

Contents

- 02 Ethics of Everyday Life
- 04 Reflection on 2021-22
- 06 Highlights of 2021-22
- 08 Our Vision & Strategic Pillars for Change
- 10 Good Decision Making
- 16 Building & Maintaining a Civil Society
- 24 Revitalising Australia's Ethical Infrastructure
- 28 Fundraising & Membership
- 30 Our Theory of Change
- 31 Looking Forward
- 32 Financial Performance
- 34 Governance
- 36 Our Supporters



Creating the Space to Talk About the Ethics of Everyday Life

How can we travel more ethically?



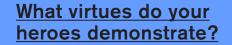
Is it time to listen to young people?



Do businesses and employees have to value the same things?



What moral responsibility do artists have?





How important is diversity to business?





Does our morality need to evolve?



Do we have the right to tell someone else's story?

How do you approach difficult conversations with friends and family?



How can we approach sexual ethics?

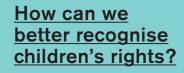




Is social media a moral trap?



<u>Is connection the</u> antidote to loneliness?





How can Australia pave a successful future?



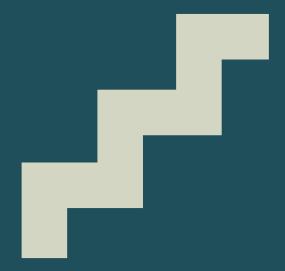


Are internships valuable or exploitative?



Did Australia's lockdowns leave certain parts of the population vulnerable?

2021-22 Reflection



One of the enduring challenges facing The Ethics Centre has been to cast the topic of 'ethics' in a predominantly positive light. Too often, the subject of ethics arises in the context of ethical failure, whether it's commercial, political or institutional – then, for a relatively brief moment, the conversation turns to the need for 'better ethics'.

This is perfectly understandable. After all, there is a vast amount of legislation, regulation and surveillance in place – all of it designed to prevent or correct aberrant behaviour through a narrow form of compliance. Yet, all manner of wrongdoing continues. Given this, the public rightly concludes that the problem ultimately lies with the fact that too many organisations and individuals fail to exercise ethical restraint. Seen in this light, 'ethics' is a lot like 'hygiene' in a hospital – essential if one is to minimise the risk of harm.

Although essential, hygiene in a hospital contributes nothing towards effecting a cure for illness. Instead, it is the skill and care of the doctors, nurses and members of allied health-care professions who make us better. The Ethics Centre sees 'ethics' in the same way. Of course, there is a need for 'hygiene' measures – which include all of the compliance measures put in place by both governments and the private sector. Such measures might prevent many forms of harm. However, they do not make us better as a society.

The range of complex ethical questions facing Australian society and the world are increasing every day. Unfortunately, we are doing little to invest in our collective capacity to deal with them. Ethical literacy and competence can no longer be seen as 'optional extras'. There is just too much at stake – too many critical decisions that will define our future, too many mounting existential threats where bad decisions have lethal consequences, and too many questions where the quality of our nation's 'ethical infrastructure' will determine whether or not the community will trust and support the decisions made in our name.

So, funding improvements in our ethical infrastructure should be seen as an investment in positive outcomes rather than as a response to past failure.

This is why The Ethics Centre's purpose is to bring ethics to the centre of everyday life. We believe that our work is to catalyse and enable a critical capacity necessary to achieve a better future. This drive to make ethics a **positive** force for good is reflected in our work of the past year.



Of particular relevance, has been substantial progress in the development of new strategy to engage with younger Australians. Much good work has been done by our associated entity, Primary Ethics, however its scope is necessarily limited. Given this, the Centre is continuing to explore how best to develop and deploy programs in secondary schools, including an exciting pilot program being developed with the Menzies Foundation. More recently, we joined with Relationships Australia NSW to develop the Moral Courage program, designed to help secondary students develop the skills needed to navigate the complex ethical landscape they encounter, not least in relation to interpersonal relationships. However, there is considerable interest in ethics from those who have left school and are in the early stages of their working life. Our challenge is to tap into that latent concern for ethics and provide new and relevant opportunities to engage with the Centre and its work.

We have also seen an expansion in our unique **Ethi-call** service, which has been running now for 31 years. The circumstances around COVID have changed the scale of demand. In response, we have trained more counsellors, have improved systems and worked to raise awareness of a service that is, by every measure, excellent. It's surprising how hard it is to let the community know that this free service is available to all. Yet, once they know of and make use of it, the results are remarkably good.

These are just two highlights out of many – which include the exceptional work of our Engagement Team and notably their preparation for the next **Festival of Dangerous Ideas**, the ongoing program of the **Ethics Alliance** which offers shared insight into the ethical challenges faced by organisations large and small, and the ongoing integration of **The Banking and Finance Oath** (The BFO) into the core of our work. We have a wonderful team of people, both paid and unpaid working at the Centre, ably supported by colleagues who provide rock-solid support in finance and operations.

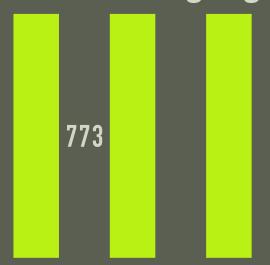
I also wish to acknowledge the support of the Centre's Board of Directors, led by our Chair, Peter Joseph. They live with us on the edge, and have the courage and commitment to back our mission even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Why so much effort when the 'row we hoe' is so tough? Because every one of us knows that better decisions make a better world. And that's what ethics allows, and indeed requires, us to make.

Dr Simon Longstaff AO Executive Director



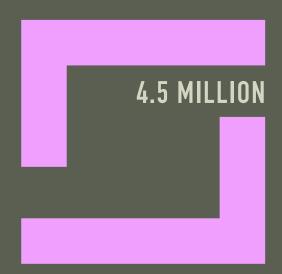
2021-22 Highlights



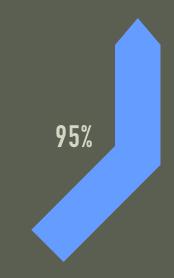
Members of The Ethics Centre, welcoming 291 more members into our community, growth of 34%.



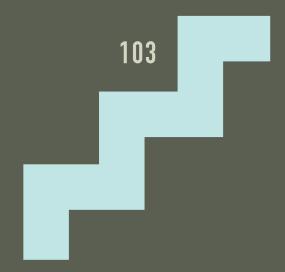
Minutes of Ethi-call counselling, an increase of 50%.



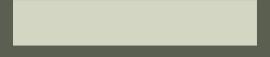
Website views, an increase of 80%.



Of people who used Ethi-call reported their session gave them a better way to think about difficult issues in the future.



Articles published (grown from 54 last financial year).



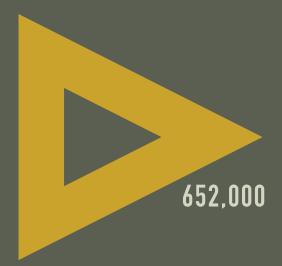




Individual reads of content on The Ethics Centre website.



Podcast downloads, across 4 series: FODI, Little Bad Thing, Leading with Purpose, Life and Debt



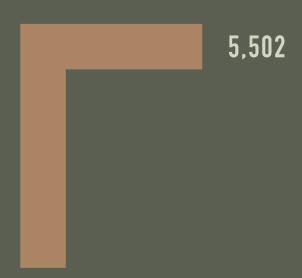
Views of The Ethics Centre and Festival of Dangerous Ideas videos amounting to 30,000 hours watched.



Member organisations of The Ethics Alliance, a network of organisations united in embedding ethics at the centre of what they do.



Fans in our social media community across Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok and YouTube, an increase of 38%.



Total signatories to The Banking and Finance Oath.



Potential audience reached by media coverage that featured The Ethics Centre and Festival of Dangerous Ideas.

Our Vision

In 2021-22, our world continued to face unprecedented global challenges. Our vision provides a way forward.

A WORLD IN WHICH

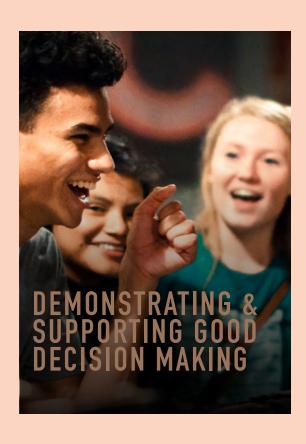


POWER HAS BEEN CHECKED BY CONSCIENCE; GOOD AND RIGHT PREVAIL

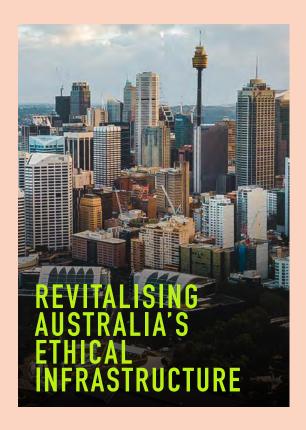
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

Our Strategic Pillars for Change

We bring ethics to the centre of everyday life in three strategic ways:







The Ethics Centre's role is unique.

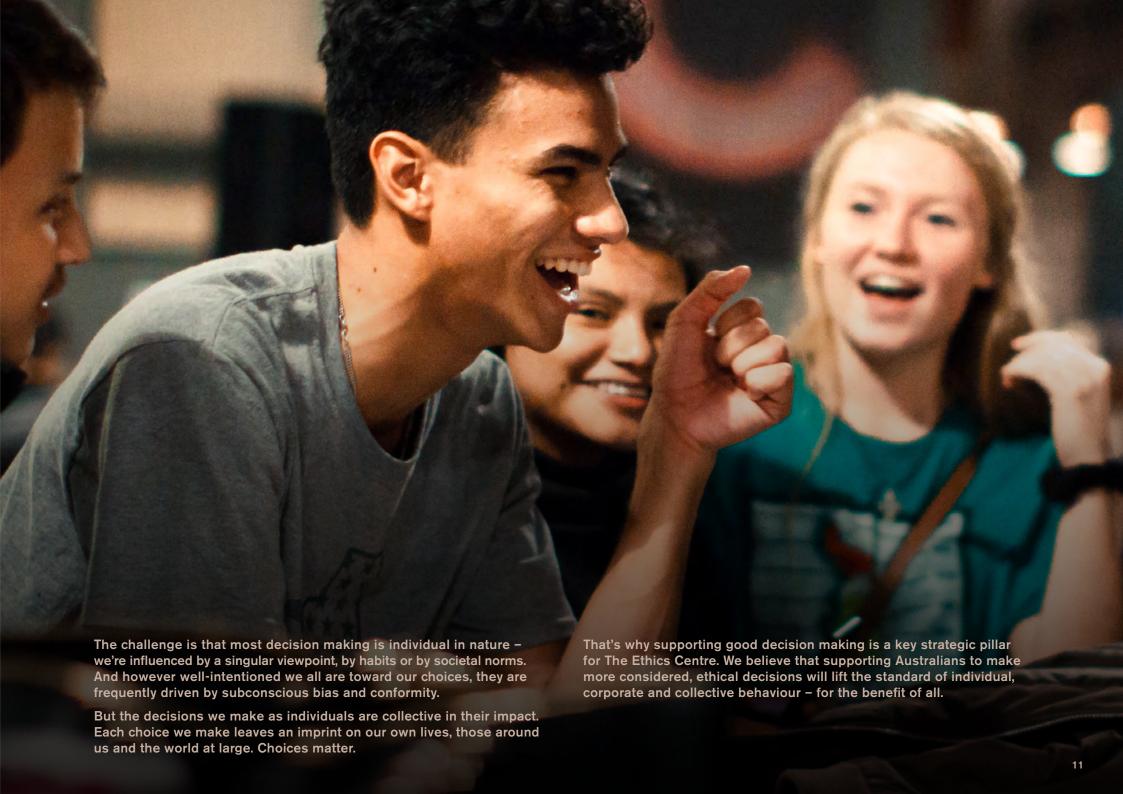
We advocate for higher ethical standards in all areas of society; including business, politics, finance, sport, energy, the military, NGOs and more. We work to hold open civic space to debate and discuss the ideas that define our time. When people or organisations need an independent consultant on ethical dilemmas, we provide that confidential service. We provide ethics counselling to anyone who needs it.

We promote ethics to all - from children in schools, to the houses of parliament and Australia's business leaders - as a way to realise our vision for a better world.

Let's explore how.

DEMONSTRATING & SUPPORTING GOOD DECISION MAKING

Our decisions shape the world, one at a time. Philosophers have examined the underlying structure of decision making. It is reflected in the core question of ethics, first posed by Socrates as 'what ought one do?'





Supporting an Industry Commitment to Ethical Practices

The Banking and Finance Oath (The BFO) grew to 5,502 total signatories this year. Its flagship Young Ambassadors program had 11 bright and dedicated members of the financial services industry work together to produce two outstanding projects: a Life and Debt podcast series that takes a deep dive into debt (more than 100 listens in the first month of release) and a paper exploring the growing issue of Al-driven marketing in financial services, in partnership with the Gradient Institute.

"The BFO helps individuals be the catalyst for changing systems which lead to unethical outcomes."

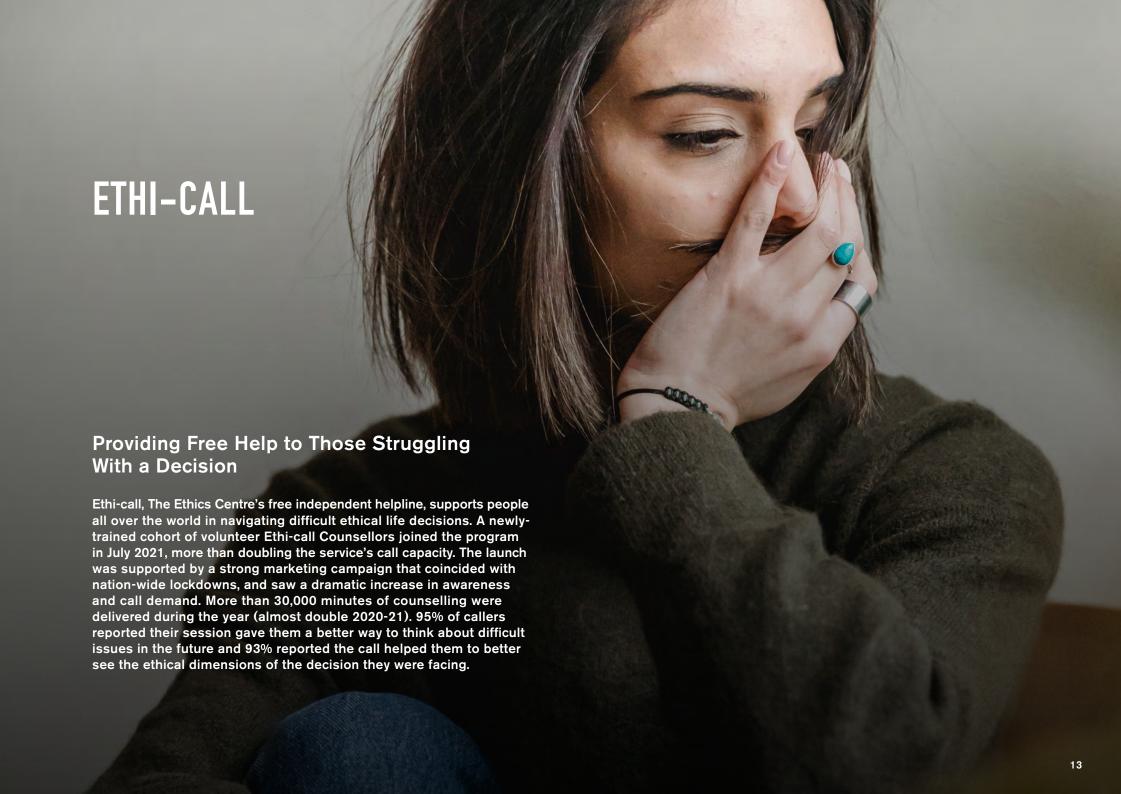
Ben Robinson, Young Ambassador 2021

Leading Good Decision-making in Business

Decision Lab workshops provide a process for leadership teams to navigate the ethical questions in relation to critical decision making, using an organisation's ethics framework (purpose, values, principles) and The Centre's expertise. For example, a growing need for more nuanced and considered decisions that philanthropic, arts, sports and grant-making bodies often must make is: Who do we accept funding from? Decision lab workshops that framed issues such as these were delivered several times in 2021-22 to support the development of successful decision-making frameworks in a range of organisations.

A Success Story in Building Culture

In 2017, after facing significant cultural and operational challenges, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) commissioned The Ethics Centre to review the AOC's National Federations, the experience and perceptions of their staff, and whether their culture aligned with their purpose, values and principles. A culture pulse conducted in late 2021 found that following the implementation of all 17 recommendations from The Centre, the AOC significantly improved across the overwhelming majority of measures, including 'workplace relations are constructive and respectful' improving from 31% to 83% and 'AOC's values are modelled by executive team' improving from 31% to 75%.

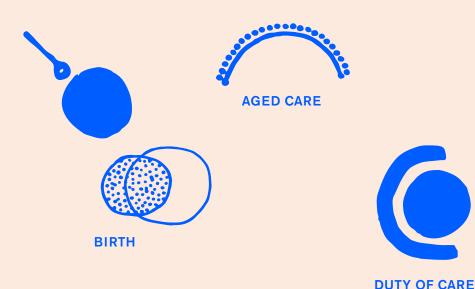


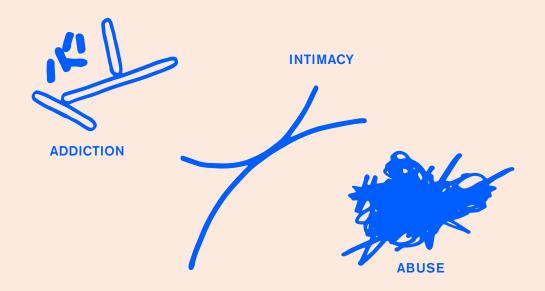
Helping People Find a Path Forward

Feedback from Ethi-call Callers



"Incredibly helpful in teasing out and elucidating the main threads of the issue that I am attempting to resolve. I feel much better able to approach the issue given my capacity now to see the problem in terms of my own goals and values ... I would definitely recommend this process to others."





"Outstanding session. I was very impressed by the level of questioning. The level of engagement was high and I felt heard on all levels. The stand out for me was the neutrality during the call which allowed me to continue working through my conundrum without bias."







"Is it supposed to happen this fast? I feel so relieved."







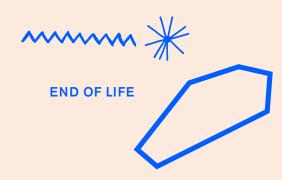


NEGLIGENCE



"I had an open mind before the session – it exhaustively diagnosed the matter and gave me insights into all possible scenarios. It comprehensively met my expectations and was of great comfort."









BUILDING & MAINTAINING A CIVIL SOCIETY

A civil society is an open society. One in which ideas, ideals and beliefs can be addressed openly, with mutual respect. It doesn't mean that everyone has to have the same views or perspectives, rather that discussion and interrogation of ideas is not only possible, but undertaken for the pursuit of the greater good.



Ethics invites engagement with alternative points of view. Through connection and empathy, change becomes possible. This is only achieved by listening, questioning, discovering and interrogating the things that we consider to be true.

At The Ethics Centre we champion the examined life. We provide safe spaces where conversations can occur and where people can challenge their own assumptions about what ought to be done.

We aim to create opportunities in which people can explore ethical questions; respectful conversation, civic debate and bringing together different perspectives.

Building Ethics Knowledge

The Ethics Centre creates content to promote ethical literacy and hold space open for public discussions about ethics. Spanning articles, podcasts and videos, our content-led approach connects a wide range of audiences to our work, while providing a nuanced and considered approach to discussing the ethical issues our society faces.

READ



Articles published (grown from 54 last financial year)



Contributors (grown from 16 last financial year)



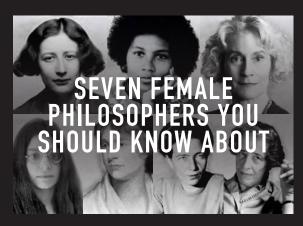
Most popular ethics explainer



Individual reads of content on The Ethics Centre website



Most popular article



Most clicked on listicle

In 2021-22 our content strategy delivered significant results in terms of increased engagement, website views, supporting key campaigns and driving membership for The Ethics Centre.

HINDSIGHT: JAMES HARDIE, 20 YEARS ON

Business article that resonated



Big thinker profile with biggest impact

WATCH



Views of The Ethics Centre and Festival of Dangerous Ideas videos

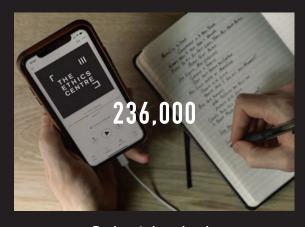


Hours of ethics content watched

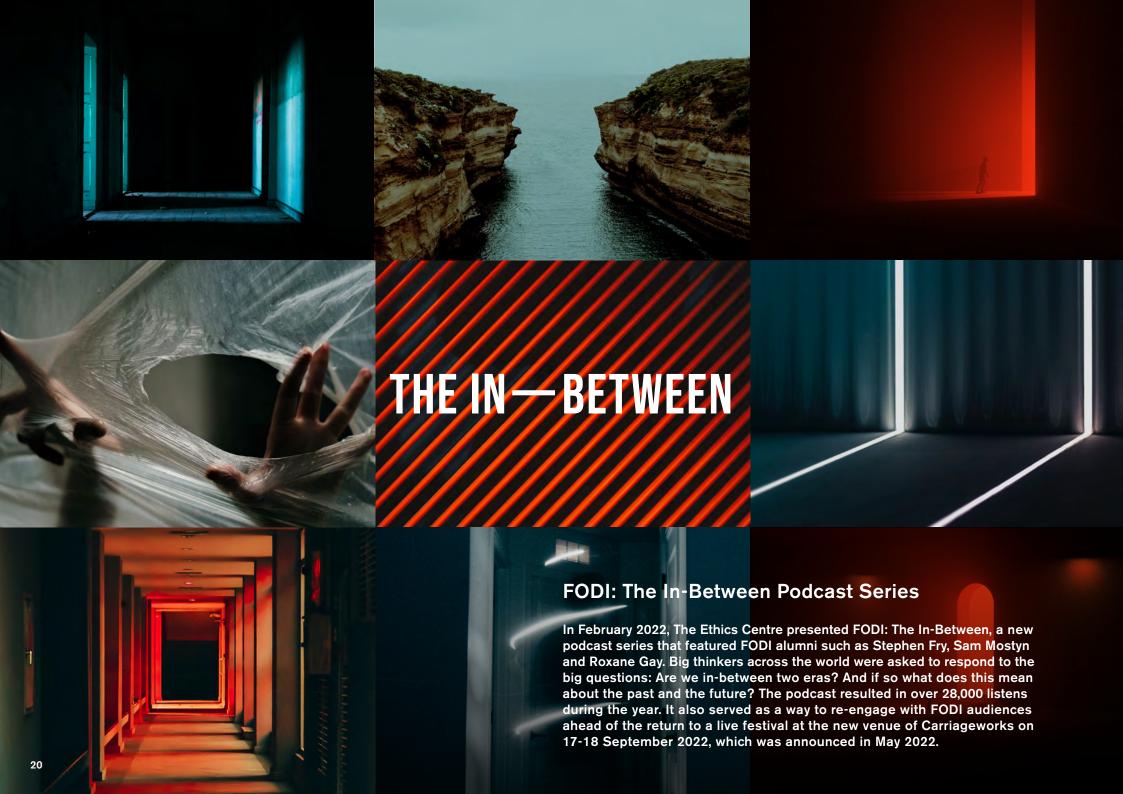
LISTEN



Podcast series: FODI, Little Bad Thing, Leading with Purpose, Life and Debt



Podcast downloads









Bringing People Together to Talk About The Things That Matter

The Ethics Centre has continued to promote open debate and difficult conversations throughout the year with hybrid live and on-demand digital programs. The popular IQ² event was livestreamed for the first time to an audience of over 360 people, and featured Jo Dyer, Bill Shorten, Jake Thrupp and Pru Goward discussing the pertinent election-year topic 'Politicians only care about winning'. The Bare Pit (in collaboration with Parliament of NSW) and The Ethics of Sex, Death and Loneliness (featuring Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Dr Tim Dean and Eleanor Gordon-Smith were delivered in a hybrid live / livestream mode to almost 1,000 people.

Providing an Ethical Lens on Issues of Public Interest

The media continues to provide a powerful way to bring ethics to a broad, national audience. In the past 12 months, The Ethics Centre provided an ethical lens on conversations around crucial issues such as vaccine mandates and leadership in politics.

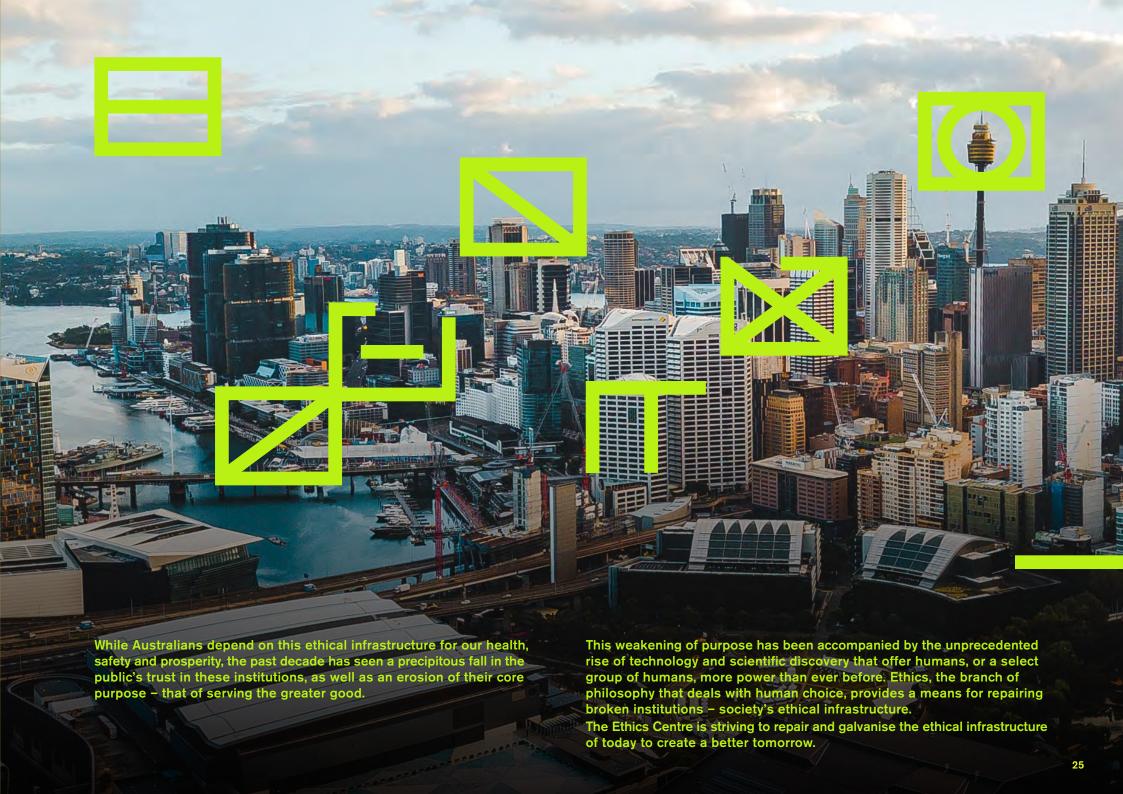
The Centre was featured on major media programs, including *Q&A*, *Sky News*, ABC radio, *The Guardian*, *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and the *Daily Telegraph*, reaching a national audience of over 93.6 million Australians, an increase of 26% on the previous year. Interest in **Ethi-call** helped generate media coverage particularly during COVID-19 lockdown in September – October 2021.

Expanding Our Community of Supporters

Engagement from members is critical to our work. For the first time, we ran a targeted campaign designed to grow The Ethics Centre's membership, and also refreshed the program introducing the Advocate and Ambassador tiers which saw us welcome 291 new members. Members have free access to digital streams of our events and exclusive access to the online members gatherings. Engagement has remained strong, and the wide-ranging discussions about issues of the day amongst Members continue to enlighten all involved.

REVITALISING USTRALIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Ethical infrastructure is a critical component to the ethics of the nation. It refers to the institutional arrangements – such as the professions, the media, political parties, churches and the other informal structures – that regulate the use of power in society.



MORAL COURAGE PROGRAM

A Pilot to Build Skills in High School Students

A pilot program for high school students, the Moral Courage program, was run in 2022. It focuses on developing foundational skills for young people to identify their values and principles, communicate what matters to them and maintain and manage boundaries around values and principles. The program aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing by providing skills and confidence in proactively dealing with situations that generate moral anxiety and moral distress.

The program, developed with Relationships Australia NSW, was piloted in 5 private secondary schools in 2022. Aligned to the curriculum, the Moral Courage program builds the behavioural, social, relational and ethical development of students.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 96% of students recommending the program to others.

Students felt they learnt most about:

- Communication skills, including active listening and articulating decisions with values and principles
- How to have more effective conversations
- Techniques to approach sensitive subject matter more skilfully
- Ways to support friends and loved ones, and overall increasing attentiveness to relationships
- Critical thinking skills and improved discernment in assessing and analysing situations
- Improved confidence in expressing and maintaining boundaries.





Supporting Evolving Business Needs

All of our loyalty program purchases, each online shopping visit and every app check-in contributes to a mountain of data available to companies who increasingly need to ask themselves: 'What's the right thing to do with our customers' data?' The exponential increase in the amount of data captured and stored by companies requires a sophisticated data ethics framework to lift the thinking above and beyond the regulatory and privacy obligations to address the emerging ethical questions that have not yet begun to be asked.

The Ethics Centre has been helping our forwardthinking clients to develop and review their data ethics frameworks and build the internal capacity of their people to navigate the ethical questions data collection, use and storage raises.

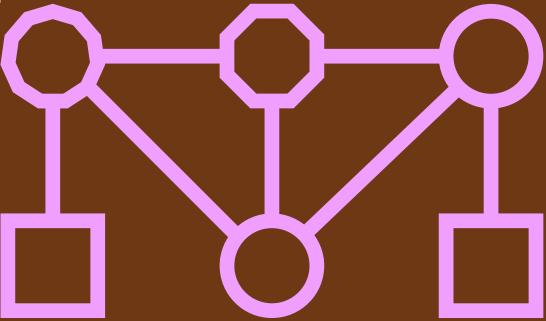
The Next Generation of Ethics Advocates

The ethical infrastructure of the nation is not always available and accessible to all members of society. Australia's young people are often excluded or overlooked. We aim to address this head on by bringing young people's voices to the fore through the development of our youth strategy. By listening to the voices of young people about the ethical issues they face and how they can be better addressed, we are developing partnerships, relationships and initiatives for, with and by young people in Australia.

A Collaborative Space for Leaders

The Ethics Alliance provided its 34 members an opportunity to learn and adapt with support as we moved into a second year of the pandemic. Through 18 hours of virtual gatherings, the leaders were able to draw on each other's insights to address the changing hybrid work environment and the challenges that brings to the culture in their organisations. With a societal focus on values spurred on by the pandemic, ESG and the responsibility of business to address climate change came into sharp focus. Geo-political pressures on business brought about from the Ukraine war and China's extreme lockdowns were also cause for deep reflection.

Fundraising & Membership



Our members and donors continue to inspire us with their support, generosity and flexibility. In 2021-22 we continued to connect online through gatherings; digital offerings such as IQ2 and FODI: The In-Between podcast; and hybrid digital live events The Ethics Of... and The Bare Pit.

The generosity of donors resulted in another successful end of financial year campaign, raising \$410,024. These funds enable us to continue to be an independent advocate for ethics in everyday life, in all areas of society – from our institutions, to the personal, across business, politics, education, energy, NGOs and more. Because of our donors we can continue to seek to protect civil debate and encourage discussion of the ideas and issues that define our time. We are able to commission writers and experts to produce articles that we offer to the wider public to read for free. Donations support our ethics counselling service **Ethi-call** so it's freely available to anyone who needs it.

Significant, multi-year support has enabled us to develop our youth engagement strategy and to tailor our work to support young people. We have also been able to engage philosophers to work with the centre to broaden our perspectives and services.

Grants and donations have supported us as we relaunch the **Festival of Dangerous Ideas** in September 2022, engaging big thinkers, artists and culture creators in the first live Festival since 2018. In 2022-23 financial year we will continue to participate in the important conversations and advocate for good ethics in society. We will continue to seek ways to engage with young people directly and through partnerships. And we will deliver inperson and online events and gatherings. Our donors and members drive us to continue to innovate and find new ways to connect and engage.

Major Donors & Supporters of The Ethics Centre

Our deepest gratitude goes out to all our members,

work and for staying with us.

donors, Catalysts and supporters for believing in our



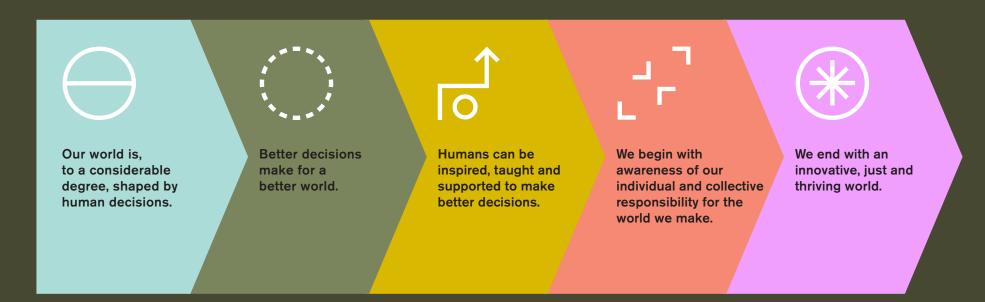
more ethical decisions.

We take this opportunity to particularly thank the above major donors who have made significant gifts to The Ethics Centre this financial year.

With their support we're building a better world where everyone makes

Our Theory of Change

Our theory of change is ambitious. Central to this ambition is generating system level change. But system level change only begins at an individual level. Here's how:



Looking Forward

Like you we passionately care about creating a better world. In the next year, we will pursue priority programs in:



Good Decision Making

A better world can only be realised when good decision making is combined with active participation. This year we've seen the huge impact of increasing our capacity to directly support good decision-making through an expanded Ethi-call service. We will continue to find ways to enhance the ethical literacy of all Australians, improving their ability to integrate ethics into decision making.



Supporting Student Wellbeing

Creating a better future starts with education. In partnership with Relationships Australia NSW, we will continue to develop the Moral Courage program to assist young adults, at school, to meet the challenges of building and sustaining mutually respectful relationships.



Ethics Discussions for a New World

We are working on a range of programs and events that foster an open society and ethical deliberation. We are planning an extensive program of new events and content that are both 'live' and 'digital'. We are also always looking for new ways to deepen our engagement with members and supporters.



Rebuilding Ethical Infrastructure

We are committed to repairing and galvanising the ethical infrastructure of today to create a better tomorrow through education initiatives and working with organisations to navigate the complex ethical challenges.



Youth Engagement in Ethics

We are championing improved ethics awareness in the next generations, by investing more with younger generations of Australia and building on their natural affinity with the topic of ethics.



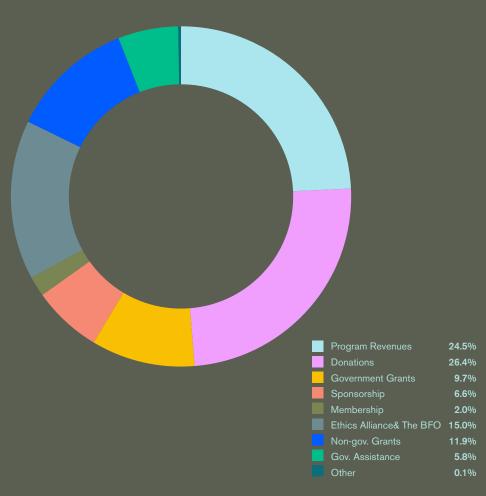
Better Businesses

We continue to support organisations wishing to place ethics at the core of their DNA. There is new thinking being done on the relationship between ethics and complexity. The relationships that underpin the Ethics Alliance are also deepening, enriched in response to the pandemic.

Financial Performance

The Ethics Centre is fortunate to receive income from donations, membership fees, ticket sales and speaking fees. We also operate a consulting practice which receives fees from clients in the public and private sectors for provision of ethics advice and education. Many of our activities are supported by a cohort of volunteers who give generously of their time. On the other side of the ledger, we are obliged to meet the cost of our operating expenses, including the delivery of an extensive range of programs and events that support our organisational purpose.

For the year ended 30 June 2022



Funding Sources:

Program Revenues: \$849,573

Income received from consulting services, retainers held in relation to consulting, ethics education learning programs, event ticket sales and counselling services.

Donations: \$847,387

Income received from fundraising appeals.

Government Grants: \$336,062

Income received from the NSW government.

Sponsorship: \$230,000

Income received from sponsors in support of the programs being undertaken.

Membership: \$67,899

Income received from members of The Ethics Centre as part of the annual membership subscription.

Ethics Alliance & The BFO: \$521,769

Income received from members of The Ethics Alliance, as part of the annual membership subscription, and the BFO as oath signatories.

Non-government Grants: \$411,705 Income received from foundations.

Government Assistance: \$201,494

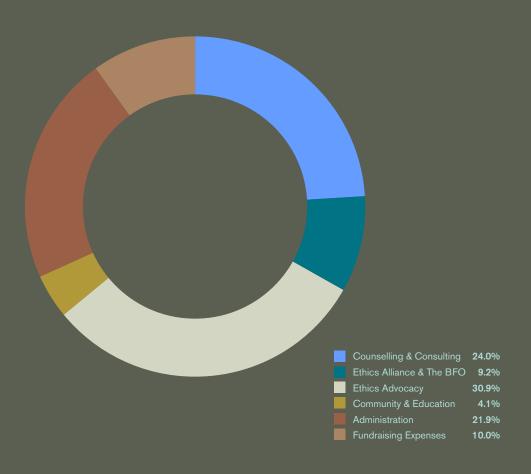
Income received from the NSW government COVID-19 assistance programs.

Other \$4,585

Miscellaneous income.

Total \$3,470,474

In 2021-22 financial year, The Ethics Centre posted a loss of (\$307,974). While the need for the work we do has never been greater, the financial challenges we face are not unique to non-profits. Our long-term financial sustainability is always at the forefront of our minds, and we are focused on strategies to secure funding that enables us to deliver on our mission to bring ethics to the centre of everyday life.



Program Costs:

Counselling & Consulting: \$908,271

Includes third party consultants and staff costs in relation to delivery of consulting and counselling programs and the ongoing development of the Ethi-call service.

Ethics Alliance & The BFO: \$346,722

Includes staff and third party costs in relation to developing events and content for Alliance members and BFO signatories.

Ethics Advocacy: \$1,166,506

Includes staff and third party costs in relation to developing and promoting content, articles and curating public events.

Community & Education: \$155,093

Includes staff and third party trainers in delivering education programs and staff costs associated with research.

Administration: \$825,807

Includes staff and other operating expenses associated with general management and administration of The Ethics Centre.

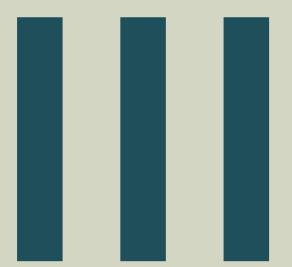
Fundraising Expenses: \$376,049

The costs associated with attracting more support through donations, developing funding partnerships and the administration of fundraising activities.

Total \$3,778,448

Governance







Our Structure

The Ethics Centre is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue, as a charity. The Ethics Centre is listed in the Australian Taxation Act as a deductible gift recipient (DGR).

Board of Directors

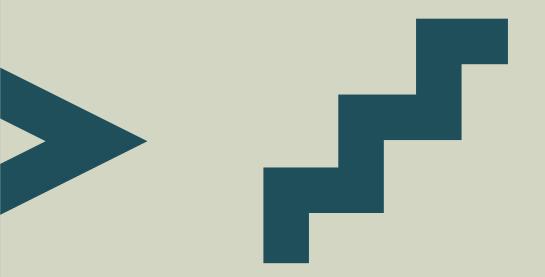
The Centre is governed by a voluntary board of up to twelve directors. The Board is responsible for appointing the chair, secretary and treasurer and delegates day-to-day management to the executive director. During the 2021-22 financial year one new director, Bill Marynissen was appointed to our Board. Stephen Brady, Michelle Tredenick and Rob Wannan retired from the Board and we thank them for their contributions.

Peter Joseph AM, Chair Professor Cav. Simon Mordant AO

Scott Gartrell Michael Pain
Narelle Hooper Emile Sherman
Holly Kramer Steve Tucker

Stuart Marshall, Treasurer Nick Brescia, Board Observer

Bill Marynissen Mary Anne Terry, Company Secretary



Role of the Board

The Board is the trustee of the founding vision of The Ethics Centre and is responsible for its good governance. It oversees the management of the organisation and meets six times a year to:

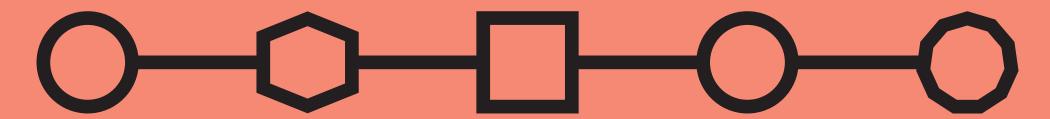
- + approve the strategic direction and policies
- + approve and monitor budgets
- + define appropriate financial and risk management strategies
- + ensure compliance with relevant standards, regulations and reporting requirements
- + provide accountability to members and stakeholders
- + appoint, support and monitor the performance of the executive director.

Management & Staff

The Centre's executive management is led by Executive Director Dr Simon Longstaff AO

More information about our staff is available on our website.

Our Supporters



Heartfelt thanks go to all our members, donors, partners, pro bono service providers and volunteers for their tremendous support. With their support we're building a better world where everyone makes more ethical decisions. Just as you rely on The Ethics Centre to provide maps and compasses to lead the way to living ethically, our work depends on the people who care enough to invest time and money in a future with ethics at the centre of everyday life. With ongoing loyalty and generosity, this future is possible.

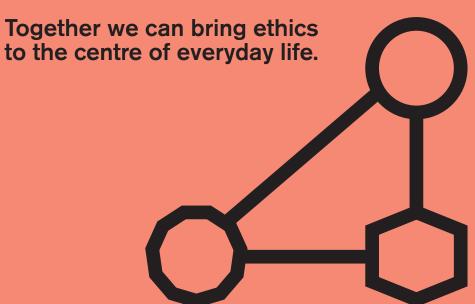
Please consider supporting our work.

As an independent not-for-profit we rely on donations from donors and sponsors – people like you.

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