA Projects

- **School to Work Transitions Roundtable** is building national collaboration and best practice in programs targeted at school to work transitions for Indigenous young people. The first roundtable was held in September 2007 and identified a number of key success factors for these programs. A series of bi-annual forums is planned and SVA has commenced the process of documenting best

Ventures and Projects

Indigenous Community Building

practice processes with the collaboration group. Ganbina Chief Executive, Adrian Appo, works with SVA on this initiative one day per week.

- **School Best Practice Research** is a practical analysis of best practice initiatives in Indigenous education and recommendations for how to share program success. Some of the focus points will be on academic achievement, school performance, assessment of key drivers (including leadership, staffing training and engagement, community engagement, curriculum and classroom approach) and analysis of funding mix, both gaps and needs.
- **Indigenous Governance Institute** is a project to scope the feasibility of establishing an independent Indigenous Governance Institute in Australia partnering with Reconciliation Australia. The institute would be a central point for collecting examples of best practice Indigenous governance models and provide training, advocacy and leadership development to Indigenous organisations and communities.
- **Indigenous Enterprise Hubs** is supporting the development of sustainable Indigenous social enterprise as a means of creating employment opportunities for Indigenous people. SVA is currently in discussions with Yarnteen ATSI Corporation to pilot the first hub in Newcastle, New South Wales. Yarnteen has operated successfully for 16 years as a social enterprise with much knowledge and learning to share to support aspiring Indigenous and non-Indigenous social enterprises. Yarnteen is nationally recognised for its governance and business success.
- **Healing Roundtable** is building best practice and national collaboration in health and wellbeing programs across Indigenous communities.

Other Engagement Opportunities

SVA has a carefully selected portfolio of social ventures led by outstanding social entrepreneurs. Our support helps them uncover the root causes behind entrenched problems, then to develop and scale innovative responses. In addition to Indigenous community building, we also support: young people, ageing, employment and the environment.

Our Indigenous Investor Circle members will have an opportunity to attend or participate in a range of activities spanning our portfolio of ventures.

SVA Focus Area Briefings

Series of presentations by respected thought-leaders from business and the community.

SVA Documentary Showcase

Private screenings of social documentaries in association with Documentary Australia Foundation.

SVA Community Gathering in Melbourne (July 2008)

Meet social entrepreneurs and gain insights into each venture's vision and achievements in a lively marketplace setting.

Social Area Roundtables

Hear from experts from around Australia working together to share knowledge and best practice solutions in SVA's five focus areas.

OzGREEN's Leading with the Heart*

This three-day residential workshop on environmental leadership will

- Strengthen your resilience to face up to global ecological challenges.
- Harness inner wisdom to create new ways of living and reduce your ecological footprint.
- Build rational, emotional and spiritual intelligence.
- Help you learn how to listen deeply and question strategically.
- Connect and create communities of change with reach from local to global.

Garma Indigenous Festival (limited spaces)*

Leading forum on Indigenous issues, the Garma Festival is a spectacular celebration of cultural traditions and practices in Arnhem Land NT. SVA and Reconciliation Australia will send a delegation of selected delegates to this three-day retreat.

Pathways Foundation*

A five-day 'rites of passage' program, Pathways programs enable young men and women to share their transition into adulthood with their mother, father or a significant other in their life. Camps are run separately for boys and their fathers, and girls and their mothers. This fun, safe and interesting bush camp is designed to:

- Acknowledge and honour the change from boy or girl to young man or woman.
- Share the stories of older men and women and ask questions in an open environment.
- Challenge participants physically, mentally, emotionally and on a personal developmental level.

* Programs are run externally to SVA and have participation fees.

Social Ventures Australia

more about us

Social Ventures Australia (SVA), an independent non-profit organisation established in 2002, is a new and unique model of social investment that aligns the interests of philanthropists with the needs of social entrepreneurs to address some of Australia's most pressing community challenges.

With a focus on accountability and impact, SVA provides funding, mentoring and organisational tools to a carefully selected portfolio of non-profit organisations led by outstanding social entrepreneurs.

In doing so, we seek to boost their effectiveness, efficiency, capacity and sustainability through our hands-on approach – effectively delivering a '24x7 due diligence' reassurance to the philanthropists who support the work we do.

We seek to strengthen the broader non-profit sector by making our organisational tools accessible to all interested ventures through consulting, mentoring, regularly-scheduled workshops, annual conferences and web-based learning opportunities.

SVA combines the best practices of the business world with the passion of philanthropy to support innovative solutions to our focus areas:

- Young People
- Indigenous Community Building
- Ageing
- Employment
- Environment

The 20 entrepreneurs SVA supports possess a vision and deep desire to change social systems, but realise that broad-scale change requires an ability to draw like-minded people and resources together to follow that vision.

These resources include a new generation of social investors who want to engage in the causes they support more than simply signing cheques.

They look for more accountability from their investments and a professional approach to how those investments are administered.

SVA only commits investor funds with an expectation of a planned and coherent social return, which is summarised in venture performance reports every six months.

This pragmatic approach has seen compelling results in helping social entrepreneurs to meet the challenge of building their organisations to scale.

SVA Indigenous Investor Circle

further information

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Further testimonials available on request