
she gives.
PULSE CHECK:
The Visibility
of Women's
Giving

SEPTEMBER 2026



She Gives Research Report Launch, Admiralty House, Sydney, February 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

She Gives acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

About the Authors

she gives.

She Gives began as a campaign to celebrate, share and inspire women's giving. We are now a movement mobilising women who give at any scale, to any cause, that accelerates positive social change. She Gives seeks to deepen understanding, foster collaboration and inspire action through inclusive storytelling, convening and research. She Gives is a Noble Ambition initiative, supported by She Gives funding partners, the She Gives Advisory Group, She Gives Research Advisory Group and She Gives sector partners.

www.shegives.com.au

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Introduction

To grow women's giving in Australia, the *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia*¹ Report recommended recognising women's crucial role in giving through storytelling and formal public recognition. This Pulse Check seeks to determine whether visibility has begun to shift.

In Australia and around the world, we are facing a polycrisis of rising social, economic, political and environmental pressures that are stretching communities and systems beyond capacity. Australia is at a critical juncture, with more than 3.7 million Australians reported to be living below the poverty line in 2025² and more and more people turning to charities for essentials like housing, food and care.

Within this strained global climate, women's giving emerges as a story of hope. Australian women are poised to inherit almost 65% of the \$5.4 trillion intergenerational wealth transfer over the next twenty years.³ As they come into greater wealth, education and equality than ever before (three key predictors of philanthropy), Australian women have indicated they want to be bolder and more strategic in their giving.⁴ This national collective voice is contributing to a growing momentum of women's giving globally.

In 2024, She Gives was launched to grow women's giving by celebrating, sharing and inspiring women who give, at any scale, to any cause. Building on this ambition, the She Gives Report,⁵ launched in February 2026, made three recommendations to grow women's giving in Australia. The first recommendation was to recognise women's crucial role in giving through storytelling and formal public recognition.

This Pulse Check examines whether visibility through these strategies is beginning to shift.

What we see shapes what we believe is possible. When women see other women giving, they are more likely to give, lead and inspire others.⁶ Normalising conversations about women's contributions helps counter the tall poppy culture that many women see as a barrier to giving⁷ and builds new social norms where generosity is celebrated as a shared force for good. By making women's giving more visible, we can strengthen participation, grow giving and accelerate social impact at scale.

In response to the first recommendation made in the She Gives Report, this Pulse Check asks: ***Has women's giving become more visible in storytelling and in national forms of recognition?***

To answer this question, this Pulse Check examines, over a three-year period (FY24-FY26), the visibility of women's giving in the media and in the Order of Australia honours lists. Media is a key channel for storytelling, shaping which stories about giving are shared and amplified to public audiences, and how they are represented. The Australian honours system is one of the highest levels of public honour, recognising people whose contributions are deemed to have made a significant impact. Together, these metrics provide a snapshot of where women's giving has become more visible, where gaps remain and what still needs to change. Tracking this visibility over time will help determine whether greater visibility in storytelling and national recognition are contributing to the greater ambition to grow women's giving in Australia.



She Gives Research Launch, Government House, Canberra, November 2024

Summary of Key Insights

- Women's giving is becoming significantly more visible in Australian philanthropy media coverage. Women-led stories of giving more than doubled from 14% to 32% of the highest-reach Australian philanthropy media coverage between FY24 and FY26.⁸
- How women's giving is represented in the media is different from how men's giving is represented. Women's giving is more often told through personal and emotive narratives,⁹ reflective of how women described their motivations for giving in the She Gives research.¹⁰
- There is still a gap in the diversity of women represented in Australian philanthropy media coverage and better data is needed to track representation over time.
- Women hold significant leadership roles in Australia's largest philanthropic entities,¹¹ but that leadership is not always visible in public measures and media narratives of major philanthropy within mainstream media.¹²
- Women's representation in the Order of Australia honours lists has declined between 2024–2026.¹³
- The decline in women's representation is more significant at the highest levels of recognition in the honours lists.¹⁴
- Gender and cultural diversity intersect with women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and women of colour even less proportionately represented in the honours lists.¹⁵
- To sustain parity in national recognition, Australians need to nominate more women and particularly more First Nations women, more women from CALD backgrounds and more women of colour.
- Collective giving is an area of growth within Australian philanthropy. Women make up 81% of collective giving participants in Australia¹⁶ and play a significant and increasingly visible role within this model of giving.



She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia

Informed by more than 2,000 women, She Gives delivered the **largest mixed-methods study of women's giving** ever undertaken in Australia (with academic partner, Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia) building the evidence base and national conversation around women who give.

Officially launched in February 2026 by the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia* offers a rich dataset that captures how women participate in giving and drive impact.

Throughout the study, roundtables and events were held in every state and territory, including dedicated engagement with First Nations, CALD and regional communities to ensure diverse perspectives informed the research.

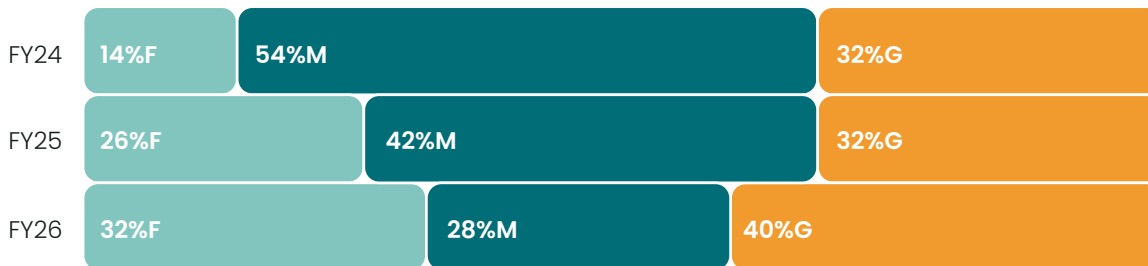
To download the She Gives Report go to:
www.shegives.com.au

1 Women's Giving: Visibility in the Media

Media is a key channel for storytelling, shaping which stories about giving are shared and amplified to public audiences, and how they are represented. The *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia* Report recommended greater parity in media coverage of philanthropy representing women's leadership and stories of giving alongside men. The *She Gives* Report also recommended an annual count of women-led stories of giving amongst mainstream media to support accountability and track progress. By tracking the visibility of women's giving in the media, this Pulse Check seeks to assess whether women's contributions are becoming increasingly visible in public conversations about philanthropy.

This Pulse Check examines the 100 highest-reach Australian media stories on philanthropy published in the 2025–2026 financial year (FY26) and compares them with the 100 highest-reach Australian media stories on philanthropy published in the 2024–2025 financial year (FY25) and 2023–2024 financial year (FY24).¹⁷ **The key finding is that the visibility of women's giving in Australian philanthropy media coverage has more than doubled over this period.** For the first time in three years of analysis, there are more women-led stories of giving than men-led stories, increasing from 14% of the highest-reach Australian philanthropy media coverage in FY24 to 32% in FY26.

Gender of lead philanthropist in 100 highest-reach articles:



F: Female, M: Male, G: General story



Paula McLean — She Gives Campaign Launch, Sydney



Tara Castle, Prue Pateras, Shweta Khan, Melissa Smith – She Gives Research Roundtable, Brisbane

This increasing visibility reflects, in part, the increasing willingness of women to share their lived experience, together with the strategic focus of the She Gives campaign to bring 140+ stories of women's giving to light, and push them as far and wide as possible, including through mainstream media, which led to 71 media stories including features in the Australian Financial Review, The Australian, Qantas Magazine, and WISH Magazine.

In sharing and celebrating stories of women's giving, She Gives sought to represent women across Australia and elevate voices often overlooked in philanthropy. By sharing the 140+ stories across She Gives' social media channels, with support from over 30 sector partners, a deliberate effort was made to bring visibility to a broader range of stories, including the voices of First Nations women, women from CALD backgrounds, women of colour, and women from rural, regional and remote communities. The analysis undertaken by this Pulse Check is limited to gender representation in the media. However, we know anecdotally that the diversity of women's giving is not reflected in mainstream media and there is more work to be done to increase the visibility of diverse voices and to capture the data that would enable this to be tracked. Media can play a critical role in shaping a more inclusive narrative by telling more diverse, representative and relatable stories of giving.

A qualitative review of ten selected articles in FY25 — five featuring women, five featuring men — identified **distinct differences in the language used to describe their giving stories**. Male philanthropists were described through wealth, financial scale and institutional impact while female philanthropists were framed through personal connection, emotional drivers and individual life experiences. This distinction in description is reinforced by the language used in the FY26 articles, which broadly reflects how women described their motivations for giving in the She Gives research.¹⁸

Key Insights

- Women's giving is becoming significantly more visible in Australian philanthropy media coverage. Women-led giving stories more than doubled from 14% to 32% of the highest-reach Australian philanthropy media coverage between FY24 and FY26.
- How women's giving is represented in the media is different from how men's giving is represented. Women's giving is more often told through personal and emotive narratives, reflective of how women described their motivations for giving in the She Gives research.
- There is still a gap in the diversity of women represented in Australian philanthropy media coverage and better data is needed to track representation over time.
- Women hold significant leadership roles in Australia's largest philanthropic entities, but that leadership is not always visible in public measures of major philanthropy within mainstream media.

The AFR Philanthropy 50 List

Celebrating its 10th year in 2026, the AFR Philanthropy 50 list¹⁹ is arguably Australia's longest-standing and most public measure of major philanthropy within mainstream media. An annual audit by JBWere of philanthropic distributions by individuals, families and foundations, based on publicly reported grants, the Top 50 provides a valuable snapshot of Australia's largest philanthropic givers. The 2026 list, published in April, captures \$1.565 billion in giving in FY25.²⁰

She Gives media strategy deliberately targeted stories in the AFR Top 50 because of its profile and reach, and the symbolism of elevating the visibility of women's giving in a traditionally male-dominated publication. In the 2025 Top 50, She Gives Founder, Melissa Smith and Advisory Group Member, Paula McLean featured in the lead story *Rising Force: Women are making their move among Australia's top givers*, and in 2026, She Gives secured the inclusion of both Tracy Norman and Peggy Flannery in the lead story.

While the Top 50 is valuable evidence of Australia's biggest philanthropic givers, the list alone does not provide a clear picture of women's visibility within major philanthropy. One reason is the complexity of naming conventions. In this year's list, only a few entities are clearly named after a woman, but there are a number of examples where a woman is featured less explicitly in the name of the philanthropic entity.²¹ For example, the Collier Charitable Fund continues the legacy of sisters Alice, Annette and Edith Collier, who established the Fund in their wills and uses their surname, while the JW and M Cunningham Foundation was established by John and Margaret Cunningham but uses only their first initials. More broadly, donors may choose names that reflect a cause, place, family connection or philanthropic vision, or opt for a more generic name for modesty or privacy reasons.

Another reason is that a list of names does not tell us whose leadership or influence is shaping decision-making in major philanthropy. Ultimately, the Top 50 is about who is distributing the most significant funds in any given year and while publicly available data on leadership within the Top 50 is limited (many family trusts, private foundations and estate vehicles do not publish CEO or Chair information), women hold significant leadership roles among the entities for which data is available.²²

14 **women CEOs**
out of 22 positions for which there is publicly available data

13 **women chairs**
out of 30 positions for which there is publicly available data

Based on a small sample size of publicly available data regarding CEOs and Chairs in the AFR Top 50, **women hold 14 of 22 CEO positions and almost half of the Chair roles (13 of 30)**. Based on this sample size, the women CEO rate in these philanthropic entities is significantly higher than the 10% rate reported in the ASX 300,²³ placing women's leadership in philanthropy ahead of corporate Australia. Additionally, around 10 foundations have female-majority executive teams, including some where the public-facing CEO or Chair is male.

These complexities and nuances reinforce the importance of looking beyond the list itself to understand the full picture of women's philanthropy. **Continuing to tell the stories of women's giving, and formally recognising their contributions, is essential to making their influence and leadership visible.** Only by doing so can we build a fuller picture of the scale and impact of women's giving in Australia.

PHILANTHROPY 50



PHILANTHROPY 50

RISING FORCE

Women are making their move among Australia's top givers.

BY LAUREN SAMS PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIC LOEBNER

RANK	NAME	SECTOR	AMOUNT
1	Vigilante Trust	Philanthropy	\$215.9
2	Minderoo Foundation	Philanthropy	\$200.1
3	Paul Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$182.8
4	Stuart & Susan Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$145.7
5	Stuart Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$145.4
6	Stuart Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$81
7	Juliah Nelson Foundation	Philanthropy	\$55.0
8	Kingsford Foundation	Philanthropy	\$51.0
9	Drum Philanthropies	Philanthropy	\$30.7
10	Stuart Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$28.8
11	Stuart Ramsay Foundation	Philanthropy	\$25.1
12	McCluskey Charitable Foundation	Philanthropy	\$20.4
13	Peter and Lynda White Foundation	Philanthropy	\$19.4

Melissa Smith and Paula McLean featured in *Rising Force: Women are making their move among Australia's top givers*, Philanthropy 50, AFR Magazine, May 2025

She Gives Media Highlights

JUN 1, 2025

The Courier Mail

Self-made Qld billionaire who's giving away her fortune

By Anooska Tucker-Evans

JUL 22, 2025

The West Australian

Women redefining philanthropy sector despite barriers

By Maeve Bannister

THE AUSTRALIAN

JUL 24, 2024

Women donors will overtake 'rich, old white guys'

By Helen Trinca

The Canberra Times

JUL 24, 2024

'You can't stop': Spotlight turns to women philanthropists

By Megan Doherty

FINANCIAL REVIEW

JUL 24, 2024

Why women will supercharge philanthropy

By Carol Schwartz

20 MARCH 2026

Motivation missed in focus on philanthropy

By Ann Sherry

MAY 10, 2025

Preserving the voices of the women who give

By Megan Doherty

JUL 24, 2024

Women called on to make nation more generous

By Michael Bailey

QANTAS

31 AUGUST 2025

THE NEW FACE OF GIVING

Female-led philanthropy is quietly driving significant and lasting social impact across Australia. And it's on the rise.

By Jane Nicholls

NOV 28, 2024

Australia's wealthiest women join forces to supercharge philanthropy

By Yolanda Redrup

Mamamia

SEP 20, 2024

"Today, I'm choosing to see my cancer as a gift — a gift of purpose — and it helps me think about how I can help others."

By Liz Abrahams

NOV 28, 2024

Governor-General Sam Mostyn meets with leading women in philanthropy

By Madeline Hislop



MAY 2, 2025

RISING FORCE: Women are making their move among Australia's top givers.

Story by Lauren Sams

APR 29, 2026

From hoodies to high tech: Self-made women join \$180b list

By Hannah Tattersall

APR 28, 2026

THE AUSTRALIAN

How women hold the key to nation's \$5.4 trillion wealth transfer

By Jane Albert

APR 23, 2026

The Robin Khuda effect — why billionaires are giving it all away now

By Fiona Buffini

2 Women's Giving: Visibility in national forms of recognition

Recognition is important because it signals whose contributions are valued, celebrated and remembered. It is one of the reasons She Gives entered into a partnership with the National Library of Australia to capture 20 oral histories of women in the national collection to ensure that these stories of women's giving become part of the national story we tell ourselves in perpetuity.

The Australian honours system is one of Australia's highest forms of public honour, recognising people whose contributions are deemed to have made a significant impact. While there are many other measures of recognition that could be examined (e.g. at state and community levels), recognising women's contributions at the highest levels of public honour is both symbolic and practical. It signals what we value as a society and it can be counted, providing a measurable marker to track progress. The *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia* Report recommended striving for gender parity and increased diversity in national honours (both in number and level of award) by increasing the number of nominations recognising women's contributions to philanthropy, volunteering and community leadership. The *She Gives* Report also recommended regular pulse checks of national honours to track progress toward gender parity and increased diversity.

In the foreword to the *She Gives* Report, the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, outlined the pivotal role the honours system can play in recognising women who give:

"As Chancellor of the Order of Australia, I am deeply committed to raising awareness of the opportunity of our national honours system as a means of recognising exceptional Australian women for their outstanding contributions and generosity."²⁴

**Governor-General, Her Excellency
the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC**

The *She Gives* recommendations sit within a broader national initiative to increase recognition of women's contributions. In August 2026, The Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council (bringing together Commonwealth and state and territory governments to drive national progress on gender equality and ending gender-based violence), discussed opportunities to ensure women are recognised in the Australian Honours and Awards System. The Council underlined the importance of ensuring women's achievements and contributions, including their leadership, service and impact across diverse sectors and communities, are visible, valued and reflected in national recognition processes. Ministers discussed opportunities and agreed to a range of actions over the next 12 months to increase women's nominations.²⁵



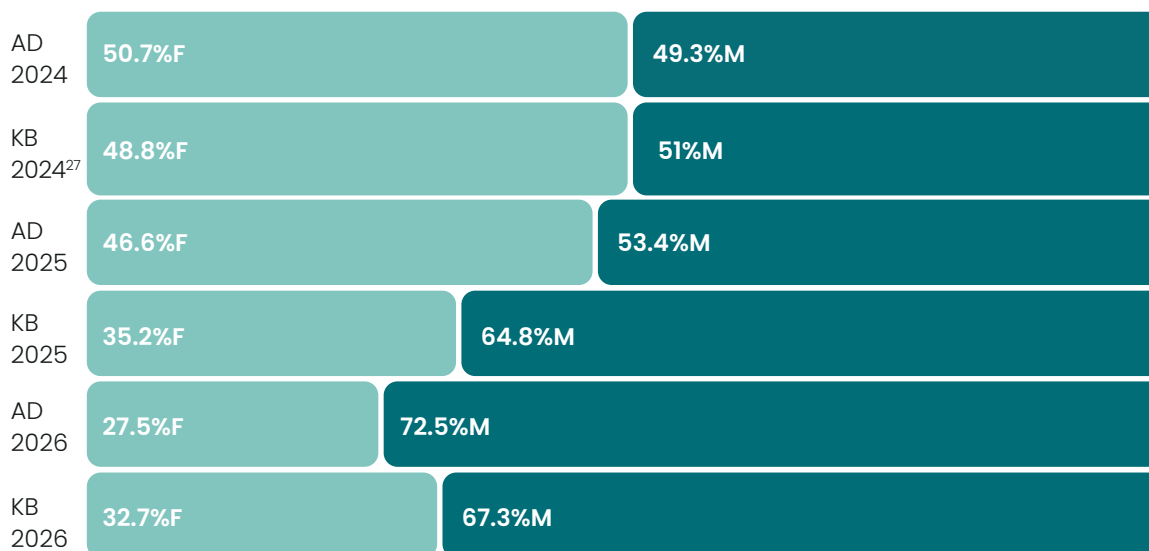
Melissa Smith, Carrie Bickmore OAM, Sarah O'Brien, Deborah Barlow, Tanya Hosch AM — *She Gives* Research Launch, Government House, Canberra



She Gives Campaign Launch, Brisbane

This Pulse Check examines the Order of Australia General Division lists from Australia Day 2024 to King's Birthday 2026 to track whether women's visibility in national forms of recognition has changed. It is important to note that there is limited publicly available data about which honours have been awarded specifically for philanthropy, volunteering and community leadership and therefore, the analysis below is based upon women's representation in the honours lists as a whole for 2024-2026.²⁶

Women as % of Order of Australia recipients (general division):



AD: Australia Day, KB: King's Birthday. F: Female, M: Male, Parity: 50%.



She Gives Advisory Group, Government House, Canberra

L-R: Tanya Hosch AM, Georgina Byron AM, Catriona Fay, Paula McLean, Natalie Egleton, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Michelle Lin, Melissa Smith, Kristy Muir, Amanda Miller OAM (not present: Clare Herschell, Carol Schwartz AO, Deanne Weir)

The key finding is that **women's representation in the Order of Australia honours lists has declined over the period.** The 2024 honours lists achieved near-equal representation — 50.7% women (Australia Day 2024) and 48.8% women (King's Birthday 2024) — following deliberate efforts by former Governor-General His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd) and the Council of the Order of Australia to achieve gender parity before the end of his tenure.²⁸ Subsequent lists fell sharply, with women representing 27.5% of recipients on Australia Day 2026 and King's Birthday 2026 showing a partial recovery to 32.7% but still below parity.

This decline is more significant at the highest levels of recognition. Women's representation among combined AC (Companion) and AO (Officer) awards — which recognise national leadership rather than community-level service — fell from 55% in 2024 to 29% in 2026.

In addition to the disparities in gender representation, **there is limited cultural diversity in the honours lists.** Analysis by Per Capita of the Australia Day 2026 honours list²⁹ found that only 19% of recipients were from CALD backgrounds — despite CALD Australians comprising an estimated 45.5% of the population. Only 9% of recipients were identified as people of colour, against a population share of approximately 29.5%.

The intersectional picture is sharper still. In the Australia Day 2026 list, 27% of all recipients were women. Among recipients from CALD backgrounds, only 22% were women. For recipients identified as people of colour, women comprised just 20%.

Women's recognition through the honours system depends in part on a nomination pipeline that continues to under-represent women, particularly a diversity of women. In the 12 months to January 2026, around one-third of nominations were for women — a ratio that has remained stubbornly consistent over decades.

Sustaining parity will require changing the nomination culture. Practically, this means Australians will need to nominate more women making outstanding contributions to the community.

Nominations are free, open to all Australians, and can be made at any time at: gg.gov.au/order-australia.

Key Insights

- Women's representation in the Order of Australia honours lists has declined between 2024–2026.
- The decline is more significant at the highest levels of recognition.
- Gender and cultural diversity intersect with women from CALD backgrounds and women of colour even less proportionately represented in the honours lists.
- To sustain parity in national recognition, Australians need to nominate more women and particularly more First Nations women, more women from CALD backgrounds and more women of colour.

Collective Giving

Imagine if the scale of collective giving was profiled with similar levels of visibility in media, or recognised in our national honours awards as individual giving. While collective giving has been a part of Australian philanthropy for some time, its true scale, diversity, and impact are only beginning to be measured and recognised through research such as the *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia Report*³⁰ and Philanthropy Australia's *Giving Together: The Power and Potential of Collective Giving in Australia Report*.³¹ Of the 100+ estimated collective giving groups in Australia, the Philanthropy Australia Report analysed 55 groups, which together directly engage more than 11,000 people and have distributed \$76.6 million between 1999 and 2025, directing \$9.3 million to more than 300 organisations in the most recent year alone.

Both the *She Gives* and Philanthropy Australia reports demonstrate that collective giving is an area of growth within Australian philanthropy, especially for women, who make up 81% of participants in Australia.³² Women told *She Gives* that they want to give collectively to feel more confident and connected in their giving decisions.³³ Collective giving offers opportunities for collaboration, to amplify impact and reinforce a sense of belonging.

81%

of collective giving participants are women

almost all group leaders and founders are female

100+

collective giving groups estimated across Australia

many operate informally — exact number unknown

\$1,000

median annual contribution per person³⁴

vs \$150 median tax-deductible donation for Australian taxpayers

The *She Gives* and Philanthropy Australia reports also demonstrated an increasingly diverse representation of giving communities such as: *WoCImpact1000* — initiated by Women of Colour Australia — that aims to mobilise 1,000 Women of Colour contributing \$1,000 annually by 2035; *First Nations Futures* that has built a community of more than 750 donors and distributed over \$720,000 through First Nations-led decision-making; and the *Indigenous Giving Circle* that centres community knowledge in funding decisions.

The Philanthropy Australia Report provides a baseline of data on collective giving, which is essential to track the future growth of women's giving, both in terms of funds and people mobilised. In doing so, we have the potential to make visible and celebrate the scale of collective impact thereby mobilising more people to participate in the years ahead.

Key Insights

- Collective giving is an area of growth within Australian philanthropy. Women make up 81% of collective giving participants in Australia³⁵ and play a significant and increasingly visible role within this model of giving.



She Gives, Philanthropy Together and Groundswell Event, Sydney

Conclusion: Looking Ahead

As part of its recommendations to grow women's giving in Australia, the *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia* Report recommended recognising women's crucial role in giving through storytelling and formal public recognition. This Pulse Check has sought to answer the question: *Has women's giving become more visible in storytelling and in national forms of recognition?*

The answer to that question is that while progress has been made, crucial gaps in women's visibility persist. Over the past three years, women-led stories of giving in Australian philanthropy media coverage have more than doubled. Yet, the diversity of women's giving is not represented in mainstream media and better data is needed to track its progress. In the Australian honours list, women's representation has not only declined overall, but the gaps are even more significant when examining levels of recognition and diversity.

Visibility is not simply about recognition. **What we see shapes what we believe is possible.** When women see other women giving, leading and making a difference, it helps normalise giving, builds confidence and encourages others to participate.

This matters now more than ever. Women have told us they want to give more and be bolder, more strategic and more collaborative in their giving. As unprecedented wealth moves into the hands of women, Australia has an extraordinary opportunity to translate that intention into greater generosity and greater impact.

The opportunity now is not simply to make women's giving more visible. It is to use that visibility to grow giving.



She Gives Research Report Launch, Admiralty House, Sydney

Message from She Gives Founder

Over the course of the campaign, I have had the privilege of speaking with hundreds of women about their giving.

Again and again, I have seen what happens when women are given the opportunity to share why they give, the causes that matter to them and the change they want to contribute towards. They become more confident in their giving. They connect with others. They inspire others to participate and remind other women that their giving matters.

That is why visibility matters.

This Pulse Check shows encouraging progress, with more stories of women's giving being told and more women being recognised in leadership roles. It also shows how much more work there is to do, particularly to ensure the diversity of women's giving is seen, valued and recognised.

At a time of enormous need and great wealth, we have an extraordinary opportunity. Women have told us they want to give more, and to give more boldly, strategically and collaboratively. Our challenge now is to create the conditions that enable them to do so.

So, what can you do?

- 1 Give** to the causes and communities you care about. No matter the size, the act of giving is powerful.
- 2 Talk** about the causes and communities you care about, and why you give — normalising giving can inspire others and amplify the impact of your gift.
- 3 Invite** others to be part of giving communities, be it through collective or collaborative models, or the She Gives movement.
- 4 Include** a diversity of voices in the room.
- 5 Nominate** a woman — extraordinary women are all around us; they are doing the work; nominate them [here](#).
- 6 Share** this Pulse Check, the [She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia](#) Report, and the work of She Gives, to grow the movement.

Thank you for being part of a growing global movement. Thank you for being part of She Gives.



Melissa Smith
Founder, She Gives

Endnotes

1. Smith, M., Freeman, N., Melville, B. (2026), *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia*, <https://shegives.com.au/>
2. Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) (2025), *Poverty in Australia 2025: Overview*, https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/poverty_in_australia_2025_overview/
3. JBWere (2024), *The Bequest Report*, <https://www.jbwere.com.au/content/dam/jbwere/documents/campaigns/JBWere-Bequest-Report.pdf>
4. Smith, M., Freeman, N., Melville, B. (2026), *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia*, <https://shegives.com.au/>
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. She Gives media analysis of the 100 highest-reach philanthropy articles in FY24, FY25 and FY26: women-led stories of giving more than doubled from 14% of coverage in FY24 to 32% in FY26. Using Meltwater Media Monitoring analytics, more than 20.4k print, online or broadcast Australian news sources were identified mentioning the search terms "philanthrop*" AND (charit* OR donat* OR non-profit OR fundraising OR foundation) near "Australi*". From this pool, 100 highest-reach articles were reviewed after excluding duplicates, replicated articles, inaccessible broadcasts, removed content and articles about political donations.
9. She Gives qualitative review of a selection of the 100 highest-reach philanthropy articles.
10. Smith, M., Freeman, N., Melville, B. (2026), *She Gives: Growing Women's Giving in Australia*, <https://shegives.com.au/>
11. She Gives analysis of executive and board leadership gender in the entities from the *AFR Philanthropy 50* list (April 2026; FY25 giving) where leadership was publicly disclosed on foundation websites and ACNC profiles at the time of analysis (August 2026). At the time of analysis, women held 14 of 22 confirmed CEO positions and almost half of confirmed Chair roles (13 of 30).
12. *The Australian Financial Review Philanthropy 50*, in partnership with JBWere. The most recent list was published in April 2026: <https://www.afr.com/wealth/people/australian-philanthropy-has-tripled-in-10-years-but-is-that-enough-20260331-p5zk5c>
13. She Gives analysis of gender-coded Order of Australia General Division data, Australia Day and King's Birthday lists, 2024–2026. Women's representation fell from 50.7% (Australia Day 2024) and 48.8% (King's Birthday 2024) to 27.5% (Australia Day 2026) and 32.7% (King's Birthday 2026).
14. She Gives analysis of gender-coded Order of Australia General Division data, Australia Day and King's Birthday lists, 2024–2026. Women's representation among combined AC (Companion) and AO (Officer) awards — which recognise national leadership rather than community-level service — fell from 55% in 2024 to 29% in 2026.
15. Per Capita, *Order of Australia Honours List — Australia Day 2026: Cultural Diversity Analysis*, 2026.
16. Branigan, E., Darcas, C., Moriarty, R., & Kerr, B. (2026). *Giving Together: The Power and Potential of Collective Giving in Australia*. Philanthropy Australia, July 2026.
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