

Top corporate giver throws its weight into prevention

Opening funding for not-for-profit partners to stem the tsunami of young people heading for the mental health system

Future Generation Global (ASX: FGG), one of Australia's top corporate and fastest growing philanthropic givers, is opening for partnerships with not-for-profits for the first time in February. One of the two pioneering Future Generation companies that offer financial and social returns, Future Generation Global will channel its substantial philanthropic might into promoting wellbeing and preventing the onset of mental ill-health in young Australians.

After investing more than \$26.2m in a range of activities, of which \$18m is across the mental health spectrum since 2016, it has identified prevention as where its contribution can punch above its weight in positively impacting youth mental health in Australia. Approaching philanthropy as social investment, the Company looked to identify high potential, undervalued areas that would yield strong social returns. In landing on prevention, the Company aims to complement others' efforts and as private investors, take on risk to accelerate much-needed change.

Future Generation's **Social Impact Manager, Emily Fuller** said: *"Servicing mental health problems will necessarily continue as a priority for Governments. We see our greatest opportunity as investing in the next frontier of wellbeing and prevention, building young people's resilience and stopping mental health issues developing in the first place – we want to invest in stemming the tsunami of young people requiring care in the mental health system."*

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 more than 25 years¹ and are increasing among young people. This was the trend before the pandemic.

This is despite overwhelming evidence and consensus about the benefits of greater investment in prevention, well-documented as priorities in national and state policies since the First National Mental Health Plan in 1992 and up to the most recent 2020 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health and the 2021 Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Future Generation **CEO Caroline Gurney** is resolutely optimistic about the future and believes that Australia will transform its approach to mental health and wellbeing and that private givers have an important role to play. *"By offering multi-year funding investment and support to fund ambitious wellbeing and prevention strategies we aim to make a pivotal difference for young people and their mental health across Australia."*

The company also sees it can add-value by investing in organisations, not just programs which is the predominant approach of donors. So often, charities funnel all donated money directly to the programs interfacing with their end users. *"Sometimes, it comes at the cost of having organisational systems that allow them to work more efficiently, scale faster, and critically, gather data about what's working and what's not. We see value in funding core operations and organisational development, because it strengthens all programs and ultimately, the outcomes for young people."*

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

Media release

The Company recognises that young people's wellbeing is fostered by a broad range of not-for-profits from outside and within the mental health sector and First Nations people's holistic approach to wellbeing. It aims for partnerships in different states and territories, including regional areas. It encourages applications from national scope, community-based and Aboriginal Controlled Organisations.

Future Generation Global will open to Expressions of Interest from not-for-profit organisations that operate in Australia throughout February. For more information see: futuregeninvest.com.au/eoi/fgg/

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About Future Generation

The Future Generation companies, Future Generation Australia (ASX: FGX) and Future Generation Global (ASX: FGG), are Australia's first listed investment companies to deliver investment and social returns. The Future Generation companies provide shareholders with zero fee exposure to leading boutique Australian (FGX) and global (FGG) fund managers as well as fully franked dividends and capital growth. The companies deliver charities focused on children and youth at risk (FGX) and youth mental health (FGG) a stream of social investments equal to 1.0% of the companies' net tangible assets each year and offer fund managers a unique opportunity to make a social and investment impact. Since inception in 2014, Future Generation has delivered \$52.9 million in social investments.

For more information visit futuregeninvest.com.au/eoi/fgg/ or contact:

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