

## Submission to the Australian Senate Enquiry on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development - Teaspoons of Change

Teaspoons of Change<sup>1</sup> is an Australian-grown organisation that exists to be a part of the movement to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality and protect our planet, as are the fundamental aims and achievements of the Global Goals.

As a civil society organisation Teaspoons of Change is Co-Founded and Co-Directed by partners at home and work, Serafina Tane and d'Arcy Lunn. d'Arcy has an 18-year background in aid and development, global citizenship education and global campaigning and advocacy in more than 90 countries giving almost 850 presentations and workshops on global citizenship to over 75,000 people in recent years. Serafina comes from a corporate banking background and saw a huge disconnect in business and humanity related causes and sense of purpose, both for employees and in daily business practices and the vision and impacts of any business.

Teaspoons of Change aims to align business, education and government with the Global Goals<sup>2</sup> through an intentional mix of information and inspiration where they are experts in awareness, engagement and integration of the Global Goals into daily life. They have a strategy to focus on South Australia in 2018 to showcase how the state government, state businesses and state education can integrate the Global Goals internally and externally. In September they will walk (d'Arcy) and cycle (Serafina) 1000km from Adelaide to Mt Gambier and back to raise awareness and empower South Australians to understand the Global Goals can be personal, practical and integrated into our choices, decisions and actions having positive impacts on people and the planet - one teaspoon at a time.

There is clearly a need and role for civil society to play an important part in Australia's adoption, integration and celebration of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Teaspoons of Change makes the Goals fun, accessible and attainable through presentations, workshops, events, videos and much more. The purpose of this submission is to highlight the way in which Teaspoons of Change is engaging business, education and government to align and integrate with the Global Goals and to showcase other examples from within South Australia, Australia and around the world and how Teaspoons of Change is creating opportunities and collaborations to make it happen.

On top of civil society's role, business and education both need to do more in matching good intentions with good outcomes in regards to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development as was highlighted in a recent academic article<sup>3</sup> and is the mandate and work of other important organisations such as Banksia Foundation<sup>4</sup>, Global Compact (global and Australia)<sup>5</sup>, Global Citizen<sup>6</sup> and more. Further, there are examples of other countries doing more in civic, business, education and government engagement with the likes of British Columbia Council for International Cooperation<sup>7</sup>, Project Everyone<sup>8</sup> and all of the efforts from UN agencies from UNESCO, UNICEF and many others. The resources are there, the mandate is there but the awareness, simplification, understanding, engagement and contextualisation is not. Teaspoons of Change aims to support that gap by partnering with good people doing good things across Australia and the world and bring the Global Goals to every student, worker and government employee in South Australia, Australia and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://teaspoonsofchange.org>

<sup>2</sup> See attachment: Teaspoons of Change - who we are and an animation explaining what it's all about - <https://youtu.be/iIRXhNCe47I>

<sup>3</sup> <https://theconversation.com/business-leaders-arent-backing-up-their-promises-on-sustainable-development-goals-88555?>

<sup>4</sup> <http://banksiafdn.com/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/> and <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.globalcitizen.org>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bccic.ca/bc2030/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.project-everyone.org/> and <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

## **Responses to the TOR of the Senate Inquiry with personal, practical and collaborative solutions:**

### **a). the understanding and awareness of the SDGs across the Australian Government and in the wider Australian community;**

This is the main work and objective of Teaspoons of Change. Our target audience are those who either haven't heard of the Global Goals before or those who are new and not sure what to do - the majority of Australians seem to fit this bracket, most having not heard of the Global Goals or not sure what they are about<sup>9</sup>.

d'Arcy has been a global campaigner and advocate for both public and political engagement to gather a grassroots understanding and passion for global topics, issues and solutions as well as showcasing and highlighting political will and actions from government with civil society. An example is d'Arcy's engagement in Canada in 2012 on polio eradication where he spoke with thousands of Canadians, engaged the then conservative government and resulted in \$240m (CAD) for the global eradication of polio. However, d'Arcy is still an awareness-raiser not a fundraiser.

A key component of the Teaspoons of Change approach is to not have solutions for each of the 17 Global Goals, their 169 targets and 244 indicators, themselves, instead they are aiming to collaborate and coordinate with all the good people doing good things in each of these fields so they can bridge those who want to make a difference with the people, organisations, initiatives and more who already are making a difference.

Another key opportunity Teaspoons of Change sees is in contextualising what government, business and education are already doing that aligns with the Global Goals and to show they are on the spectrum of good people doing good things with an opportunity to do more of them more often - usually Teaspoons of Change at a time.

This is the biggest aspect of the TOR where Teaspoons of Change can support the most in engagement of the Global Goals to government, from government to civil society and with civil society through business and education engagement.

### **b). the potential costs, benefits and opportunities for Australia in the domestic implementation of the SDG;**

There are significant benefits and opportunities for Australia implementing and integrating the Global Goals domestically.

The future of business, economic growth, skills development, innovation and retaining / attracting talent to Australia is going to be in the soft skills of being purpose-driven, socially conscious and globally-minded. The Global Goals themselves highlight the need for these skills and provide an excellent framework for any government, business or education sector to utilise the targets and indicators to be on a path of decoupled, cyclical, regenerative and human / enviro-centric ideas, practices and outcomes. The 12 targets of Global Goal number 8<sup>10</sup> (Decent Work & Economic Growth) are a clear pathway for any society in the world for sustainable development.

Teaspoons of Change is more than just knowing about the Goals but integrating them into tactile changes and practices that provide benefits in a myriad of ways such as employee attraction and

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<sup>9</sup> See attached guide for actions aligning with Global Goal #12 (Responsible Consumption & Production)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.globalgoals.org/8-decent-work-and-economic-growth>

retention, saving operating costs, great partnerships with inter and cross-sector collaboration and highlighting good people doing good things who are leading in innovation and best practice fitting in to the global framework of the Global Goals and the 2030 agenda.

Beyond the initial and ongoing engagement Teaspoons of Change can provide there are other organisations, people and examples for everyone to integrate deeply with the Goals and increase their sense of purpose internally and for that to become a quantifiable output for those leading the curve in adopting the Global Goals. The like of Global Compact<sup>11</sup> and BCorps<sup>12</sup> are internationally recognised and renown in their certification and accreditation of integration of good practice and alignment with the Global Goals. Teaspoons of Change is an important stepping stone tool to get government and society ready to understand and adopt them.

**c). what governance structures and accountability measures are required at the national, state and local levels of government to ensure an integrated approach to implementing the SDG that is both meaningful and achieves real outcomes;**

At this stage there are the examples of Global Compact and BCorps to support this reference with business. Global Compact describe themselves as more of a guide dog than a watchdog but also provide quality support and engagement for business to align and integrate the Goals in their vision and work.

Teaspoons of Change aims to support any business, educational institute and government to re-vision their vision that is inclusive of the Global Goals. Most government departments and business have strategic plans, visions, practices and actions that are already aligned so they just require the contextualisation as an important and significant first step. The next step is then shaping the rest of themselves into the Global Goals framework - easily done with the likes of Teaspoons of Change and partners and through government support and initiatives which themselves are accountable to the global framework and 2030 agenda.

**d). how can performance against the SDG be monitored and communicated in a way that engages government, businesses and the public, and allows effective review of Australia's performance by civil society;**

Along with reference a) this is one of the main objectives for Teaspoons of Change and those advocating for greater engagement with the Global Goals.

There are plenty of resources internationally such as from the UN department, Action for Sustainable Development<sup>13</sup>, UNESCO<sup>14</sup> with education for sustainable development and locally through SDG Ambassadors, fellow organisations such as Banksia Foundation and individuals motivated to take a lead in this realm like the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, the chief of marketing at The Guardian Australia and all of whom we are connected with, and collaborating for, the public awareness and engagement as is asked in this reference point.

As mentioned previously we have forged a close relationship with Global Compact who are the guide dogs on the Global Goals for businesses, internationally and their chapter in Australia. We

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bcorporation.net/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://action4sd.org/policy-advocacy/how-can-the-uns-high-level-political-forum-provide-real-accountability-webinar-15-march-2018/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/prize-esd>

are also utilising standards such as the BCorp certification<sup>15</sup> that is an excellent matrix which can be easily integrated with the Global Goals framework.

Increasingly we are having conversations with government both local and state who already have strategic plans and decent frameworks that are asking for the global context and 2030 Agenda to be incorporated into them.

In our experience so far we see the first, easiest and biggest potential in aligning the existing systems, structures, policies and progression metrics with the SDG goals, targets and indicators. We have not been in touch with the Australian Bureau of Statistics as yet but we have heard there is a shift for gathering, analysing and using data to align with the Global Goals. There are also other Australian-based academic organisations and institutes such as Institute for Economics and Peace<sup>16</sup> who collect a great array of data that is either already aligned with the relevant Global Goals<sup>17</sup> or can fit very neatly into the Global Goals framework and add to Australia's contribution to the Goals in statistical information and analysis.

How all of this data, information and effort is being conveyed is the core reason for Teaspoons of Change to exist. We are making the Global Goals fun, accessible and attainable for business, education and government so they can personally and practically connect to the Global Goals and understand their ideas and actions *do* matter and impact globally. We are organising events in collaboration with other organisations, speaking at conferences, giving workshops and presentations in schools and businesses, meeting with government to align their policies with the Global Goals and even going for a 1000km walk and cycle<sup>18</sup> to rural South Australia to share and connect the Global Goals with everyday Australians, leaders and decision-makers. We have recently been on popular TV shows in the past two weeks<sup>19</sup> sharing our passion and purpose to align with the Global Goals as well as creating an animation<sup>20</sup> to explain the contextualisation of what we all do on a daily basis and how this connects to the 2030 agenda.

We need to highlight the success and focus on what can be done and not from a moral-bashing or guilt-trip approach. These are our Goals and we are the ones who collectively will add, and ultimately, ensure their success.

We have a series of indicators as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework - including the current construction of an app to capture individual actions impacting specific Global Goals and aim to produce impact assessment and evaluation reports from civil society towards the Goals.

#### **e). what SDG are currently being addressed by Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) program;**

Whilst d'Arcy from Teaspoons of Change has previously worked in aid and development with UNICEF, Gates Foundation and many others this is not the focus of Teaspoons of Change in

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bcorporation.net/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://economicsandpeace.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/09/SDG16-Progress-Report-2017.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> See attachment for 1-pager and <http://teaspoonsofchange.org/index.php/contact/events-and-calendar/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://au.news.yahoo.com/sunrise/video/watch/38743969/adelaide-man-volunteers-his-way-around-the-world/> and <https://au.news.yahoo.com/the-daily-edition/video/watch/39338007/aussie-humanitarian-darcy-lunns-global-fight/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://youtu.be/iLRXhNCe47I> Teaspoons of Change - what it's all about

Australia and we are moving deliberately away from the SDGs to be seen as a development ODA tool and to a universal, collective and domestically engaging platform.

d'Arcy can certainly connect and advise in this aspect but it is not a core aspect of Teaspoons of Change's work at this stage except for supporting DFAT to roll out the Global Goals domestically and support political advocacy for Australian Aid and Australia's commitment to the Global Goals.

**f). which of the SDG is Australia best suited to achieving through our ODA program, and should Australia's ODA be consolidated to focus on achieving core SDG;**

We feel all the Goals are united, having worked in aid and development for many years in polio eradication it is much better to strengthen health systems than to eradicate a single disease, much like Australia's approach to the SDGs we have enough organisations, aid programs and bilateral agreements and strategies to not narrow our ODA into aligning with one or two specific Goals. We would be happy to expand on this if required.

**g). how countries in the Indo-Pacific are responding to implementing the SDG, and which of the SDG have been prioritised by countries receiving Australia's ODA, and how these priorities could be incorporated into Australia's ODA program; and**

Teaspoons of Change gives presentations and workshops in the Indo-Pacific region, SE Asia and many parts of the world. We have certainly noticed 'developing nations / Global South' seem to be far more committed and organised with aligning their policies and programs with the Global Goals than Australia. In many years of working in aid and development we have learnt an approach of humility, humanity, listening and learning goes a long way on forming good relationships, needs-based development and collective power that works towards sustainability not landmark ambitions.

**h). examples of best practice in how other countries are implementing the SDG from which Australia could learn.**

We mostly addressed this in reference a) and our introduction in regards to Canada and other examples and Teaspoons of Change is certainly connected, learning and sharing best practice with organisations, UN agencies and people around the world for implementing the Global Goals throughout the world. Best examples are BCCIC<sup>21</sup> in Canada, Project Everyone<sup>22</sup> and the World's Largest Lesson<sup>23</sup> in the UK, Pearl Initiative<sup>24</sup> in the Middle East along with a passionate professor at University of Middlesex in Dubai, Stephen King, Compass Education<sup>25</sup> in SE Asia, Global Citizen<sup>26</sup> in the US, CSR Association Pakistan<sup>27</sup> and many many others who have been in touch with Teaspoons of Change asking for our expertise and approach as well as sharing theirs.

Teaspoons of Change is well equipped to show and share the very best of Global Goals awareness and engagement from international best practice as well as connecting, collaborating and coordinating domestic efforts as have been mentioned throughout this submission.

Teaspoons of Change is here to be of service to align Australians as well as Australian businesses, education and government with the Global Goals to see a world without extreme poverty, reduced inequality and protecting the planet for everyone, everywhere and forever.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bccic.ca/bc2030/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.project-everyone.org/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.pearlinitiative.org/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.compasseducation.org/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.globalcitizen.org>

<sup>27</sup> <http://csrassociationpk.com/cafe-csr/>