

# the difference

Media release

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## **CHARITY DOLLARS REALLY MAKING 'THE DIFFERENCE'**

The Difference 2013, launched in Melbourne today by Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO, paints a grim picture with eight out of eleven social indicators, including drugs and alcohol; long term unemployment; re-offending and child abuse showing that they are worse since last year's report.

An annual report card on Australian social health, this is the third issue of The Difference, created to help people better understand the connection between need and giving and ensure that their valuable charity dollars go to where they can make a real difference.

The Difference Founder, Nic Bolto, said that he was saddened but not surprised that the findings are even worse, as it portrays those in the community who suffer from issues of abuse or neglect.

"With 56,600 charities competing for our time and money and many of the social problems that they set out to address actually getting worse, people wonder what they can do to help.

"We have undertaken an extensive charity evaluation process to find charities in each of the eleven indicators who are actually making 'the difference' and we have worked closely with them to present the report," he said.

Mr Bolto said while the first half of The Difference looks in detail at the indicators which are a measure of human suffering, the second half of the publication then highlights the 'transformations' possible by showing the vision of the selected charities and their respective prevention programs.

"While most of the indicators are in fact worse, the respective projects from the eleven charities show hope and positive outcomes that are possible with action that is prevention focused and geared toward our best thought leaders," he said.

Indicators that are worse:

- Youth unemployment
- Re-offending
- Drugs and alcohol
- Child abuse
- High school completion
- Children learning
- Children without an employed parent
- Long term unemployment

Indicators that are better:

- Homelessness
- Suicide

Indicator that is steady (due to lack of recent available data):

- Food insecurity

Simon McKeon, well known philanthropist and 2011 Australian of the Year said The Difference makes an important contribution to informing us about the health of our community.

“This year, we're confronted with a scorecard that is less than satisfactory. But rather than finding this dispiriting, or hiding our heads in the sand, let's remember that this is about real situations - and real people.

“Our only response must be to consider carefully what is being reported.....and then move forward with passion and commitment to make 'The Difference'!", said Mr McKeon.

Mr Bolto added; “We hope that The Difference will help people who are thinking about giving to want to support these charities who offer lasting change to individuals and our social health record”.

[www.urthedifference.net.au](http://www.urthedifference.net.au)

For a full copy of The Difference and media interviews with Nic Bolto please contact:  
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