



Impact Report

Organisation name

Global Sisters

Your name and position

Heather Thomson, Chief Operating Officer

Please describe the impact that the specific TFN funding has had.

As of end January 2018, we supported 20 women to develop their businesses. 10 are actively engaged with Global Sisters programs and at the set up or start up phase, and 10 have active businesses and are at the marginal or growth stage.

At the end of Sister School, participants pitch their business to their peers and a panel where they receive feedback from the panel on their business. Following on from the Sister School pitch event, the women are invited to a sales event/ showcase which enables both product and service based businesses to get their first sale or customer, which is a critical milestone in the development of their businesses.

This is followed by regular monthly Business Meet Ups where Sisters meet with our local Accelerator Lead and do practical business education sessions on key areas that they need to put in place to get their businesses off the ground and flourishing. These are a set of mix-and-match “learn by doing” modules based on the specific needs of that group and include topics like web presence and setting up a basic business accounting system.

When the businesses have launched, Sisters can then access our business coaching, microfinance, sales and marketing channels and technology support. Two case studies are attached, showing what this support looks like in practice for two very different businesses in Brisbane.

Sisters with active businesses are matched with one-on-one business coaches. The remainder of the Sisters are accessing group coaching at the Business Meet Ups until they are ready to be matched with a coach.

Please provide a quantitative breakdown of how TFN funds have been used

The funds were used for local staffing costs, primarily our Accelerator Lead in Queensland, Asja Svilans. Asja is responsible for:

1. community partnership development
2. facilitating the My Big Idea workshop
3. organising and supporting at the Sister School
4. leading the business meet ups and business development support directly to Sisters
5. connecting Sisters to business coaches and other Global Sisters support.

Describe any ways the funding was used that differs from that described your original pitch

Global Sisters worked with a cohort of women who were formerly homeless or at risk of homelessness and continue to do so via the Common Ground, Wesley Mission Qld and Logan Women's Health partnerships. Additional partnerships with refugee, asylum seeker and migrant organisations mean that not 100% of Sisters fall into the formerly homeless category, however these women are in the Global Sisters target group.

How many people have been affected by programs or activities that were supported with TFN funding?

My Big Idea workshop helps women land on a viable business idea to develop through Sister School. In FY 2017-18 we have run 3 My Big Idea workshops, supporting 41 women to create their business idea or clarify their further study/ job pathway.

Sister School: This FY we have run 1 face-to-face Sister Schools with 12 women in the Beenleigh area and 1 online Sister School with 5 participants from Brisbane, supporting a total of 17 women to develop their idea into a business. Another Sister School is in progress now, supporting another 25 women.

20 women are currently in the start up or growth stage, being supported by Global Sisters to develop their businesses and become financially independent.

What measures did you use to assess the impact?

We are tracking progress in business acumen, enterprise, economic status, empowerment and influence. These are the 5 impact domains that Global Sisters measures over time (3-4 years) with each Sister through our social impact program. The baseline data has been collected and we will have sufficient change data by end 2018 to start impact reporting.

Describe three ways that your organisation has changed in the last 12 months since the event

Global Sisters has grown in size in terms of impact, staff size and funding levels. Please see our Major Donor Report, Summer 2018 (sending via email)

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any additional financial support from anyone you met through TFN?

No

Over the last 12 months, did you receive any goods in-kind and/or pro-bono services from anyone you met through TFN?

No

How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives this year?

We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding

Has the TFN pitch coaching and mentoring helped you successfully secure funding from other sources you did not meet through TFN?

No

What were some of the other benefits of participating in TFN?

Participating at the TNC event at AMP was wonderful! It helped build the relationship with AMP Foundation, who at the time were our new partner, and introduced us to two fabulous not-for-profits- Streat and Wesley Mission NSW.

Do you have any other comments or feedback on the TFN experience or funding process?

NA