MEDIA RELEASE

New specialised advisor education will help unlock philanthropic giving in Australia

SYDNEY, 22 October 2026: Future Australian Impact Foundation (FAIF) Group is leading the way in professionalising philanthropic advising in Australia, announcing today that its subsidiary FAIF Education has launched Essential Philanthropic Advisor (EPA), a specialised continuing education program for financial planners, accountants, tax agents, lawyers, estate planners and wealth managers.

Australia has a target to double philanthropic giving by 2030. Yet most advisors, the professionals at the forefront of supporting clients to structure their wealth, have very limited if any formal education in philanthropy. Research from the Minderoo Foundation[1] released in 2026 estimated $7-12 billion in additional annual donations could be unlocked to help meet this target if professional advisors were better equipped to support charitable giving.

EPA is Australia's first CPD-accredited program of its kind equipping professional advisors to confidently guide clients through charitable giving. As a foundational course it gives advisors a practical grounding in giving vehicles, tax and structuring considerations, and the philanthropic landscape, and is designed to build the skills to have values-based conversations about giving. EPA is the first of three planned programs, offering advisors a pathway to build recognised expertise in philanthropic advising.

For advisors the opportunity is significant. Philanthropic conversations build deeper, longer-term client relationships and open the door to family and intergenerational wealth planning. For clients it means access to professional support to guide giving decisions with the same rigour applied to other aspects of their financial plan. For the sector, it means more structured, sustainable giving channelled to delivering social impact.

Hon Bernie Ripoll, Chairman of FAIF Group, said advisors are uniquely placed to shape the future of giving in Australia. "Advisors are often the first people a client talks to when they are thinking of giving back. They understand their clients' finances, families and goals, and they are trusted. If Australia is to double giving by 2030, advisors need to be equipped to lead those conversations."

Kerren Hosking, Chief Operating Officer of FAIF Education, said the EPA is designed to be practical and flexible for busy professionals. "EPA gives advisors the technical knowledge, communication tools and ethical framework to raise philanthropy with clients confidently. It is self-paced, built around case studies, and relevant to a broad range of professions, including financial advisors, accountants, lawyers and wealth managers."

Gary Scallan, Chief Executive Officer of FAIF Group, said the launch reflects the Group's broader commitment to enhancing philanthropy in Australia. "Growing giving at scale needs investment in the people and systems that support it. FAIF Group is addressing structural challenges inherent in the philanthropic sector, making it easier for Australians to give more effectively. EPA is the first step towards building a highly skilled, recognised community of philanthropic advisors."

The development of the EPA was supported by funding from the Minderoo Foundation.

EPA has been independently accredited for 13.25 CE/CPD hours by Portfolio Construction Forum, Australia's specialist, independent investment continuing education, accreditation and certification service. These CE/CPD hours can help meet the requirements of more than 20 governing bodies, including ASIC, APRA, Legislated (AU), FAAA, FMA and CIMA. Visit www.philanthropicadvisor.com.au for more information and to enrol.

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[1] Ruting B. Unlocking Generosity: The Potential Gains from Expanding Access to Advice on Charitable Giving. Minderoo Foundation and Edward Alexander Foundation; 2026; https://cdn.minderoo.org/assets/documents/unlocking-generosity-feb-2026.pdf

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