



AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS
ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019

Australian Progress builds the capacity of civil society to achieve systemic change.

PILLARS OF WORK



WE TRANSFORM THE SKILLS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

Equipping them with cutting-edge leadership and advocacy skills.



WE FOSTER COMMUNITY

Building relationships, knowledge sharing and inspiring courage.



WE DRIVE SHARED ACTION

Catalysing new ideas, funding, research and strategic support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I'm so proud of the incredible Australian Progress community of leaders and organisations driving bold systems change, at a time when the challenges we face are becoming ever more pressing.

In 2018/19, we doubled the number of Melbourne fellowship places, ran both Progress 2019 and Leadership 2019, hosted messaging guru Anat Shenker Osorio in Australia twice... and the list of "doubling" went on. To deliver this scale of work, our staff and revenue also grew significantly.

But what I am most thrilled with is the quality of experience delivered, the results in diversifying our community - and that we remain constantly in our learning zone.

We saw a big shift to 50%+ people of colour across our Fellowship program, and an overall lift in satisfaction rates. Progress 2019 had a particularly thoughtful and bold agenda - and special thanks to Larissa Baldwin who led a powerful program of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and recruitment of nearly 130 First Nations participants across the events.

Progress Labs accelerated timely new initiatives to amplify the voice of young people in Australia's economic debates, protect digital rights, organise single mothers, promote drug policy reform, and tackle Australia's sugar epidemic. And importantly, we launched a new program to care for and coach our Labs graduates.

That we also ended the year with a modest financial surplus is a huge

achievement given tight budgets in every project - and reflects the hard work of our team, and the valued counsel of our superb board led by Roger West.

Over the past 7 years, we've encouraged, and been encouraged by, a perceptible shift in the backing of the philanthropic community for systems change. We saw significant growth and support for our own work and impact. We want to particularly thank Equity Trustees for their 3 year investment in the diversification and engagement of our community which began this year.



Nick Moraitis
Executive Director



SKILLS

PROGRESS FELLOWSHIP

75 participants (mid-career level) graduated from our intensive fellowship programs. This year, we ran our five-month program in Melbourne twice due to popular demand as well as a program in New Zealand.

Over 2-3 residential retreats and a seminar series, participants gain practical skills in strategy, community organising, messaging, digital, media and government relations; a community of peers; and the courage to take their work to the next level.

Throughout the year, our 600 fellowship alumni continued to connect at events, as well as in our dynamic online spaces, with nearly 1000 initial posts and 4000+ comments, tips and suggestions.

“The Progress Fellowship was one of the most transformative periods in my life. Not only was I empowered by the practical and theoretical knowledge and skills I gained and was able to immediately apply in my role as an advocate, but I am so grateful to have met and learnt from some of the most incredible people in our cohort, and made life-long connections and friendships. I have a renewed passion for, and a much better understanding of, inclusive advocacy and new skills.”

KIM OXLEY

Social Media Manager, Animals Australia

SKILLS

GLOBAL MESSAGING PROGRAM

This year Australian Progress coordinated a first-of-its-kind international course in social justice communications with partners Anat Shenker-Osorio, and the UK-based New Economy Organisers Network (NEON). 20 top movement leaders from Europe and the US joined Australian participants in Melbourne for their first residential workshop in June. The program continued through online seminars and personal research, with a second workshop completed in upstate New York later in 2019.

"It was an honour and privilege to be a part of the first Global Messaging Program. I learnt to throw out what I thought I knew about messaging and how to better analyse and improve how we speak about the issues we work on."

MICHELLE BENNETT

Communications Director, Human Rights Law Centre





SKILLS

DIGITAL FUNDRAISING FELLOWSHIP

We welcomed back US online fundraising gurus Michael Whitney (Bernie Sanders' online fundraising manager) and Nicole Aro (Action Network) to lead a special residential 5-day fellowship in growing financial revenue (especially for campaigning work) through best-practice digital acquisition and engagement.

"The Digital Fundraising Fellowship transformed my approach to digital fundraising and campaigning. I implemented a new member growth and donation strategy directly drawing on the concepts and tactics I learned in the fellowship. In just four short months this strategy yielded more small member donations for our organisation than in any previous year. The opportunity to learn from Michael and Nicole, who are without doubt international leaders in the field, was incredibly valuable."

ALYS GAGNON

Executive Director, The Parenthood

SKILLS

SHORT TRAININGS

We ran a broad range of specialist training programs to strengthen key skills, including:

DIGITAL BOOTCAMP

Digital Bootcamp was a five-day training run by the former head of social media at Amnesty International Jessie Mawson. It featured guest presentations from many of Australia's leading digital strategists including Jan Fran (known for SBS' The Feed) and Tom Maitland (Raisely).

MANAGEMENT MASTERCLASS

An expanded two-day program in managing teams, recruiting superstars and building culture, designed specifically for values-driven nonprofits led by our Deputy Executive Director, Kirsty Albion.

CORPORATE CAMPAIGN MASTERCLASS

The two-day intensive covered research and campaign skills to drive change in the corporate arena, run for the first time in partnership with ActionAid and the Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility.



COMMUNITY

LEADERSHIP 2019

Two weeks after a surprising federal election, we convened 230 CEOs and senior civil society leaders alongside emerging voices for a two-day debrief and opportunity to collectively shape our agenda for the coming term of government.

Participants heard from key journalists, pollsters and government relations experts on the make-up of the government and parliament, and from social change leaders with lessons and case-studies on what it takes to win change in the new political context.

Over interactive discussions and break-outs, participants developed action plans on issues ranging from Aboriginal self-determination to tax reforms, climate change and strengthening the social welfare safety-net.

"Leadership gathered an impressive group of community, non-profit and advocacy leaders from across the country. The summit provided participants with valuable opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another's diverse experience, with a program of thought-provoking conversations that prompted us to think differently about how to achieve progressive change in an increasingly challenging political environment."

EMMA DAWSON

Executive Director, Per Capita







PROGRESS 2019



COMMUNITY

PROGRESS 2019

Progress 2019 was our largest conference yet, with more than 1500 of Australia's leading change-makers converging on Melbourne Town Hall for two days in June. More than a dozen international guest speakers included the Secretary General of Amnesty International Kumi Naidoo, The Guardian UK's columnist Owen Jones, activist and author Asha Bandele, and messaging expert Anat Shenker-Osorio.

Progress also featured 160 local speakers discussing bold ideas and campaigns from criminal justice reform to climate change, and a major focus was on centring the voices of nearly 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activists, writers, and leaders in the program. Prominent broadcaster and writer, Yassmin Abdel-Magied was our emcee.

"Great job Australian Progress! Progress 2019 has given me a lift and made me realise it is more important than ever to keep fighting and not give up."

PROGRESS 2019 PARTICIPANT





COMMUNITY

PROGRESS CENTRAL

Our co-working space, Progress Central, expanded to a community of more than 55 social change-makers over the year including 20 groups like Climate for Change, Per Capita, Fair Agenda, SumOfUs, Change.org and Principle Co. In collaboration with our partners at Ethical Property, we also moved to a new, more functional space within the beautiful Donkeywheel House.

"Every time we welcome volunteers to the space, they marvel at the diversity of social change organisations working together under one roof. The community of warm faces at Progress Central has become familiar, and Australian Progress has ensured that there is space and time to have deep conversations, rather than awkward half-smiles in the hallway."

AJAYA HAIKERWAL
Assistant Program Manager &
Executive Assistant, Climate For Change

SHARED ACTION

PROGRESS LABS

Progress Labs, our social movement incubator, grew our portfolio of projects with a second cohort of six groups that fill unique gaps in our civil society space.

New initiatives backed were rights and privacy focused Digital Rights Watch; intergenerational justice group YOUNG; drug reform campaigners Unharm and Students for Sensible Drug Policy. We also worked with the Council of Single Mothers and their Children, a 50-year-old institution seeking to evolve their model, and SugarByHalf, a movement of health professionals and parents passionate about a future where people live better, stronger and healthier lives through the reduction of sugar-related diseases.

Groups took part in 5 months of training and planning work together, as well as pitched for funding to our philanthropic partners - raising more than \$600,000 through our support.





SHARED ACTION

PROGRESS LABS SECOND STAGE

Our portfolio of Labs projects are achieving big things. As three examples - Pride Cup has expanded to more than 50 communities across the country; Original Power is supporting First Nations communities to push back against fracking on their country; and Democracy in Power has trained hundreds of people of colour in campaigning and advocacy.

In 2019 we launched a second stage support program enabling continued coaching, fundraising and mentorship for the projects and this will expand further in 2020.



SHARED ACTION

ANAT SHENKER-OSORIO IN AUSTRALIA

In August 2018 we hosted American messaging and communications guru Anat Shenker-Osorio for a series of public and private events in Sydney and Melbourne. Anat presented to a packed house of more than 750 people in Melbourne at a public lecture on her US focused research exploring a new progressive narrative connecting race and class.

Anat also shared new findings from an Australian-US-UK study of the discourse around human rights at events co-hosted in Sydney by Amnesty International Australia and in Melbourne at the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.



PARTNERSHIPS

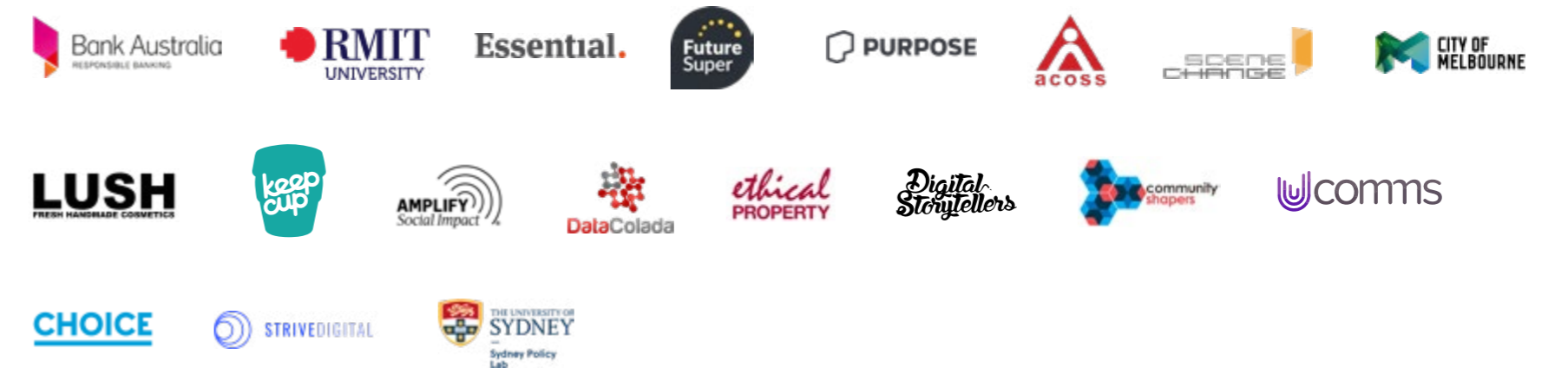
INNER CIRCLE



PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS OF AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS OR PROGRESS LABS



OTHER KEY PARTNERS





AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS TEAM

Nick Moraitis

Executive Director

Kirsty Albion

Deputy Executive Director

Elise Dalley

Labs & Impact Director

Matt Jowett

Major Events Manager

Phong Trinh

Community & Operations
Manager

Jessica Herne

Event Logistics Coordinator
(from March 2019)

Tracey Martinovich

Event Content Producer
(from March 2019)

Claudia Bailey

Executive Assistant
(from April 2019)

Anita Tang

Sydney and Aotearoa/NZ
Fellowship Facilitator
(Contractor)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger West

Former NSW Community
Services Commissioner
(Chair)

Anita Tang

Advocacy Advisor and
Campaign Coach (to
October 2018)

Clare Wimshurst

Chief Operations Officer,
ActionAid Australia
(Treasurer)

Dinah Arndt

Director, Climate Media
Centre

Emily Howie

Director of Legal Advocacy,
Human Rights Law Centre
(from October 2018)

Jeremy Hobbs

Former International
Executive Director, Oxfam

Karly Warner

CEO, Aboriginal Legal
Service NSW
(from October 2018)

Malinda Wink

Executive Director, Shark
Island Institute

Michael Tull

Assistant National
Secretary, Community and
Public Sector Union

Miriam Lyons

Campaign Director, GetUp
(to October 2018)

Nick Crocker

Partner, Blackbird Ventures

Rebecca Milgrom

Co-Director, Tripple

Sheena Watt

Executive Manager, Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Programs, AFL Sportsready

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2019.

These pages represent a snapshot of our financial reports, prepared by auditors Thomas David & Co.

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
INCOME		
EVENT AND TRAINING INCOME	656,984	326,770
MAJOR DONATIONS AND PHILANTHROPY	741,967	648,280
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	123,800	115,825
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OR CONSULTANCY FEES	208,100	25,185
RECOUPMENT OF EXPENDITURE	19,276	9,355
OTHER INCOME	13,102	36,584
INTEREST INCOME	722	209
TOTAL INCOME	1,763,951	1,162,208
EXPENDITURE		
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE	(632,982)	(452,414)
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	(33,736)	(33,750)
OTHER EXPENSES	(918,436)	(616,370)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(1,585,154)	(1,102,534)
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	178,797	59,674

BALANCE SHEET

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019.

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
ASSETS		
<i>CURRENT ASSETS</i>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	566,400	422,704
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	84,973	65,256
OTHER	103,361	12,412
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	754,734	500,372
<i>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</i>		
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	4,088	2,580
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,088	2,580
TOTAL ASSETS	758,822	502,952
LIABILITIES		
<i>CURRENT LIABILITIES</i>		
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	225,433	59,112
PROVISIONS	18,366	-
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	112,900	195,514
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	356,699	254,626
NET ASSETS	420,389	248,326
EQUITY		
<i>CURRENT EQUITY</i>		
RETAINED EARNINGS	427,123	248,326
TOTAL EQUITY	427,123	248,326

WHAT'S NEXT?

For more information on our events and training, visit our website at australianprogress.org.au/events.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MESSAGING PROJECT

In collaboration with Original Power and other groups, we're launching an urgent and substantial project to build the communications expertise of First Nations leaders and research messaging to win public support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination.

PROGRESS LABS COHORT 3

Progress Labs will incubate 4-5 new organisations in 2020, but we're particularly excited about the opportunity to facilitate learning, resource sharing and growth amongst our existing portfolio of 17 initiatives, starting with a skillshare retreat in October.

PROGRESS FELLOWSHIP

Progress Fellowship program will grow to more than 700 alumni in 2020, and for the first time in Australia, we're offering a National program that will be principally residential, enabling easier access for participants outside of Sydney and Melbourne.

PHILANTHROPY PAPER

We're expanding our work as an ally to the philanthropic community's engagement in systems change, including releasing a guidebook on good practices, and auspicing the Nexus 'next gen' philanthropy community.

UPCOMING PUBLIC TRAINING CALENDAR


PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	DATES
FWD+Organise 2019	FWD+Organise will return again in 2019, convening digital campaigners and community organisers to share practical skills, learn innovative new approaches and build lasting collaborations to win systemic change.	December 5-6, 2019
Melbourne Fellowship 2020	The Progress Fellowship is a five-month program that covers a deep dive into the strategies, approaches and tools for creating systemic change through public advocacy and campaigning.	February - June, 2020
National Fellowship 2020	The National Fellowship invites leaders from all over Australia to participate in a leadership program. Graduates are fluent in campaign strategy and theory of change, and confident in using a full suite of campaign tactics.	March - May 2020
Management Masterclass 2020	The Management Masterclass will run again in 2020, providing participants with unique modules in management best practice within civil society organisations.	Melbourne: June 10-11, 2020 Sydney: June 16-17, 2020
Sydney Fellowship 2020	The Progress Fellowship is a five-month program that covers a deep dive into the strategies, approaches and tools for creating systemic change through public advocacy and campaigning.	August - December, 2020





Michael Tull


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**AUSTRALIAN
PROGRESS** 

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