

# CALLING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS: IMPACT MEASUREMENT

Urbis has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) to deliver a national scoping study about outcome and impact measurement in social impact investing. We are inviting stakeholders from across the Australian social sector and private investment sector to engage with this study through a range of consultation options, detailed below.

If you are interested in taking part, please review the information contained in this flyer and register for one or more of the consultation options listed below.

## BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth Government currently has a number of initiatives underway to support social impact investing (SII) in Australia.

In 2019 the Government committed \$5 million to establish a SII Taskforce. The Taskforce comprises an Expert Panel supported by a team in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). The Taskforce is developing a strategy for the Commonwealth's role in the SII market. They are currently due to report to Government by mid-2020 (this may change in response to COVID-19).

Prior to the establishment of the Taskforce, in 2018 the Government committed \$6.7 million to support the SII sector build its capability to define, measure and communicate their outcomes. The Department of Social Services is managing this initiative. A number of projects are currently underway with more to come until June 2022.

DSS has commissioned Urbis to lead one of these projects, which is a scoping study to clearly outline the current state in outcome and impact measurement, what sector stakeholders would like the future to look like and what the Government can do to help the sector build outcome and impact measurement capability. This scoping study is intended to provide DSS with evidence-based and market-informed guidance on actionable strategies to strengthen outcome measurement practices in the SII sector.

The Taskforce is also investigating social impact and outcomes measurement as part of its work. The Taskforce will consider the effectiveness of social impact reporting frameworks internationally and their application to Australia as part of a longer term SII strategy that could be supported by the Commonwealth. This will integrate with the work being undertaken by DSS.

The Taskforce and DSS (as well as researchers Urbis on behalf of DSS, and Inside Policy on behalf of PM&C) are undertaking a range of consultations across the SII sector to inform their work. The Departments are working closely together to share the feedback received from stakeholders as well as other findings so these insights can inform both streams of work and minimise duplication. We hope to avoid people being asked to share their stories and suggestions more than once.

To deliver their research project, Urbis, in partnership with Cox Inall Ridgeway (an Aboriginal-led and owned consultancy firm), will conduct consultation with stakeholders across all States and Territories in April and May 2020. In light of the recent COVID-19 situation, all consultation will take place over the telephone, or using virtual meeting technology such as Skype. This is a significant undertaking for a critical project. The results of the national consultation will help inform the Department's future decisions about how to best support the social sector in optimising the use of social impact investing, and in so doing, better enabling its application to a wide range of complex social issues.

## CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The scoping study will engage with the Australian social sector and private investment stakeholders through the following channels. The full schedule for all engagement options is shown in the table below.

### 1. Consultation paper

Sector consultation will be supported by the SII Scoping Study Consultation Paper. The Consultation Paper touches on the current state of outcomes and impact measurement in Australia and provides stakeholders with key questions and issues to consider. The consultation channels below will address the same questions and issues.

### 2. National survey

A national survey is intended to provide a flexible way for stakeholders to contribute their views. The survey will open on 20th April 2020 and will remain open until midnight 8th May 2020. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

### 3. Virtual roundtables

Virtual roundtables are being convened for sector stakeholders to meet with the study team. The roundtables will be in small groups of no more than six participants, limited to one hour in duration and will be delivered online. The roundtables are scheduled to take place between 27th April and 8th May 2020. Roundtable are themed according to the viewpoints of participants. Interested stakeholders should register for a roundtable that best matches their role or perspective within the SII sector.

- [Indigenous Social Sector Stakeholders](#)
- [Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders](#)
- [Sector Intermediaries](#)
- [Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises](#)

### 4. Individual interviews

The study team is also offering individual interviews for stakeholders who are unable to attend a roundtable but who would still like to contribute. The interviews will be up to 45 minutes in duration and will be delivered online or by telephone.

The interviews are scheduled to take place between 27th April and 8th May 2020. If you are unable to attend a roundtable and would like to book an individual interview, please email [OIMScopingStudy@urbis.com.au](mailto:OIMScopingStudy@urbis.com.au) requesting an interview. In the email, please include 2-3 times when you are available and your preferred contact number.

**Contact:** If you require further information about the study, please contact Project Manager Frances McMurtrie at [fmcmurtrie@urbis.com.au](mailto:fmcmurtrie@urbis.com.au)

# SCHEDULE

Stakeholder Group	Engagement	Date	Time (AEST)
Indigenous Social Sector Stakeholders	Indigenous Social Sector Stakeholders interviews	14th April – 8th May	CIR team is available throughout each day during this period
	Sydney Indigenous Social Sector Stakeholders Roundtable	29th April	11:00am
	Alice Springs Indigenous Social Sector Stakeholders Roundtable	30th April	11:30am
Sector Intermediaries	Sector Intermediaries interviews	20th April - 8th May	Urbis team is available throughout each day during this period
	Sector Intermediaries Roundtable 1	27th April	11am
	Sector Intermediaries Roundtable 2	28th April	3pm
	Sector Intermediaries Roundtable 3	29th April	1:30pm
	Sector Intermediaries Roundtable 4	5th May	11am
	Sector Intermediaries Roundtable 5	6th May	9:30am
Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 1	27th April	9:30am
	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 2	28th April	9:30am
	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 3	28th April	1:30pm
	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 4	5th May	1:30pm
	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 5	6th May	9:30am
	Impact Investors and Philanthropic Funders Roundtable 6	6th May	1:30pm
Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises interviews	20th April - 8th May	Urbis team is available throughout each day during this period
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 1	27th April	3pm
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 2	28th April	11am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 3	29th April	11am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 4	29th April	3pm
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 5	30th April	11am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 6	4th May	11am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 7	5th May	3pm
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 8	6th May	9:30am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 9	6th May	11am
	Social Service Providers and Impact Enterprises Roundtable 10	7th May	1:30pm