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## J.D. SOMERVILLE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Full transcript of  
an interview with:

**Rob DiMonte**

Conducted on: 27 May 2019

Interviewer: **Allison Murchie**

Transcribed by: Deborah Gard

For:

The **Don Dunstan Foundation**

**20th Anniversary Oral History Project**

1999–2019 celebrating 20 years of action for a fairer world



**DON DUNSTAN FOUNDATION** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **ORAL HISTORY** PROJECT

## NOTES TO THE TRANSCRIPT

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A series of dots, ... .. indicates an untranscribable word or phrase.

A dash, – indicates a pause or a digression as occurs in informal conversation.

Sentences that were left unfinished in the normal manner of conversation are shown ending in three dashes, - - -

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**This is Allison Murchie interviewing Rob DiMonte at the State Library on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary project for the Don Dunstan Foundation. Thank you, Rob, very much for agreeing to be part of it, we're delighted. Could I have your full name please?**

Robert DiMonte.

**No middle name?**

No middle name.

**Where and when were you born?**

29<sup>th</sup> April 1960 in Broken Hill.

**Well, you're nearly a South Australian. We accept Broken Hill as local!**

That's right.

**First off, before we start talking about the foundation I'd like to learn a little bit about you. Maybe if you could tell me what you worked at - - -**

In my professional career?

**Yes.**

When I left university – I studied accounting - - -

**At Adelaide or Flinders?**

It was actually the Institute of Technology.

**SAIT.**

Yes, which now is Uni SA. I studied accounting there and went straight into a firm called Arthur Young as an auditor and then from there went to smaller firms for a little while. I did a bit of tax work, et cetera, so my background is accounting.

**I worked at the Tax Office and that's how I knew who Arthur Young was.**

They don't exist anymore. Further on, now they have become Ernst & Young - - -

**That's right – I've lost track of all the amalgamations.**

Indeed, so through that I became a chartered accountant. I guess, the main timeframe is towards the end of the '80s, I joined Touche Ross, which then became Deloitte, and I was with Deloitte for 25 plus years.

### **Doing what sort of work with them?**

Management consulting. I left the accounting side in the late '80s and went into consulting and became a management consultant in strategy, business and business improvement for the rest of my career.

### **I take it that you were pretty happy with that work.**

Yes, I was very happy. I worked with Deloitte for about 25 years; I was managing partner for Deloitte here in Adelaide for about 13 years, then I retired from the firm in 2014, five years ago.

### **Why did you retire?**

I just wanted to move on. In the last part of my career I wanted to move into professional company director roles, which is what I'm doing amongst a few other things. It's not necessarily consulting work although I do [consulting] favours for people I know. I'm on a number of boards from Australian Grain Technologies which I chair, RSPCA – I'm the president - - -

### **I did notice that in your resumé.**

Yes – GP Partners board, Botanic Gardens board, Australian Centre for Social Innovation board, on the advisory board for Axis Manufacture, and a few others. Also Andrew [correction: David Pearson] and Cathie King approached me to see whether I would chair the Dunstan Foundation Social Capital Residency – that was about a couple of years ago now, which I accepted.

### **We'll get to that shortly.**

Yes, so I did all that about two years ago as well – not that I wasn't already that busy.

### **I was going to ask you, that's a list of – I'd like to get a little more information on that.**

Yes, there are probably some more in there as well.<sup>1</sup> I was asked by the previous Premier, Jay Weatherill, whether I would do a small part-time role as - - - [the Disability Industry and Market Development General for the state].

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<sup>1</sup> Rob DiMonte is currently on the following boards: Chairman Australian Grain Technologies, Axis Manufacture, GP partners Australia, Deputy Chairman The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, The Adelaide Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium, President RSPCA SA, Chair of the SA Social Capital Thinker in Residence Program, Australian Advisory Board on Impact Investing, Chair MOGO Advisory Board and the ICAA Benevolent Foundation.

**Political is never a small part-time role – I do know that!**

Yes, it was a small part-time role, which was the NDIS [National Disability Insurance Scheme] Industry and Market Development Coordinator General, which of I course I said yes to. The reason I said yes was when I left Deloitte and decided on the professional company director career I wanted to choose South Australian companies, largely, that would have a social and economic impact on the state. This NDIS thing came along that Jay wanted me to do, which was really to provide some leadership in how NDIS was being rolled out in the state and how the state could maximise that. It ticked both the social and economic boxes for me so I said, 'Sure, I'll do that.' That is almost at a conclusion now, at the end of July [my contract concludes].

**How long was the 'little' job? – two years.**

Two years part-time.

**How much was the part-time?**

Not so part-time. It ebbed and flowed but at times it was really, really busy.

**But what an incredible project to work on.**

Yes, that's right. I did that and squeezed all the other things in as well.

**You're a person who can't say no.**

No, I was a person that in my Deloitte days was really, really, really busy.

**Workaholic busy?**

Yes, workaholic busy, and then when I left I wasn't so busy, which I didn't particularly like. I just like to keep busy and contribute.

**OK, we've got plenty of time to talk about your foundation role. It's an interesting mix, that you choose to be a director, and I guess it depends on the company, what that role as director is and how substantial it is.**

Correct.

**As a person who volunteers at the zoo there were a couple of ticked boxes for me, which was the RSPCA and the Botanic Gardens – some of the others I'm not familiar with but they are quite a diverse collection. How did you - - -**

How do they fit?

**Yes, how do they fit and how you got approached to go on the board – normally, for a director, would you be approached to apply or do you just see something you like and apply when they are asking for directors?**

I think all the ones that I've got have been ones that people approached me. I did actually apply for one or two and wasn't successful.

**I guess you were meant to do these then.**

That's right, so they all sort of fit in a way – maybe that's just the way my brain works. RSPCA because I think animals play a really critical role in people's lives - - -

**Let me ask, what have you got at home?**

Two dogs and we did have two cats but they've both gone with two of our children, so we've now just got two dogs.

**That's the minimum – I've got nothing because I live in a cottage. I come from a family with a menagerie of animals.**

Yes, I love animals, so that was that one. Australian Grain Technologies, which is a wheat and barley breeding company headquartered here in Adelaide – shareholders are Adelaide Uni, SARDI [South Australian Research and Development Institute], the GRDC [Grains Research and Development Corporation] and Limagrain, out of France. It breeds barley and wheat, mainly wheat, but also other grains, canola, et cetera. Its purpose is to improve the lives of family farming communities in Australia.

**So that clearly fits into your brief.**

Absolutely, so that ticked the boxes for me. The Australian Centre for Social Innovation ticked boxes for me because it was about using and, in my consultancy capacity, thinking about how you change systems and innovate. The way that they go about doing that is quite unique. They are focused on big systems change in a social space. I've been on that board for a little while now. GP Partners – primary health care and the importance of having our primary health care systems supporting people in South Australia. What else have we got?

**Even just that handful, I can see the linkages. What is the time involvement? Is it regular meetings, and that would vary from company to company? Are they monthly, quarterly?**

They vary.

**So that varies, and as the director I guess you're setting the direction of the company and ethics and a whole range of things that you would look at. Are you**

**required to do, or do you choose to do, I should say, extra work outside of those meetings or are the meetings fulfilling enough in themselves?**

It varies depending on the organisation. Botanic Gardens is one I didn't mention, so that's another one. The meetings vary from anything from once a month to once a quarter in the different organisations. Depending on where those organisations are, things might well be travelling pretty well and so there's not too much to do. You do your governance and making sure that things are on track, think about strategy. You don't get involved in operations in any of them. At times, as they do, there are moments in each of these organisations, and when those moments occur there's a bit more time spent with the CEO and management just to help them through those challenges. Then there are the ones that I actually chair and the chairing role takes a little bit more time. As an example, I don't have to, but with the RSPCA I catch up with the CEO for an hour every Monday morning at eight o'clock, not so much to keep tabs on how things are going but more as a bit of a mentor support for the CEO, which is a pretty lonely job.

**Who is the CEO?**

Paul Stevenson.

**There have been a few changes there.**

There have.

**They've been through some rugged times in recent years. I've been a member, not currently, but I'm aware that there have been some ructions there.**

In the past, that's right. We've now got the place under control, touch wood. There's a new CEO and what we're doing I think is really, really positive.

**Your publicity is certainly very good – website, Facebook and places like that. People have always been aware of it but I think that is certainly something that has improved in more recent years.**

Yes, and we've moved away – in the past, before my time, there were some extreme views around that and that's not a position I think the RSPCA should take. The RSPCA should reflect general community views. I think we've now got that better positioned. So the ones that I chair take a bit more time than the ones that I don't, but it's all good. I think my consulting background and career helped me move into the director role and the multiple different company roles. My life as a management consultant was dealing with multiple organisations every week – different issues, different challenges, different problems to solve all the time.

**That's why you're a workaholic, because it's never dull.**

No, it's never dull, it's never the same thing and moving from a different organisation to a different organisation and how you manage your time during the week, how you can switch gears from thinking about one, and turn on to the next one and turn on and off.

**And can you turn off when you go home? You've got two dogs – that helps!**

Yes, largely, but during the night you'll be thinking about something, or whatever.

**Preparing for the next meeting, or whatever.**

That's right – stuff to read and all of that.

**So do you have much down-time?**

I try not to work on weekends.

**That's always a healthy aim.**

Yes, and for the most part I don't. Then with my NDIS role, every now and then I'll have - - - [an urgent matter].

**They would have been ridiculous hours, I would imagine.**

Yes, that really filled out the week.

**What was the brief, or did Jay just say this is what I'd like you to do, and off you go?**

The brief was pretty broad and I defined it, I guess, more than it was defined for me. It had two main aims: one was to ensure that the introduction of NDIS was maximised, that would benefit South Australians. That meant both consumers but, in particular, the industry – the supply side. My role is very supply-side oriented. It's about industry and market development, not consumer.

**If we listen to the press, it's all bad.**

And the press is not [all] wrong.

**Actually, one of the other people – I can't even remember who it was that I spoke to – was talking about a role in NDIS and particularly with the industry side of it because we certainly hear the consumers and complaints on TV every night. It's interesting that the new government – we won't talk politics – have introduced a minister for NDIS. I can only interpret that as it's a mess, let's fix it.**



Yes.

**And it's not just throwing money at it anymore. So that was part of your role, to try and make that process a bit easier.**

Yes, it's a state role, and that's why Jay appointed me because the previous system was state-run and so in this new system, [it is] federally run by an insurance company and the state contributes a significant amount of money, but almost that's it. As I said to Jay and also Steven Marshall afterwards, effectively we've outsourced it to NDIA insurance company but we haven't outsourced our citizens.

**That's a good answer.**

At the end of the day we're still responsible for what our citizens are getting, irrespective of the fact that we don't have a control over it anymore, so there's that part to it. The second part of it was with the change in the business model and how everything works, what is the opportunity to the state in thinking some years ahead in terms of where is this industry going and how can the state better position itself to capitalise on what is a new industry, whether that be IP [intellectual property] development, technology, et cetera, exporting interstate/overseas, all of those sorts of things?

**A huge opportunity. That's a pretty substantial brief for a 'little' job but you know that's how politicians talk – you knew what you took on. OK, let's move on to the Don Dunstan Foundation. When did you in your personal life become aware of Don Dunstan?**

Of Don Dunstan – way back. I'm old enough to - - - [remember him].

**Sorry, I've forgotten – how old are you?**

I'm 59, so I grew up in the Dunstan era. I was absolutely aware of him through all of that. I never met him – even though probably in his later years I might have had the opportunity to interact at a professional level, I didn't have that opportunity unfortunately.

**Never mind, you lived in his state so you got all the benefits.**

I did, so I went through all of the things that everybody constantly sees when people reminisce.

**And they still see – very, very little of his legislation was ever overturned and there are not too many premiers can boast that.**

That's right.

**The next leap is the foundation. When did you first become aware or know of its existence?**

Really, only a couple of years ago, or a bit more than two years ago, and only really when Cathie [King] and David [Pearson] approached me. I really had nothing to do with them prior to that.

**You'd never heard of them or any of their functions?**

No, I didn't really have much interaction with them at all, so it was very recent, and then specifically around - - - [the Thinkers Program].

**How did Cathie and David know about you? You'd certainly been in a lot of high-profile areas.**

It was through Cathie, not so much David. I had met David once or twice when he was an advisor - - - [to the premier].

**With the government, yes.**

With the government, but we probably didn't - - - [cross paths to much].

**Just in passing.**

Yes, just in passing. It was probably Cathie more so in our business circles.

**That fits in with her work too.**

Correct. She thought of me, in terms of approaching me about chairing the Thinkers in Residence program, which came out of government, and to keep it alive the Dunstan Foundation thought - - -

**For those people who are listening to this, and have never heard of the foundation, how would you explain Thinkers in Residency? I remember the first one – that's how old I am!**

The Thinkers in Residence program was a government program previously. Its purpose was based around - - -

**It was a Mike Rann initiative wasn't it?**

Yes, based around some specific topics. In those days it was to get a thinker to come, typically from overseas, to South Australia to think deeply about the topic, to interact with people in the state, bring their knowledge, and then produce a report on as a state what we should do going forward. That report was typically presented to government with recommendations and then government would lead whatever recommendations they felt

were appropriate forward. In fact, one organisation that I am on the board of, TACSI, the Australian Centre for Social Innovation, was a recommendation from a residency around innovation with the establishment of TACSI [as a major recommendation]. The government then said, that's fine, we'll establish it, put some seed funding into that establishment. So that is an example of an outcome of a Thinker's program, and there have been many from other thinkers. The government decided that it would exit the Thinkers program, I think largely from a cost perspective.

**Which government made that decision?**

It was a Labor government.

**I know it was a Labor government but do you remember – was it?**

I think it was under Jay, but I could be wrong there.

**That rings a bell.**

They decided that their priorities were in other areas and the Don Dunstan Foundation felt that it was a good fit for them and what the foundation was about, and so took on the residency. As a first topic - - -

**Did they get any funding from the government?**

No. The topic, and this was before I came to it, they made a decision around social capital being the topic. We could spend a bit of time defining what that might mean.

**Yes please. It is a phrase we see everywhere and it's right through the Dunstan organisation – one of the things they stand for and it continues Don's dream, if we can call it that.**

Yes.

**How has the foundation, and you particularly, defined social capital? It's not easy, is it?**

It's not easy and it's a bit of a moving feast because now we talk not so much about social capital anymore, but more about a purpose economy and having more purpose in what we do for social and economic benefit, and how do we build people's capital, if you like – the social capital of the state, the intrinsic value of people and the state as opposed to just the economic base of the state? Really the Thinkers program was to define that in a lot of ways and it was something that has had some movement around the world – social innovation, social capital, et cetera. We wanted to explore that as well with thinkers. We changed the program a bit so I was involved with that – Cathie, particularly David, myself and a few

others started to define what social capital was and what the residency should focus on. We changed it up in a couple of ways: 1) we decided that we wouldn't just have one thinker because the topic was very broad. We would have one main thinker, which was Allyson Hewitt, but we decided to have multiple thinkers, which we have done.

### **Who is Allyson Hewitt?**

Allyson Hewitt is from the MaRS precinct in Toronto, which is an innovation precinct.

### **Sorry, what's it called?**

MaRS, as in the planet Mars but not that. It's the MaRS precinct in Toronto. It's actually a precinct that was built on an old hospital site. Does that sound familiar?

### **Yes, did they have more success than we're having?**

Yes, it's actually a wonderful model where philanthropists got together. They were going to demolish the hospital site and commercialise it. Philanthropists got together and said, no, and they bought the site.

### **They had philanthropists!**

Yes, they do over there in North America. They bought the site and they established a not-for-profit, which was to curate and run the site. They had some very specific focus areas – health being one of those. They have developed a whole range of different programs and it's a site where you've got venture capitalists, you've got innovators there, all working together. It's a brilliant model – one of the best of the handful in the world.

### **I'm not surprised that Canada came up with it.**

That's one that we should look at more deeply. So we thought that Allyson would be a really good primary thinker for us in that space, particularly as we had our hospital coming up as well, so there was some thought put into that process. Then we had other thinkers as well along the way on related topics: Guy Turnbull on cooperatives and the cooperative movement particularly in the UK that builds social capital in the sense of employee-owned cooperatives, particularly in the social services space, which is very relevant for NDIS and the like for me. Suzi Sosa out of the US – she came out and talked more about social enterprise and some of those aspects. We've had a number of different thinkers during the course of the two years.

### **And they all fit under that banner.**

They all fit under that banner but brought a different perspective to a very wide topic, so that was one way we changed it up. The second way we changed it up was – even though each thinker produced a report with recommendations and we’re in the throes of producing an overall report at the moment, and Allyson and Ilse [Dr Ilse Treurnicht] from MaRS are coming out next week for two weeks. Because it wasn’t government funded or government led, for the Dunstan Foundation to do this and cover the costs as well, we needed to build a partnership – a community ownership of this - - -

**I know what the fundings are like for the foundation – it’s not much.**

No, that’s right, so all of this has been funded for the most part by the community. We have a whole range of different partners from universities to business; the state government did give us a little bit of money as well – councils, professional services firms – a whole long, long list of partners in the program. Each time we had a thinker come out, they would spend some time with the thinker around their own agendas, et cetera. We also had a number of these partners actually decide – we encouraged them to do some prototyping of things that they wanted to try and accomplish, and our thinkers would provide some insights and thoughts. Not that you can see this on your recording [RM submits a document to AM].

**But you can leave that with us and we will attach it to your interview.**

This is a list of some of the prototypes and the organisations that decided to do some prototyping.<sup>2</sup>

**It’s not just one or two, is it?**

No – there’s a list of ideas that they individually had and some prototyping that they were doing over the course of the two years.

**Again, a very, very diverse group of programs. Thank you for that, we will add that to our collection as a part of your talk. I love this one, it’s just jumped out at me: Chooks SA! There are some quite good names, and some Aboriginal projects there as well, which would be close to Don’s heart. There’s Lot 14 [former Royal Adelaide Hospital site]. You really have looked at a diverse group – excellent. Thank you for that.**

Yes, and so the idea was not just to have a report with recommendations, but to actually have practical activity over the course of the - - -

**I think people sort of get tired of, we have a thinker and we have a wonderful report – yes, we’ll endorse that but the endorsing doesn’t usually result in an**

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<sup>2</sup> The list has been included at the end of this interview.

**action, simply because the foundation doesn't have the money, but if you've got all these partners genuinely committed that has to be a brilliant future for you.**

That's right, so - - -

**Have you got any favourite ones, ones that you've really enjoyed out of that list?**

That's a really tough question.

**There are heaps, and they're all very different.**

Very, very different. I think the work that we've done around cooperatives has been really important work. Cooperatives are an old approach to things but it - - -

**It's actually how a lot of South Australians got started. I was thinking particularly up in the Murraylands and areas like that. It was seen as like a commie plot in the old days but they were incredibly successful cooperatives.**

It's about community ownership.

**Like with many things, we take and it goes full circle. There were some academics over from ANU last year – it's a group I'm associated with called the Labour History unit. I think they went up to the Barossa and over to the peninsula and were doing a lot of research on some of those early cooperatives. That fits in absolutely perfectly with what you're doing.**

And it's about community ownership. That was I think a really important piece and then there's just a whole range.

**What is your role in working with some of these groups?**

Not necessarily a particular role. Some of them I have a bit more of an interest in than others. For example, there's one here which is the NDIS Shaping the Future. I had involvement in that one.

**Are they pretty self-run by the partners?**

Yes, they are run by the partners and we make sure that our thinker is connected with that. The Northern Region Care Cooperative is one that I initiated in the hope to move that on. That's an interesting one that's still moving forward.

**You said you've got two of the speakers coming out in a couple of weeks. Who funds that?**

It's all part of this program.

**OK – so they've got accommodation, they've got travel – all of that is covered.**

Yes, all of that is covered.

**Wow!**

That is covered through the sponsorship membership of all the program partners – as I say, it's a long list. I think on the Thinkers website of the Don Dunstan Foundation it will list all the partners.

**That would be excellent, and they get that promotion as well.**

Yes, without the partners we would not have been able to do it.

**Who came up with the idea of doing what you've been talking about?**

The partnerships or the prototypes? The prototypes I think was my idea – if I do claim doing that.

**You need to claim something like that. That is quite an innovation and that's your background – innovation.**

Yes, and a really important part of social innovation is prototyping things and trialling things. Not everything works but ideas need to be prototyped and tested. So that's what this was all about as part of the change process.

**How do you get your message out to get someone new on board, for example?**

That's the hard work that David Pearson does.

**That's a monster list that you've got there.**

Yes, and David and his team should get credit for that. It's just really, really hard persuasive work by David and his team to connect with different – you know, government, business, not-for-profits, universities. He has done the hard yards to try and get them on board and get them to see opportunities for themselves in all of this, as well as what they contribute to it as well.

**Then that's when you're picking it up once they are on board, working with them. When it first started you'd bring a thinker out for six months, they'd consult widely and do a wonderful project – an incredibly expensive process and maybe not get a substantial result other than some really thoughtful ideas. So you've really made the leap bringing on these partners.**

Yes, right at the beginning. A lot of the early partners were really supportive and insightful – they got it. That allowed us to get the program up and running and then we continued to grow the numbers of partners as well.

### **What's the future for this program?**

That's a really good question.

### **That's what part of this project is – what is the future for the foundation?**

Yes, it's very timely because I've just come from a workshop working through where we end up. Effectively, the social capital residencies finishes after we've got this last visit by Ilse and Allyson in the next couple of weeks. Then we will produce a final report, which is really putting together all the reports of all the thinkers, and that is, effectively, the end of the social capital residency. However, there's a lot of work still to be done going forward that's not part of the residency. We've created what we've called a purpose council and I'm chairing the purpose council. It's born out of this with a number of partners who were very much leaders in all of this as well, from universities to business, not-for-profits, et cetera. We've come together to think about what are the important elements of what has come out of this; what needs leadership to continue to take it forward so we can create a more purposeful economy? That's what we were talking about today at this council, working out how we do that and fund that.

### **What do you and the group see as the future – more of the same? As you said, this is now finished.**

Yes, it's out of this, actually understanding that if we're going to have a more purposeful economy we need to actually change systems, which is hard work. We identified the systems that need changing plus - - -

### **So what are they?**

There are a few in particular priority ones. One was the way that government and business procure and we've just had a productivity commission looking at procurement. If we have a more balanced view – not just an economic view of procurement but a social impact view of procurement, then some of the decisions that both government and business make about procurement can be much more impactful, so it's actually understanding that. I think that's an area of systems change.

### **That could be achieved, not easily, but - - -**

That's right. Other areas are around the whole question of investment and how do we invest in businesses for not only economic return but social return? That's another area.

### **That's something we would not really have been very good at as a country.**



No, so it's a lot of systems change in that. The third area is around the whole question of inclusive entrepreneurship. When people talk about, particularly at the moment in this state, entrepreneurship, it's typically focused around a high-tech technology – STEM, et cetera. There's nothing wrong with that but there is this important element that's lost in that discussion, which is about social entrepreneurship. So how can we have entrepreneurs that start up businesses or recognise in their business that social outcomes generate good?

**You mean not just get rich!**

Yes, and generate good, and it's not an issue of being exclusive. You can get social and economic returns at the same time.

**Are the same group of people that you were with today and yourself going to be involved in that new process do you think?**

Yes.

**Obviously you've done the hard yakka and now you need to get out and sell that. I think you've given yourself a pretty hard task.**

That's right. It's a long-term process.

**But who would have thought you could get a list as diverse as that, that you've just handed me?**

Exactly. The really big task – that's not a big task but the really big task is mindset change, and that is enormous, so that's a particular focus as well. With all of that it's - - -

**Seriously, you need to look at – state and federal governments aren't going to help you much, are they, with the situation as it stands now? Both governments are clearly – economics means money and that's all it means. We now have a green bottom line with a lot of businesses so mindset can be changed. You use those examples – people are looking for change, and some of the young entrepreneurs might be - - -**

Absolutely, and millennials are changing the views.

**They're the ones who are hopefully going to save our environment. I'm just delighted with what young children are doing around the world, so it might be an incredibly hard challenge but I think it sounds as though you're all up to it, and your timing is perfect.**

It is timely.

**Do you go out into schools at all? Is that something that you've ever done as an organisation?**

No.

**I guess it's lack of people because you're all doing volunteer work as it is now.**

That's right. The mindset change piece will be interesting in how we tackle that. There are levers for change within different communities, and how we do that, whether it's through governments, through business, through media, et cetera, so there are different places to focus.

**And youth groups have a different focus on social media to oldies that still like the written word. You've got so many options that you can look at. Also this model that they're doing with this Dunstan 101 later this week – that's quite innovative to get young people involved who have sort of heard of Don Dunstan as some famous character in history. Everything you are doing is just, Don Dunstan lives, isn't it?**

Yes, absolutely.

**When we look at the words that he said – that he wanted his life to be meaningful and he wanted these areas for it to continue in, you've just given him that list.**

Exactly right. So with the purpose council we are still [progressing]. I don't think the Dunstan Foundation necessarily will be the driver of that, and it needs to move on.

**It can move to other places, can't it?**

It needs to be more broadly community-owned – community in its broader sense. That's part of how we establish it, where does it sit, how do you govern it, how do you lead it? – all big questions. It's stuff that we need to figure out in the next three, four or five months.

**What else have you got to tell me? That's a pretty good summary of everything on my little piece of paper! I guess I should ask you something – where do you get you passion, what drives you to want to do this work? It's clearly a summary of your working history.**

I'm just passionate about making a difference. I just want to contribute and make a difference in ways that I have the competency and capability to do so. Others contribute and volunteer and do things that they have the competency in doing and I think I've got the competency in these things and so that's how I'm contributing. It's as simple as that.

**Congratulations – sometimes it is just that simple message. Thank you very much.**

Absolute pleasure.

**It's absolutely opened my mind up to what you do and it would be nice to see that becoming a community driven event and take a little bit of a load off the**

**foundation. They've got a huge focus on their Zero Project for which they're getting some fantastic publicity lately.**

Exactly.

**To be able to move that into the ownership of a group of people like yourself that will drive it, and it won't just die a death like many organisations do because as you said, if you are part of the Don Dunstan Foundation, what drives you? There's no money in it, is there? So your driver is your passion.**

Exactly.

**Is that what you would say with the other people that you're working with, that it's the passion?**

Absolutely. It's a passion, like-minded people wanting to make a difference and contribute.

**You'll have to come back at some stage and tell me how it's working.**

Yes, indeed.

**Excellent – thank you very much.**

Pleasure.

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The following is the list of projects/prototypes referred to on page 10 of this transcript:

## **Don Dunstan Foundation – Thinkers in Residence**

### **Social Capital Residencies – Partner Initiatives**

#### **Thinkers in Residence Instigated Prototypes**

##### **COMMERCIALISATION OF VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT IP**

A volunteer management best practice commercial product designed for international markets with the expertise of Volunteering SA&NT.

##### **Volunteering SA-NT**

<http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au/>

##### **Evelyn O'Loughlin**

Chief Executive Officer

Volunteering SA-NT

E: [Evelyn.OLoughlin@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au](mailto:Evelyn.OLoughlin@volunteeringsa-nt.org.au)

P: 08 8221 7177

##### **MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT NETWORK (EMPLOYEE OWNED) CO-OPERATIVE**

A co-operative designed to provide employment opportunities for people with lived experience of mental health and recovery, and grow the peer workforce in South Australia.

##### **Mental Health Coalition**

<http://www.mhcsa.org.au/>

##### **Shandy Arlidge**

PM Lived Experience Workforce and Senior Policy Officer

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P: 8212 8873

### **NORTHERN REGION CARE CO-OPERATIVE**

A co-operative that enables service providers and consumers, in a joint venture, to work together in a customer-centric transparent market-place of shared demand and supply data. With the ability to create innovative approaches to address complex supply problems, including provider capacity, sustainability and workforce availability and competition.

### **SHARED SERVICES MODELS FOR ON-CALL AFTER HOURS CARE SERVICES**

A shared services model for disability organisations to collectively provide on-call after hours care services.

### **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SURVEY & REPORT - NORTH**

A report that maps social enterprises in South Australia and assesses the value of engaging social enterprise to facilitate job creation for socially and economically disadvantaged populations. The research is part of a broader initiative that explores opportunities for public sector bodies to target their procurement of goods and service for greater social benefit, in particular in Northern Adelaide.

### **SOCIAL PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

A strategy for public procurement to provide targeted employment stimulation in areas of high social and economic need (especially in Northern Adelaide).

Supported by findings from the Stretton Fellowship (below)

### **TRANSPORT AND CARING**

A working group that is investigating options to pursue a collaborative pilot addressing some of the persistent issues around transport and care – especially in regional and country areas. The core outcome of the pilot (located in Murray Bridge) is to improved access to transport options.

### **WELLBEING INSURANCE SCHEME**

Development of a Wellbeing Insurance Scheme South Australia (WISSA) to meet the service needs of those ineligible for the NDIS.

### **Department of Industry and Skill**

<https://industryandskills.sa.gov.au/>

#### **Rob DiMonte**

NDIS Industry Development and Market, Coordinator General

Industry, Innovation, Science and Small Business, Department for Industry and Skills

E: [Rob.DiMonte@sa.gov.au](mailto:Rob.DiMonte@sa.gov.au)

### **Community Living Australia**

<http://www.claust.com.au/>

#### **Mark Kulinski**

Chief Executive

Community Living Australia

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P: (08) 8536 5888

### **SACES**

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/saces/>

#### **Andreas Cebulla**

Senior Research Fellow

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### **Stretton Centre**

<http://strettoncentre.com.au/>

#### **Dermot Cussen**

Director Stretton Centre E: [dermot@strettoncentre.com.au](mailto:dermot@strettoncentre.com.au)

### **Carers SA**

<https://www.carers-sa.asn.au/>

#### **David Militz**

CEO

Carers SA

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### **Mental Health Coalition SA**

<http://www.mhcsa.org.au/>

#### **Geoff Harris**

Executive Director

Mental Health Coalition of SA

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Ph: (08) 8212 8873

## **Thinkers in Residence Instigated Initiatives**

### **BCORPS NETWORK OF SA**

A network of advocates and a South Australian working group which aim to grow the amount of BCorps in South Australia from seven (2018) to twenty by 2020.

### **Freerange Future**

<https://freerangefuture.com/>  
**Nick Crowther**  
Director  
Freerange Future  
E: [nick@freerangefuture.com](mailto:nick@freerangefuture.com)  
P: (08) 08 8121 3369

### **INNOVATION PRECINCT TOUR**

An Innovation Study tour to North American and Canadian of Innovation precincts with a strong focus on social innovation and the redevelopment of Lot 14 (former RAH site)

### **Committee for Adelaide**

<https://committeeforadelaide.org.au/>  
**Jodie van Deventer**  
Chief Executive Officer  
E: [jodie@committeeforadelaide.org.au](mailto:jodie@committeeforadelaide.org.au)  
P: +61 (0) 8 8410 5301

### **PURPOSE BUSINESS NETWORK NORTH**

A regional network which supports the growth of social enterprises and businesses with purpose to create job opportunities and tackle social and economic disadvantage in the North.

### **The Stretton Centre**

<http://strettoncentre.com.au/>  
**Dermott Cussen**  
Director Stretton Centre M: 0417 881 241  
E: [dermot@strettoncentre.com.au](mailto:dermot@strettoncentre.com.au)

### **PURPOSE ECONOMY COUNCIL**

A Council to help guide the growth of the Purpose Economy in SA as well as to drive the implementation of the recommendations in the Thinkers Reports developed through the Social Capital Residencies.

### **Torrens University**

**Prof Justin Beilby**  
[jbeilby@lauriet.edu.au](mailto:jbeilby@lauriet.edu.au)

### **SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

A strategy promoting social finance instruments as a crucial way of providing resources to address some of our biggest social problems.

### **Social Impact Investment Network SA (SIINSA)**

<http://www.socialimpact.org.au/>  
**Jane Arnott**  
General Manager, Consulting and Business Services  
P: 8444 9753  
E: [jarnott@cbb.com.au](mailto:jarnott@cbb.com.au)

### **SOCIAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM GLOSSARY**

A Glossary of Terms for the Social Capital Residencies and Purpose Economy.

### **Adelaide University**

**Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation & Innovation Centre (ECIC)**  
**Dr Wendy Lindsay**  
Program Director: Bachelor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation & Innovation Centre (ECIC)  
P: +61 8 8313 2564  
E: [wendy.lindsay@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:wendy.lindsay@adelaide.edu.au)

### **SOCIAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM MAP**

A map designed to create a better understanding of the social innovation ecosystem in SA including its strengths, gaps and connections to the broader commercial innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

### **The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI)**

<http://tacsi.org.au/>  
**Chris Vanstone**  
Chief Innovation Officer  
TACSI  
E: [chris.vanstone@tacsi.org.au](mailto:chris.vanstone@tacsi.org.au)  
P: (08) 7325 4994

**YUNUS SOCIAL BUSINESS CENTRE – UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**

A centre focussed on driving systems change through social business, entrepreneurship and enterprise in the South Australian Economy.

**University of Adelaide**

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/>

**Dr Sam Wells**

Director, Yunus Social Business Centre, University of Adelaide

T: 8313 8336

E: [sam.wells@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:sam.wells@adelaide.edu.au)

**Third Party Initiatives Supported by the Thinkers in Residence Program**

**CHOOKS SA**

An initiative designed to

- Connect women across the generations learn from one another and build a community where support not competition is the priority
- Celebrate successes (however small)
- Commit to each other to take the next step needed to for our idea to take off

**Chooks SA**

<http://www.chookssa.com/>

**Moira Were**

Founder

E: [chooks@moiradeslandesconsulting.com](mailto:chooks@moiradeslandesconsulting.com)

**CREATIVE REVOLUTIONARIES SPEAKER SERIES**

An ongoing series of presentations for the cultural and creative industries where local, national and international leaders share their expertise.

**Sia Furler Institute, University of Adelaide**

<https://arts.adelaide.edu.au/music/sia-furler-institute/home>

**Tom Hajdu**

Director Sia Furler Institute

E: [tom@disrupter.com](mailto:tom@disrupter.com)

**E-CHALLENGE**

A social enterprise stream in the E-challenge program.

**E-challenge**

<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/echallenge/australian-echallenge/categories#social-enterprise>

T: 83130171

E: [echallenge@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:echallenge@adelaide.edu.au)

**EASTERN HILLS MURRAY BASIN CATCHMENT GROUP – Murray Bridge Nursery**

Expansion of the Social Enterprise Nursery to provide training and employment opportunities to long-term unemployed with barriers to participate in the workforce.

**Eastern Hills Murray Basin Catchment Group – Murray Bridge Nursery.**

**EHMCG General Manager**

P: 8531 2077

E: [admin@ehmpcg.org.au](mailto:admin@ehmpcg.org.au)

**IMPACT INDEX**

An Impact Index:

- Identifies rising social entrepreneurs operating across various sectors
- Links the community with socially aware businesses and organisations
- Provides a simple way for organisations and business to be recognised for their social impact
- Helps measure the health of the social economy
- Drives collaboration to accelerate the growth of the social economy

**Governors Leadership Foundation**

<https://leadersinstitute.worldsecuresystems.com/programs/governors-leadership-foundation/index>

**Contact via DDF**

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**LOT 14 (former RAH site)  
REDEVELOPMENT**

Scoping for opportunities to incorporate social innovation and social enterprises within the site development and operational plan.

**MAKE IT BIG ADELAIDE**

Incorporating the Purpose Economy in the Make it Big Adelaide report.

**NDIS - Shaping the Future of SA**

A Report delivered to the Government of South Australia providing insights and key recommendations to maximise the social and economic benefits of the State's disability sector.

**SOCIAL CAPITAL CONFERENCE**

A conference designed to grow the social innovation and enterprise ecosystem in South Australia.

**SHIFT.ED**

A monthly series of events, inspiring people on the purpose to impact journey; wrapping masterclasses, experience sharing, collaboration and networking into one platform for change.

**YUNUS SOCIAL BUSINESS CENTRE – UNI  
SA  
TBA**

**Office of the Chief Entrepreneur**

<https://chiefentrepreneur.sa.gov.au/>  
E: osace@sa.gov.au

**Deloitte**

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**KPMG**

<https://home.kpmg/au/en/home/insights/2017/12/ndis-shaping-the-future-of-south-australia.html>  
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**Social Capital**

<http://socialcapitalcity.com/>  
**David Paterson**  
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**Shift.ed**

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Incomplete entry