

10 PHILANTHROPY QUESTIONS

If you are new to philanthropy, or if you have been giving for a while but want to review your focus, strategy and plan, these ten questions might help get you thinking. The questions are for your own reflection and you are under no obligation to share your answers with anyone.

1. What prompted you to start putting money into your philanthropy as opposed to spending it on something else?
2. If you have been giving for some time, what was the thinking or reasoning behind your idea/plan? Which donations or organisations have given you the most satisfaction and pride?
3. What early experience do you think was most formative for you? Who has been a big influence on your life and why?
4. Beyond your family or possibly business interests, what is important to you? Are there particular issues that you are passionate about, or is there one that you find most frustrating?
5. In your view, what is promising or positive about the world?
6. If you could change one, two or three things in your community, what would they be?
7. What do you think you can do to make a difference? Are there things beyond grantmaking and donations that you would like to do or have done before (e.g. volunteering)?
8. What issues might you be interested in exploring further (e.g. human rights, access to employment, education, environment etc.)?
9. How do you want to be remembered? Have you thought about what kind of personal legacy you want to leave?
10. Who is involved in helping you think about your giving? How important is their input?

NEXT STEPS

If you would like, Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) is available to help you explore these questions further. We also help donors learn about issues and meet with leaders of not-for-profit organisations as part of establishing a plan for giving. If you would like to discuss further, please call ACF on (03) 9412 0412.