

FRANK FENNER FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019

1: WHO WE ARE

The Frank Fenner Foundation is a unique public institution that aims to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a world society that is ecologically sustainable and optimally conducive to the health and well-being of the human population.

The Frank Fenner Foundation promotes a new world view centred upon biosensitivity: a set of values that frame human actions to be in tune with and respectful of the biological processes of life that underpin our existence. The biosensitive approach connects the wellbeing of humans and nature and will intrinsically bring clearer insights and strategic guidance to the urgent local and global task of reversing humankind's excessive pressures on nature's systems.

SETTING THE CONTEXT

The Foundation was established as a lasting memorial to the late Professor Frank Fenner, recognising his life-long commitment to human health and the health of the natural environment. His work on the pox viruses and his involvement in the World Health Organisation's program that resulted in the elimination of smallpox are well known, as are his studies of myxomatosis for control of the rabbit population in Australia. Frank was Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University before he became the Foundation Director of the University's Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies.

Frank saw clearly the urgent need for much better understanding, throughout the community, of the findings of the life sciences, especially as they have bearing on the wellbeing of humankind and the biosphere. From the 1960s onwards Frank was actively involved in, and strongly supported, a number of community projects based on this view. In particular, he made substantial annual donations to the Nature and Society Forum (NSF), precursor to the Foundation, of which he was Patron and an active participant. NSF was established in 1991 as a community-based group to promote scientific understanding across the community of the ecological and health issues that face our society today.

2: VISION

Our vision is for:

- an ecologically sustainable and healthy society attuned to the natural processes on which all life depends;
- a society that protects the living and geophysical systems of the natural environment; and
- a society that satisfies the physical and psychosocial health needs of all sections of the human population.

3. ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Frank Fenner Foundation aims to:

- (1) provide a framework for people to further develop their biosensitive values by improving their understanding of nature and of the human relationship with nature;
- (2) facilitate integrative research, drawing on many disciplines, to achieve a clearer understanding of the issues facing society and the changes necessary to achieve a biosensitive society;
- (3) promote informed discussion among scientists, government agencies, the business sector, politicians, community organisations and individuals with common goals about the social, cultural and economic changes necessary to achieve our vision;
- (4) build collaborative partnerships with research and educational institutions, and other like-minded groups and undertake collaborative projects to demonstrate biosensitivity in action.

4: OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The work of the Frank Fenner Foundation is:

- politically independent: we are non-partisan and seek to work with all opinion leaders and decision makers;
- evidence based: we base our work on comprehensively researched science;
- adaptive: we adapt to changing circumstances; and
- collaborative: we openly work with and support others to achieve shared goals.

5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2019

5.1 **Provide a framework for people to further develop their biosensitive values by improving their understanding of nature and of the human relationship with nature**

- (a) Develop professional and inspirational quick response communications materials for general information, for selected audience programs (e.g. educators, journalists, politicians, business), and for academic and high level discourse
- (b) Integrate the concept of biosensitivity into key discussions
- (c) Develop and deliver education programs targeting current and future opinion leaders

5.2 **Promote informed discussion among scientists, government agencies, the business sector, politicians, community organisations and individuals with common goals about the social, cultural and economic changes necessary to achieve our vision**

- (a) Identify priority audiences to target in this period
- (b) Develop dialogues with targeted organisations and individuals
- (c) Develop targeted programs to promote transformational social change

- 5.3 Facilitate integrative research, drawing on many disciplines, to achieve a clearer understanding of the issues facing society and the changes necessary to achieve a biosensitive society**
- (a) Identify or undertake integrative research necessary for 5.1 and 5.2
- 5.4 Promote fairness as an essential component of biosensitivity through the Fairness and Biosensitivity Project**
- (b) Develop a framework that integrates principles of fairness with the concept of biosensitivity
 - (c) Develop pathways for using this framework in major societal initiatives, including those based in philanthropy, activism, policy, governance and community
 - (d) Promote the framework to assist in spreading the values of biosensitivity
- 5.5 Build collaborative partnerships with research and educational institutions, and other like-minded groups and undertake collaborative projects to demonstrate biosensitivity in action**
- (a) Develop and promote practical examples of biosensitivity in action
- 5.6 Build a visible, viable and financially stable organisation**
- (a) Join with and participate in conferences, projects, conversations, networks, events and movements aligned with our vision
 - (b) Build the organisation's financial viability and take initial steps toward establishing FFF as a philanthropic organisation
 - (c) Build a core team of 'workers' with a diverse range of skills, experience and backgrounds, both in paid and volunteer work, that includes at least two full-time paid staff and provision for paid project leaders
 - (d) Build a strong and active membership base
 - (e) Maintain sound financial recording and reporting mechanisms
 - (f) Maintain strong governance