

Charitable Committee Annual Report 2019-20

Pitcher Partners Melbourne



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Vacation Program students Lance and Yuan put their cooking skills to the test in the FareShare kitchen in Melbourne.



Disclaimer: The material contained in this report is general commentary and pertains only to Pitcher Partners Melbourne. None of the material is, or should be regarded as, advice. Efforts have been made to maintain accuracy at the date of publication. Pitcher Partners, it’s Principal and agents accept no responsibility for any error or omission, or for any loss arising from the use of this information.

Note: Pitcher Partners Melbourne is not a registered not-for-profit organisation. The activities outlined in this report form part of the firm’s Corporate Social Responsibility program, and all financial contributions are made in conjunction with registered charities and not-for-profit organisations. Any use of the term Pitcher Partners refers to Pitcher Partners Melbourne.

Chair's report

Pitcher Partners Melbourne is pleased to present its second annual Charitable Committee report, detailing the firm's collective efforts to support the community.

At Pitcher Partners, we believe in making business personal, which means supporting our people, our clients and our communities where they need it most.

This philosophy is a unique part of the firm's culture and showcased through the many initiatives run in the Melbourne firm throughout the year. This includes both pro bono and low bono work for eligible clients and causes, as well as paid volunteer days for our people and numerous fundraising initiatives, including the Pitcher Partners Charitable Fund, which supports disadvantaged individuals to access further study and education.

It has been a particularly difficult period for many members of our community, including drought-stricken farmers, bushfire-affected communities and the community more broadly amid COVID-19. These events have made the work of the firm and the Charitable Committee more important than ever in supporting those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable.

While the contribution figures fell short of the 2019-20 target due to disruption from macro events, the Committee is confident this will be offset in coming years to deliver even greater support to the community.

We invite you to learn more in this report about the work of the Melbourne firm and the Charitable Committee, and the wonderful work they support.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank our people, clients and industry partners, and the many not-for-profit organisations and volunteers for your tireless efforts throughout the year. Your commitment to the community we live and work in has a real and positive impact.



Sue Dahn
Chair – Charitable Committee



About us

The Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee was established to provide the governance structure to the Melbourne firm's community-based projects and initiatives on behalf of the Pitcher Partners Melbourne partnership.

Vision

Our vision for Victoria is for a fair and flourishing state that provides great opportunities for all.

Our vision for the Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee is to apply the combined talents and resources of our firm to support and assist the communities in which we operate and to leave a legacy of meaningful and positive impacts as our contribution to a fair and flourishing state.



Our target

For every hour worked by Pitcher Partners Melbourne personnel, Pitcher Partners Melbourne contributes the equivalent of \$1 to supporting worthwhile community initiatives. **The target in 2019-20 was to contribute \$1.2 million in support.**

Purpose

The Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee (PPCC) supports initiatives and organisations that make a positive difference in the community. The extent of this support is monitored and represented in this annual report.

The role of the PPCC is to ensure all contributions are made within agreed operating principles and guidelines. The scope of the Committee includes oversight of all charitable contributions including:

- Pro bono and low bono engagements
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives
- Pitcher Partners Charitable Fund donations and grants
- Other community support related programs

Values

As a firm and a committee, our values drive everything we do:



CARE

Put people at the heart of everything we do



COURAGE

Make brave choices and challenge the status quo



ONE FIRM

Work and lead as one team



ENERGY

Find a way and make it happen



HONESTY

Build trust and do what is right

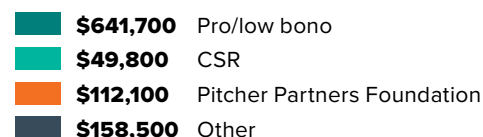
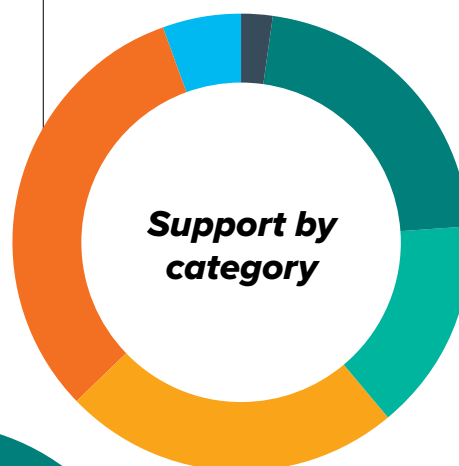
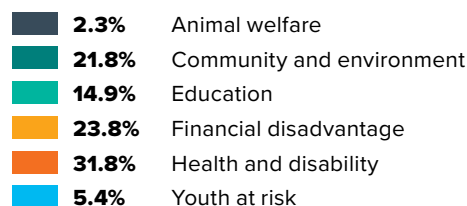
Supporting community

Pitcher Partners invests in a variety of projects and initiatives that support the community.

Pro bono, fundraising and other activities are designed to provide access to education, shelter, food and other basic support for disadvantaged members of the community.

During the 2019-20 more than \$962,000 in charitable support was provided in the following areas:

- Pro bono / Low bono
- CSR
- Charitable Fund
- Other initiatives



Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee (Melbourne)



Pro bono

\$641,700

contributed in pro bono and low bono professional support



Corporate Social Responsibility

\$49,800

contributed to worthwhile causes through internal fundraising initiatives



Educational support

\$112,100

The Pitcher Partners Charitable Fund raises funds to provide education support to disadvantaged members of the community



Other support

\$52,800

Employees donated 255 hours of support to eligible organisations and causes during paid work hours



Other support

\$105,700

The firm also raised funds for the Leukaemia Foundation in support of the fight against blood cancer through its inaugural Bloody Big BBQ event



FareShare

Meals for those at risk

FareShare works with businesses to redirect their surplus food – avoiding it being wasted, taking up limited landfill and releasing greenhouse gases as it breaks down.

Every year FareShare mobilises and supervises 10,000 volunteers to cook rescued food into 2.5 million nutritious, appealing meals in Australia's largest charity kitchens – Melbourne and Brisbane.

It distributes the cooked meals to hundreds of Australian charities each year to help improve the diets and health of men, women and children who are doing it tough.

"Pitcher Partners' support this year has saved FareShare precious funds that we've used to cook millions of meals for vulnerable Australians. More than 100,000 free, nutritious meals have been cooked for vulnerable Australians thanks to the firm's support over the last year. Nothing is ever too much for the Pitcher Partners team – they always seek to do more."

Marcus Godinho

Chief Executive Officer – FareShare

Support provided: low bono professional services and corporate volunteering



Pro bono and low bono support

Pitcher Partners people are empowered to donate both their time and expertise through a range of initiatives including pro bono and low bono work.

We provide free and discounted (up to 90%) business and specialist advice of the highest standard to support organisations within our community that meet our selection criteria.

During the 2019-20 period, Pitcher Partners Melbourne provided pro bono and/or low bono support services valued at \$641,700 to many not-for-profit organisations including but not limited to those below.

Organisation	
Amy Gillett Foundation Trust	Priceline Sisterhood Foundation
Asia Pacific Business Coalition on Aids	Royal Flying Doctor Service (Victorian Section)
Athletes For Hope	Sea Shepherd Australia Ltd
Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Order	Shared Value Project Limited
FareShare	Smiling Mind
Foodbank Australia	Snowdome Foundation Limited
Funflight Limited	Stella Prize Inc.
Her Place Australian Women's Heritage and Museum Ltd	Streat Limited
Kids Like Us Australia Limited	Tee Up For Kids Children's Foundation
Kids Under Cover Australia	The Bridge of Hope Foundation
Kinfolk Enterprise	The Hanna Foundation Ltd
Lady Gowrie Child Centre (Melbourne) Inc	The Ian Potter Foundation Ltd
Lighthouse Foundation Limited	The Pinnacle Foundation
Melbourne Press Club	The Venny Inc
My Room Inc	The Victorian Homeless Fund Ltd
Online Hate Prevention Institute	Tour De Cure
Pancare Foundation	Uncle Bobs Club
Pollinate Energy Limited	



[Learn more about My Room here](#)



[Learn more about The Venny here](#)



My Room Children's Cancer Charity

Supporting medical research

My Room Children's Cancer Charity assists in funding research programs relating to childhood cancer prevention and cure.

It also provides support to families experiencing financial hardship during hospital visitation and ongoing treatment by way of home medical equipment, comfort aids, accommodation, transport and funeral expenses.

"Working with Pitcher Partners has allowed My Room to expand our business network and create new opportunities for fundraising initiatives. The team of people are our trusted advisors. While they provide a range of valuable technical skills, they also act as our sounding board, taking the time to discuss our challenges, opportunities and ideas.

Pitcher Partners' support allows My Room to keep overheads down, which means a greater percentage of funds go directly to research funding and Samaritan support to families."

Margaret Zita

**Chief Executive Officer –
My Room Children's Cancer Charity**

Support provided: pro bono professional services and corporate volunteering



Corporate Social Responsibility

Pitcher Partners provided financial support to a range of social causes during the reporting period.

Broadly, support was allocated across the following categories.



Hub coffee

For every coffee purchased at the Pitcher Partners Hub Café, the firm donates an additional 50 cents to the charities chosen by our people.



Casual clothes days

Raising up to \$700 per month from our people who choose to wear casual clothing on the first Friday of every month.



Internal events

Thousands of dollars in donations were raised through events including The Bloody Big BBQ, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Buy a Bale, Prahran City Mission, RUOK? Day and others

In addition, Pitcher Partners Melbourne matched all staff donations to eligible causes, dollar for dollar. In the 2019-20 year, with matching, this equated to more than \$49,800.

While on-site charitable initiatives were impacted by COVID-19, the Committee is proud of the tremendous efforts of those involved in raising funds.

Causes supported	
Australian Red Cross	My Cause
Beyond Blue	Pollinate
Breast Cancer Network Australia	Prahran Mission
Bridge of Hope	Salvation Army
Bushfire Appeal Victoria	Soldier On
Children Cancer Foundation	St. Kilda Gatehouse
Global Woman's project	The Smith Family
Habitat for Humanity	Therapy Animals Australia
Kids Like Us	Very Special Kids
Learning for Life	Wind of Change (Onni House Project)
Leukaemia Foundation	World Vision
Lighthouse Foundation	Zoo Australia Fire Fund

The Venny

Supporting youth at risk

The Venny is a free communal backyard and adventure playground designed for children aged 5 to 16 years and their families. It is a unique community cultural space that supports intercultural play, therapeutic support and social cohesion.

“The best aspect of working with Pitcher Partners is having access to a friendly and approachable team of professionals. Their service extends beyond financial management to mentoring our staff team and personally supporting our charity events. The support allows us to uphold a professional standard and build our financial capacity at a board and operational level. It gives us a solid and transparent base to operate from and engenders trust in our partners and stakeholders.”

Kirsty Ellem

Acting General Manager – The Venny

Support provided: pro bono professional services



The Pitcher Partners Charitable Fund

The Melbourne partnership sought an appropriate vehicle through which it could reinvest in the profession that gave them such rewarding careers and opportunities.

It determined that the best way to do this would be to assist talented members of our community who were at risk of dropping out of their tertiary education studies due to financial hardship.

The Pitcher Partners Charitable Fund was established in 2014, as the vehicle to build capital to provide the funds to support aspiring individuals in obtaining qualifications in accounting and related professions. The scholarships are currently administered in conjunction with Deakin University to whom we are most grateful. Up to three scholarships are made available each year with successful candidates being selected by a panel involving three partners from Pitcher Partners.

Funding for the scholarship program is provided through:

- contributions by the Melbourne partnership
- fundraising initiatives supported by the firm, clients and staff

In the 2019-20 reporting period, Pitcher Partners contributed a total of \$112,000 to the fund.



Scholarship recipient
Elizabeth Aitken

When leaving school, Elizabeth wasn't sure what career path she wanted to pursue. After exploring study in psychology and work in marketing, HR and accounting, Elizabeth soon developed a sense of where her passions laid. This realisation led to a specialisation in accounting.

Currently working for a small accounting firm while studying, Elizabeth is passionate about working with small and medium businesses to make a real difference. The balance of practical workplace experience together with her studies has assisted her both personally and professionally.

In the final year of studying a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Elizabeth looks forward to continuing to pursue a career in tax accounting.

“The Pitcher Partners scholarship has helped me hugely. It's enabled me to study full-time and work part-time, while fulfilling my parenting duties. The support of the scholarship means I will complete my degree and build my professional career sooner than I could have imagined.”



Scholarship recipient
Chloe Harbour

Chloe has always admired the work environment and versatility that the fields of accounting and law provide and sought to combine those passions in a double degree in Law and Commerce, with a major in accounting.

Her goal is to undertake vacation programs in both accounting and law over the next two years, and seeks to apply for Pitcher Partners' 2021 summer vacation program to obtain firsthand work experience in an inclusive environment.

"Due to my visual disability, I struggled to maintain a balance between work and study in my first year of university as I often suffered migraines on days where I would spend a whole day at uni and then have to work. The scholarship has meant I can reduce my part-time workload and focus more of my time and effort on my studies.

It has also allowed me to take up a volunteer position as an assistant treasurer of UN Youth Victoria without having the added stress of how I will cover my university expenses."



Scholarship recipient
Madelaine Hamilton

At high school, mathematics was always Madelaine's strongest area and something she genuinely enjoyed.

After graduating high school an ex teacher encouraged her to apply for a trainee accountant position at a local accounting firm, which she successfully landed.

Six years later, Madelaine continues to work with the firm while studying a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in accounting and minoring in taxation regulation and wealth management.

Madelaine intends to study over summer this year to complete her Bachelor by the end of 2021, then move to the city and secure a role at a larger firm that offers room for learning and growth. Whether that's before Madelaine completes her CPA course, is yet to be decided.

"The Pitcher Partners scholarship has provided me with a lot of financial stability and helps fund all textbooks and supplies. In addition to this though, through the interview process for the scholarship the Pitcher Partners team that conducted my interview provided me with valuable advice that has had a major impact on my long-term goals for my career."

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood

Blood drive

Pitcher Partners' undertook a blood drive in 2019, encouraging staff and their networks to give blood where possible.



88

Donations

(45 plasma and 43 blood)

264

Lives saved



Charity event

The Bloody Big BBQ

Honouring Troy Hair

Held in October 2019, The Bloody Big BBQ was held in honour of beloved friend and colleague Troy Hair who passed away from Leukaemia in 2017 at age 39.

The event raised \$105,700 for the Leukaemia Foundation in the fight against blood cancers.



Managing Partner, Brendan Britten, agreed to shave his head if firm fundraising efforts exceeded \$100,000.

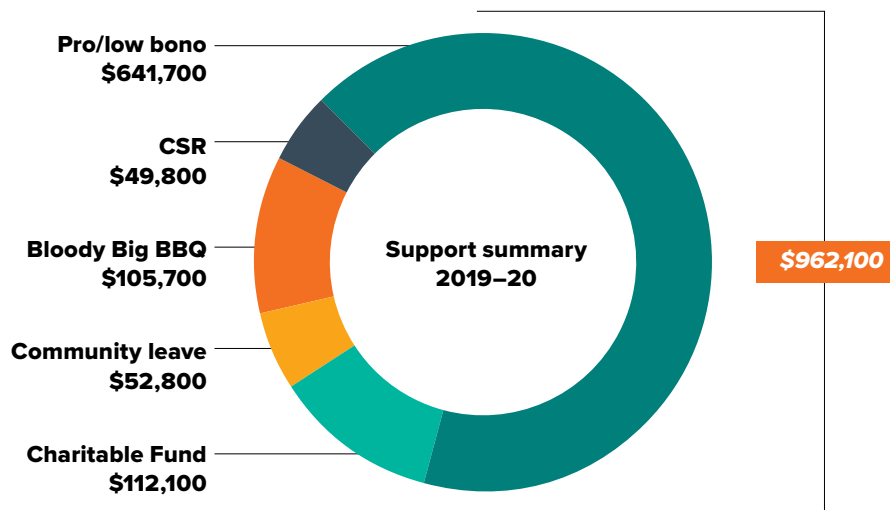


\$105,700 raised

Summary

Below is a summary of the support provided by Pitcher Partners Melbourne.

Support summary 2019–20		
Initiatives	Contribution	Support
CSR	\$49,800	20+ organisations supported
Pro/low bono	\$641,700	80+ organisations supported
Charitable Fund	\$112,100	Three students supported
Community leave	\$52,800	49 staff provided more than 250 hours of volunteer work to a range of causes
Special event – Bloody Big BBQ	\$105,700	Funding for blood cancer research
Total	\$962,100	



Governance

While the Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee is not a registered charity or not-for-profit it upholds many of the same governing principles to ensure it acts fairly and in accordance with both best practice and legal and regulatory requirements.

Purpose

The Committee has a clear mandate – to support initiatives and organisations that drive meaningful outcomes in the community. Its role is to ensure all contributions are made within agreed operating principles and guidelines.

Accountability and responsibility

The Committee comprises skilled and experienced individuals to govern the work of the Committee to meet its purpose and obligations. Committee members are drawn from the Melbourne partnership and the firm's executive, including representatives from Finance, People Experience and Client Experience, as well as representatives from the firm's CSR Committee.

Compliance

While the Committee is not a registered charity or not-for-profit, it reports on its initiatives annually and ensures Pitcher Partners volunteers and representatives adhere to relevant workplace requirements where necessary, including WH&S and Working with Children checks.

Duties

Members meet quarterly to discuss the strategic merits of the Committee and its works, reporting upon the success of past and future initiatives and the actual and projected impact on communities. These results are reported upon annually in the Charitable Committee annual report.

Meet the teams

Pitcher Partners Melbourne's charitable initiatives are the result of many people within the firm and the community.

In particular, we recognise the commitment of both the Charitable Committee and the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee for the collective efforts in supporting the community.

Pitcher Partners Charitable Committee

The Committee is driven by experienced business professionals, drawn from the Melbourne firm's partnership and senior management teams. The members comprise:



Sue Dahn

Chair

Partner – Investment Advisory



Matt Wilson

Member

Partner – Consulting



Brendan Britten

Member

Managing Partner



Kellie Davidson

Member

Partner – Investment Advisory



Mark Harrison

Member

Partner – Business Assurance and Advisory



Krithika Hansen

Advisor

Director – People Experience



Aileen O'Carroll

Member

Partner – Tax Consulting



Steven Marcato

Advisor

Director – Finance and Operations



Nick Bull

Member

Partner – Business Assurance and Advisory



Nicholas Brittain

Advisor

Senior Manager – Brand and Communications

Corporate Social Responsibility Committee

The Committee is driven by leaders from all areas of the Melbourne firm.
The members comprise:



Mark Harrison

Member
*Partner – Business Assurance
and Advisory*



Sarah Whelen

Member
*National Communications
Coordinator*



Rebekah Halls

Member
Internal Communications Advisor



Ashley Piper

Member
Manager – Tax Consulting



Rebecca Koch

Member
Analyst



Stephanie Voon

Member
*Assistant Manager
– Tax Consulting*



Elizabeth Lennie

Member
*Team Assistant / Marketing
Administrator*



Bela Attewell

Member
Marketing and Events Coordinator



Emma Anderson

Member
Executive Assistant

Making business *personal*

Thank you to Pitcher Partners' people, clients, alumni and industry partners for your ongoing support and drive to effect change in the community. Your commitment and dedication has a real and tangible impact on many lives.

Adelaide Brisbane Melbourne Newcastle Perth Sydney

Pitcher Partners is an association of independent firms. *Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. Pitcher Partners is a member of the global network of Baker Tilly International Limited, the members of which are separate and independent legal entities.*



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