

Questions and Answers – Refocus of the Todd Foundation

Q. What does refocussing the Todd Foundation mean?

A. It means that we're changing our approach to funding and support. We're moving from a funding model based on application rounds to a proactive process that's strongly focussed on building long term social change. This means we no longer accept applications for funding.

Q. Why are you doing this?

A. Because we want to increase the impact of our funding and support. We've been researching ways to do this and have learned that proactive funding is the best way of creating long term social impact.

Previously we spent a lot of time processing applications and we know that applicants spent a lot of time preparing them. Our new way of working means we'll spend our time in communities talking and researching, then using what we learn to fund collaborative initiatives that create social change.

Q. How do you know that proactive funding will be better than reactive project funding?

A. We've done a lot of research into this, and we're responding to issues with the current model which have been raised by many community organisations. The model of funding we're moving to is a collective funding model. With this type of funding, everyone agrees on what success looks like and what needs to be done to achieve that.

Q. When will this happen?

A. We'll begin working under the new model in January 2018. We're working through the changes we need to make with our Board and community partners.

Q. Can organisations still apply for funding?

A. Our last funding round closed on August 15, 2017. This means we no longer accept applications for funding.

Q. How will organisations get funding for projects?

A. There are many funders that still provide project-based funding. The best way to find them is to search the [GivUS](#) database run by Generosity NZ.

Q. Can organisations talk to the Todd Foundation about a project?

A. We won't be accepting or looking for 'pitches' from individuals, organisations or collectives under our new model.

Q. What about organisations that are currently receiving multi-year funding from the Todd Foundation?

A. We are committed to supporting the projects we have given funding to. If you received multi-year funding from us, we will continue to support you until the funding period ends.

Q. What's happening to your tertiary scholarship and awards?

A. We'll be offering both our PhD scholarship and University Awards in 2018. We are also reviewing all our tertiary funding in 2018 and we'll keep you informed via our website.

Q. How will the Foundation know where to invest its money if there are no application rounds?

A. We're still working through the specific details of our process. We do know that we'll begin by talking with our community partners and other thought leaders, looking at what's happening in communities, what's working and what's needed. The Board will be making decisions on our first focus area(s) over the next six months and we'll put information on our website.

Q. Can organisations work together to get funding under the new model?

A. We always encourage collaboration! However, it's important to note that we're trying to do things really differently - funding and support will be determined through a collective process once we've determined our focus areas. We are not accepting or looking for 'pitches' from individuals, organisations or collectives.

Q. What are your focus areas likely to be?

A. We are talking with our Board and community partners about focus areas and will develop these progressively over the next 18 months. Our focus areas will be in line with our current goals. As decisions are made, we will announce these on our website. Eventually we want to put 75-80% of our funding (about \$3 million annually) into two or three areas.

Q. Won't communities suffer if smaller projects are no longer funded?

A. There are still many funders who provide project funding, from very small grants to larger, multi-year approaches. And Todd Foundation funding will still be going into communities, it'll just reach them in a different way.

Q. Is this a way of reducing funding to communities?

A. No. We will still be giving away the same total amount of funding as we would have under the old model, we'll just be doing it in a different way. Much of our funding is already pre-committed under the old model over the next 2-3 years, which will give us time to phase in our new approach.

Q. Where do I find more information?

A. We will be updating the website and Facebook page as decisions are made.

Q. What does pro-active funding mean?

A. We'll be looking for communities and organisations who want to work collectively in our focus areas, and approaching them to begin funding discussions.

Q. Can I tell you about my community or organisation?

A. We haven't yet decided our focus areas, so we're not starting those discussions yet.

Q. How can I influence your focus areas?

A. We are talking with our Board and community partners about focus areas and will develop these over the next 18 months. We already have some ideas, and if we need more information we'll be seeking input.

Q. Who are your community partners?

A. A diverse group of individuals and organisations, many of whom we have worked with in the past.

Q. Will your vision and goals change?

A. At this stage, these will stay the same.