

CANBERRANS DIG DEEP FOR INNOVATIVE PHILANTHROPY

Following in the footsteps of similar events around the world from New York to Wellington, The Funding Network last night brought more than 150 Canberrans together for its first 'social investment experience' at the Vibe Canberra Airport Hotel. More than \$86,000 was raised - the highest value of pledges for any TFN event to date.

Snow Foundation CEO Georgina Byron said: "I'm so proud of Canberra. It is fantastic to be able to share more than \$86,000 between the four charities for whom we were raising funds.

"How communities collaborate on solving social issues is changing all around the world and the most exciting social innovation is happening at the local grassroots level.

"It's amazing how quickly and effectively individuals contributing small amounts can add up to big dollars that make an important difference for these organisations, who in turn are making an important difference through the work they do."

The event was presented in collaboration with Deloitte, The Snow Foundation, Canberra Airport and Hands Across Canberra.

The Funding Network Australia hosts live crowd-funding events where social entrepreneurs pitch for funding from live audiences. Its mission is to broaden the culture of giving by making it fun and accessible, and in turn to support Australia's brightest grassroots charities. Launched in Australia in 2014, the network has facilitated over \$3.5 million from more than 3000 guests, at 26 events, in support of 101 programs. www.thefundingnetwork.com.au

Four leading social entrepreneurs took to the floor at the Vibe to pitch their programs for six minutes to the live audience who were then encouraged to ask questions about the work. Each charity was selected for their innovative approach and potential to have a significant positive impact on communities in Canberra and overseas.

The four pitching organisations were:

Global Sisters Enabling women to lift themselves out of poverty through entrepreneurship. www.globalsisters.org

Paperworks Fostering social inclusion & employment for marginalised people through recycling & papermaking. www.paperworks.org.au

Abundant Water A Canberra-based initiative providing crucial domestic water filtration services in Laos. www.abundantwater.org

Malpa Teaching indigenous & non-indigenous children to become active health ambassadors & strengthen their communities. www.malpa.org.au

Each charity aims to raise at least \$10,000 from the audience on the night. Pledges are from as little as \$100 so anyone can get involved sponsoring these ground-breaking grassroots charities. Everyone is welcome but space is very limited so guests are being asked to please reserve their seat for \$20 via this invitation [link](#), these funds will then be distributed equally to the charities on the night.

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