
FUTURE
FOCUS
GROUP

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COMMITTEE FOR MELBOURNE
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM





**DEVELOP
ACCESS
CONNECT
LEAD**

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR A BRIGHTER MELBOURNE FUTURE

KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Communication

Responsibility

Emotional intelligence

Engagement

Strategy

Problem solving

Social leadership

Respect

Confidence & Resolve

Team dynamics

"The Future Focus Group program is about working in a diverse team to deliver an outcome for Melbourne that creates a positive and lasting difference – this benefits our city and our members."

Peter Lock
Chairman, Future Focus Group

"I am proud to have been connected to the Future Focus Group program since its beginnings two decades ago. It has grown to be one of the most valued and elite leadership programs in Melbourne and continues to develop the leadership that our city needs."

Jack Smorgon AO
Patron, Future Focus Group

FUTURE FOCUS GROUP

Committee for Melbourne was formed in the 1980s, at a time when Melbourne needed strong business leadership. Recognising that experienced leadership is essential to Melbourne's continued success as a major international city, the Committee established the Future Focus Group business leadership program in 1996.

For 20 years, this unique program has been fostering practical leadership skills by providing project-based, real-life learning experiences and unique access to senior business and community leaders.

Future Focus Group stimulates personal and professional leadership development by:

- challenging participants to work effectively in groups without a defined hierarchy
- bringing participants into contact with thought-provoking speakers who advance new and creative ways of thinking
- delivering professional capability workshops with leading industry experts
- providing one-on-one mentoring and executive development advice on personal brand and professional interaction.

From big business through to universities and genuine not-for-profits, the program attracts participants from every sector of the Committee's membership base. This broad exposure enables participants to develop connections and work with colleagues outside their usual circles.



"Future Focus Group is one of the Committee's proudest achievements. Knowing that we are playing a part in developing the future leaders of our city is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role."

Kate Roffey
CEO, Committee for Melbourne

TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE

During the two-year program, participants work with colleagues to develop and implement a community-enriching group project. Working in groups to deliver these projects is the most challenging part of the program. Learning how to make decisions, establish connections and prioritise workloads in a situation where there is no designated leader or decision maker is confronting for the individual. Effectively negotiating these challenges underpins lifelong learning, growth and development.

Success in the program is measured not only by participants' ability to work within a diverse team to deliver an effective outcome, but also by their ability to translate those skills back into their workplaces. As the program unfolds, participants evolve both personally and professionally. As a result, their organisations gain more well-rounded thinkers and leaders.



Future Focus Group speakers have included leading industry, community and political figures

Kathy Alexander – CEO, City of Melbourne, 2008-2014

Steve Bracks – Premier of Victoria, 1999-2007

Julian Burnside QC – Human Rights Campaigner

Robert Doyle – Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne

Jo Fisher – Managing Director, Jo Fisher Global

David McAllister – Director, Australian Ballet

Simon McKeon – Australian of the Year 2011

Christine Nixon – Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police, 2001-2009

Bernard Salt – Internationally Renowned Demographer

“Future Focus Group is not an easy program. From group decision making to truly reflecting on your strengths and weaknesses, your personal brand and future aspirations, it’s a challenge from day one. Growth and development come from working through these issues over the program’s duration – that’s what makes the journey worthwhile.”

David Gould
Manager, Future Focus Group

“Our experience with the Future Focus Group program has been overwhelmingly positive. Our participants have all demonstrably improved their leadership capability through their involvement. The calibre of the program and its participants has been instrumental in their development.”

Scott Wyatt
CEO, Viva Energy Australia

Industry expert workshops

Participants engage in professional capability workshops and presentations with leading industry experts on strategy, professional engagement, social media, marketing and personal brand.

They also formally present to two Project Review Panels and a Marketing Pitch Panel. Comprised of individuals who come from the very top echelons of leadership, in the past these panels have included former Premier Ted Baillieu and Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, Tony Ellwood. Presenting in front of these industry leaders provides a unique learning experience for participants to hone their presentation skills in this safe and encouraging environment. The insights gained from these opportunities result in more confident, adaptable and effective employees.

“The Future Focus Group program has been effective in allowing participants to build external networks and work across sectors on a project that offers a broader canvas. The tailored mentoring opportunities included in the program are a particular strength.”

Linda Kristjanson
Vice Chancellor, Swinburne University

Mentors play a vital role

Every Future Focus Group participant has a personal mentor who plays a key role in the personal and professional development of their mentee by helping set goals, diversify networks, and realistically assess the individual's personal progress.

Over the course of two years, mentors help participants build confidence and profile, and play a key role in connecting mentees to people and organisations who can help them personally, as well as advance group projects.

Throughout the program, groups also have access to a project mentor – a committed guide whose experience and expertise helps to give projects the best possible chance of success. The project mentors who offer their support are drawn from our 350-strong Future Focus Group Alumni and Committee for Melbourne members who are very familiar with the Committee's work and in particular the Future Focus Group program. Participants learn from the best – which means both the projects and our members reap the rewards of targeted collaboration.



OUR PROJECTS

Some of Melbourne's most inspiring, city-shaping ventures originated in Future Focus Group projects.



Free trams in the CBD

Future Focus Group undertook a study on the benefits of free tram travel in the CBD and produced a detailed report for government. After many years of ongoing advocacy by the group members and the Committee, free tram travel in the CBD and Docklands was introduced in January 2015.



Open House Melbourne (OHM)

Starting with eight buildings in 2008, OHM is now an annual event that showcases Melbourne's interior architecture, attracting 130,000 visitors to over 100 buildings.

Growing Up

Future Focus Group developed a fully-funded rooftop garden at 131 Queen St, Melbourne – a project that subsequently inspired the *Growing Green Guide: A Guide to Green Roofs, Walls and Façades*. This initiative raised awareness about the benefits of green roofs and continues to inform policy and discussion today.





The Magic Pudding

Future Focus Group developed the concept for a bronze sculpture of the main characters of Norman Lindsay's *The Magic Pudding* which is now the proud centrepiece of the Children's Garden.

Eleos Place

In association with Collins St Baptist Church, Future Focus Group established Eleos Place, a four-bedroom crisis accommodation facility for the city's homeless youth and the first facility of its kind in Melbourne's city centre.



Connect-ED – Airport Welcome Desk

In partnership with the City of Melbourne, Future Focus Group instigated the Airport Welcome Desk to help make international students' arrival to Melbourne a more welcoming and seamless experience. This project continues today as the City of Melbourne's 'Welcome Desk'.



CONNECTING MELBOURNE'S LEADERS

Future Focus Group brings talented people together and offers them the opportunity to connect and develop their skills. Their shared experience creates a network of friendships and connections that last a lifetime.

Our 350 Alumni are spread throughout a cross-section of Melbourne's organisations and include a diverse group of people. Together with Alumni Patron Jack Smorgon AO and Chairman Peter Lock, graduates of the program remain involved in the Committee's activities via the Alumni Network by contributing to discussions, workshops and papers and experiencing Melbourne's many facets through private tours of iconic places such as the Shrine of Remembrance, the Melbourne Brain Centre and the CSIRO.

Benjamin Kile, Future Focus Group Alumnus and winner of The Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year 2010, describes the program as "uniquely valuable and a completely different style of leadership education, which delivers both personal and career benefits. Being a part of and having ready access to such a huge pool of talented and influential contacts via the Alumni Network at the end of the two years has also provided me with unparalleled opportunities."

Professor Benjamin Kile
Joint Head ACRF Chemical Biology Division,
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Our 350 Future Focus Group Alumni graduates include:

- 2 Chairs
- 8 Chief Executive Officers
- 10 Executive Directors
- 4 Managing Directors
- 9 Heads of Organisation
- 3 Managing Partners
- 25 Directors
- 3 Chief Financial Officers
- 1 Vice President
- 11 Associate Directors
- 2 Professors
- 22 Doctorate holders
- 8 Scientists
- 31 Partners
- 4 General Counsels
- 4 Legal Counsels
- 15 General Managers
- 9 National Managers
- 19 Managers

Their influence and passion for Melbourne provide a conduit for positive, ongoing development and connectivity of our city.



**COMMITTEE
MELBOURNE**^{FOR}
Future Focus Group

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