

Future Generation Global – Overview: social investment strategy 2022

In working on our forward strategy, we have delved into our learnings from our first six years, sought advice from a broad range of people from the mental health sector and beyond and drawn on the recommendations and insights of recent reviews and inquiries. We have looked at what's been achieved already, and what's happening now, to understand the continued gaps, opportunities and new frontiers that lie ahead. We have looked to our values, strengths, resources and good practice philanthropy to define how we will invest. We have looked to young people, the mental health reform agenda and the broader human services system to define what we will invest in.

We acknowledge the enormity of the task of getting ahead of mental ill-health and the efforts and expertise of governments, public and private health workers and systems, community and not-for-profit service providers, researchers, clinicians, educators, parents, carers, families and communities. We honour young people and acknowledge their experiences of mental wellbeing and ill-health.

We are also resolutely optimistic about the future and believe that Australia will transform its approach to mental health and wellbeing for the better. This is a task of many over time.

As we see it, our immediate task is to direct our contribution so that it punches above its weight in improving mental health outcomes for young people in the long term. We aim to complement others' efforts and as private investors, take on risk to accelerate change - we'll do this by investing in prevention-focused organisations that are innovating, agitating and challenging the status quo to transform mental health and wellbeing for young people.

Purpose	Future Generation Global is a dual-purpose investment vehicle. Its purpose is to deliver excellent financial and social returns, with a focus on young people's mental health and wellbeing.
The opportunity	<p>Young Australians have a brilliant future, in which they drive their own wellbeing.</p> <p>In the future, mental health will increasingly focus on optimising wellbeing rather than only treating illness. This will take place within the full social context of everyday life. Approaches will be proactive, person-led and personalised, blending clinical and non-clinical aspects, digital and face-to face modalities. Mental health and wellbeing will have parity and work in proactive coordination with health, welfare and education systems that safely share and use data to optimise outcomes for people. Mental health and wellbeing will be a comfortable conversation at school, at home and at work. Young people will have the agency, knowledge, resilience and tools to drive their own wellbeing, and access to the right additional care if and when they need it.</p> <p>The most well-documented and widely acknowledged leap towards this future lies in wellbeing promotion and prevention of mental ill-health. The evidence and consensus about the benefits of greater investment in prevention are overwhelming, however our concept of mental health and the subsequent public funding remains concentrated on treating illness. Australia has succeeded in steadily reducing the burden of disease of numerous health conditions (infectious diseases, some cancers, diabetes, heart disease and stroke) by focusing on prevention as well as improving treatments. By contrast, primary prevention has largely been neglected in mental health policy and the personal, social and economic impacts of mental ill-health have not decreased in over 25 years¹. Together, we can change this.</p>
Our role	To accelerate the impact of high potential not-for-profits forging the future of mental health and wellbeing with young people.

¹[Prevention United Consensus Statement, August 2020](#)

<p>What and who will we invest in?</p>	<p>We'll focus our investment on organisations fostering wellbeing, addressing distress and preventing the onset of mental ill-health in young people.</p> <p>We will partner with a group of small to medium sized not-for-profits that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have unrealised potential and solid impact growth plans • Are courageous and collaborative in forging a new future of mental health and wellbeing • Fiercely champion young people, have their trust and are guided by their views • Are committed to evidence informed and evidence-based practice and to continuous improvement
<p>How will we invest and add value?</p>	<p>As an investment manager, we identify under-valued companies and invest to realise growth. Bringing this approach to our social investment, we'll back high potential not-for-profits and invest in the organisation to realise impact growth. Through these partnerships we'll provide multi-year funding towards partners' growth strategies and additional capacity building support, tailored to each organisation's circumstances. We will work with partners to track outcomes, learnings and share widely.</p> <p>Convening, research and advocacy – we will bring partners together and use our voice and networks to advance common goals. We will continue to co-convene the National Mental Health Funders Group to build understanding and networks among funders and with Governments, towards greater investment and impact in mental health.</p>
<p>How will we track our impact?</p>	<p>We will work with our partners and an independent specialist to develop an impact framework that tracks progress against our goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accelerate the impact growth of partner organisations 2. Strengthen the capacity of partner organisations 3. Enable trust and collaboration to develop between partners 4. Build momentum in wellbeing and prevention
<p>Terminology</p>	<p><i>Young people</i> – Australians aged 10 - 21 years.</p> <p><i>Small to medium-sized organisations</i> – we see this as organisations between \$1m and \$15m annual revenue that are predominantly funded by sources other than Government. We appreciate the obstacles Aboriginal Controlled Organisations face accessing non-government funding and achieving scale, and the size and government funding guides will not apply to those applicants. We will aim to be no more than 25% of the organisation's funding base.</p> <p><i>Impact growth</i> – 1) Wellbeing of young people and/or 2) Wellbeing and prevention infrastructure</p> <p><i>Capacity building</i> – aims to strengthen organisations by investing in core competencies such as business or operational planning, board development and governance, management capacity, staff training, leadership development, outcomes measurement, data capability and infrastructure. This support intends to enhance the ability of an organisation to operate more effectively beyond our partnership.</p> <p><i>High potential</i> - relates to the opportunity to grow impact in wellbeing and mental ill-health prevention among young people.</p>