

Tomorrow Today Board Director Expression of Interest Information

Tomorrow Today is a philanthropic organisation formed and run by local citizens to benefit the Benalla and district community.

Launched in 2002, Tomorrow Today Foundation is one of approximately 40 community foundations Australia-wide that focus on bringing together people and resources to help strengthen their communities. It operates as a company limited by guarantee.

Tomorrow Today Foundation's mission is to enable the people of Benalla and district to create a stronger, more resilient and prosperous rural community. Main activities in achieving this are:

1. Attracting and managing resources for community benefit (including the Community Fund which generates income to provide annual grants for local organisations and our Nunn Street property which provides a permanent home for the Foundation plus an income stream);
2. Distributing grants and resources openly and transparently, demonstrating the benefits of community philanthropy;
3. Providing a responsible and accessible way for donors and volunteers to respond to local issues through a range of community development initiatives;
4. Stimulating the development of Benalla and district by harnessing local knowledge and resources, and taking a leadership and advocacy role on issues important to the community.

Benalla has a high level of social disadvantage which affects the educational outcomes of our young people. Our 'Education Benalla Program' is a major initiative to improve Benalla student outcomes, involving family, school and community life. To ensure the sustainability of this ground-breaking program, the Tomorrow Today Education Foundation was established in 2016.

The purpose of Tomorrow Today Education Foundation is to reduce the level of disadvantage in Benalla. Its main activities are:

1. Delivering the Education Benalla Program to mitigate the effects of disadvantage and so give every Benalla child the chance to prosper in life irrespective of their socio-economic status.
2. Working with organisations and groups throughout Benalla, and beyond, using a range of delivery methods to achieve long term measurable change in educational outcomes.

Working with partners and volunteers throughout our community, the Education Benalla Program is actively involved with more than 1,500 children and their parents and carers, with flow-on effects to approximately 3,000 more. It has received national recognition as a model of community-led place based change.

The two companies, Tomorrow Today Foundation and Tomorrow Today Education Foundation, work in close partnership, with the public face simply referred to as 'Tomorrow Today'. The Boards of the two companies are composed of the same Directors.

The structure of the two companies has been carefully formulated, with strict rules and procedures that must be adhered to. Whilst this is time consuming, the required laws and operating procedures provide the very best assurance to authorities and the community that Tomorrow Today offers a solid structure, and a mechanism for giving that is sustainable.

The Board of Directors are local people with demonstrated skills and experience and with a strong commitment to the district. A majority of directors at any time must meet the established standards of the Australian Tax Office for a 'responsible person'.

No directors' fees are paid. Directors provide their time and expertise free of charge. Appointment is for an initial two-year term. Directors are expected to attend governance and community philanthropy opportunities at their own expense.

The Boards meet as required throughout the year to determine policy and strategy, review progress and determine application of funds. Presently Board meetings are held on a Friday morning, 8.00am – 10.00am every four to six weeks.

Prospective Board Members are expected to:

- Demonstrate skills and expertise that will benefit the governance of a charitable company. Skills in fields such as community development, marketing, media, IT, fundraising, accounting and/or business would be particularly valued at present
- Have the capacity to reflect the views and needs of Benalla and District through a demonstrated history of community participation
- Have continuing high levels of performance in their fields of endeavour
- Have integrity and a high standing in the community
- Have good working knowledge and understanding of accountability relationships and corporate governance
- Have demonstrated strategic thinking, planning and leadership skills and experience at high-level decision making
- Have experience in effective consultation and collaboration

In addition, issues such as age, gender balance and diversity of the existing board will be taken into account in the selection process.

Interested community members are requested to forward an Expression of Interest with a curriculum vitae including the contact details of two referees by Friday 13 August 2021, addressed to the Chair, Sally Gamble.