

Board Pack

Many Rivers Microfinance
Non-Executive Director

July 2024

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL



Context

Many Rivers Microfinance is a for-purpose organisation dedicated to enabling individuals to realise their aspirations by fostering economic independence for them and their families. Established in 2007, the organisation aims to support people who live in disadvantaged areas and are marginalised or facing financial challenges by providing them with the resources and opportunities needed to start and grow their own businesses. Many Rivers focuses on helping Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders and others in remote and regional areas where economic opportunities are often limited. Many Rivers believes that entrepreneurship can be a powerful tool for social and economic change, enabling individuals to break the cycle of poverty and build sustainable livelihoods. The outcomes can be life changing.

The services offered by Many Rivers include business coaching, mentoring, and access to grants and microfinance loans through their Microenterprise Development (MED) and Community Economic Development (CED) initiatives. MED supports individuals to start, stay and thrive in business while CED supports Indigenous organisations and their communities to achieve real economic outcomes. The microfinance loans provided by Many Rivers are designed to be accessible and flexible, catering to the unique needs of each entrepreneur. By combining financial support with personalised mentoring and coaching, Many Rivers ensures that clients receive holistic assistance, increasing their chances of long-term success.

Many Rivers has a strong track record of impact, having supported thousands of individuals in starting and growing their businesses. The organisation's approach is highly community-focused, with business coaches based in regional areas to provide on-the-ground support. Many Rivers also collaborates with other organisations, government agencies, and corporate partners to enhance its reach and effectiveness. Through its efforts, Many Rivers continues to empower individuals to achieve their business goals and contribute to the economic vitality of their communities.



Many Rivers Microfinance - Context

The opportunity

Many Rivers addresses the economic disadvantage and lack of opportunities faced by marginalised individuals and communities, particularly Indigenous Australians and those in remote or regional areas. This is to build economic independence and resilience for individuals and their communities.

The response

Many Rivers helps people to start and grow their own small business, in particular people who have low or no income to enable them to become self-employed. This is done through business coaching and financial support, all offered free of charge.

Many Rivers Community Economic Development (CED) provides support to regional and remote Indigenous communities that want to establish or grow economic activity on their land. Together Many Rivers steps through what is required for a community to strengthen its understanding, planning, leadership, and organisation to actively participate in the Australian economy and be local leaders in the community's future direction and prosperity.

Mission and Vision

Many Rivers Microfinance Limited exists to lift underprivileged Indigenous and other Australians out of poverty. Its motivation and mission is inspired by the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Purpose

Many Rivers purpose is to walk alongside individuals and communities over the long-term, building strong long-term relationships and offering accessible business development support, products and services, including pro-bono legal advice and microfinance business loans.

Impact

As of 30 June 2023:

- Have supported over 14,500 clients.
- Worked with a total of 52 communities (and counting) since 2015.
- Generated \$543m revenue by Many Rivers supported businesses since FY14.

Deloitte Access Economics independently reports the outcomes and impacts achieved by Many Rivers annually, by drawing on quantitative and qualitative data.

The latest report can be found [here](#).



Current Board



Terry Winters, AM, FAICD, Chair

Part of the impetus behind the formation of Many Rivers prior to 2007 while he was Chairman of Opportunity International, Terry was appointed as a Director on 23 September 2010, and Chairman of Many Rivers on 1 March 2024. He is also Chairman of Converge International Pty Ltd, Australia's largest mental health services provider.

Terry has previously served as Non-executive Director and Chair of several listed and unlisted companies and charities and has over 30 years experience in the operation and governance of microfinance organisations including Opportunity International where he served as Chairman in Australia and several years as Global Chairman of Opportunity International Network. Until recently he also served as a director of TSPI Development Corporation Inc, a Micro Enterprise Development NGO in the Philippines.



Trish Botha, BA, Intercultural Ministry, MBA, Non-Executive Director

Appointed as a Non-Executive Director on 19 August 2021. Trish brings a varied professional life, from banking and finance through to co-founding multiple community programs and consequently a WA-based charity, where she served as its CEO for 7 years, servicing thousands of families across Perth's northern suburbs.

Trish also has experience in creating a nationally recognised Job Active program which sought to transition people from chronic unemployment into sustained and fulfilling vocations. After working in the Federal Government, Trish established her own business, pursuing her passion for creating economic development opportunities, particularly within the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island communities.

Trish is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, with family connections to Far North Queensland.



Current Board



Kristal Kinsela, MBA, BEd (Adult Education), MAICD, Non-Executive Director

Appointed as a Non-Executive Director on 19 August 2021. Kristal is a proud and passionate Indigenous business owner and leader who enjoys connecting people and moving them into action. Through determination, resilience and hard work, Kristal built her professional career and successful consultancy business. Today, she channels her experience and energy into helping others succeed.

A descendant of both the Jawoyn and Wiradjuri nations, Kristal brings her personal story and over 16 years of business expertise to every project. She has worked with well-known global businesses and all levels of government to drive their supplier diversity efforts, helping develop procurement plans, up-skill teams and positively impact communities. She authored the first book published in Australia on Indigenous business procurement, “Supplier Diversity How”, based on her proven approach.

A multi-award winner, Kristal has been awarded the 2019 AFR 100 Women of Influence, 2019 Indigenous Defence Leader of the Year, 2017 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year and 2017 Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year.



Sinclair Taylor, LLB, Non-Executive Director

Appointed as a Director on 24 August 2012. Sinclair is the former CEO of the Westpac Foundation for Westpac Banking Corporation. During his time at Westpac, Sinclair pioneered and led Westpac’s strategic alliance with Many Rivers Microfinance. Sinclair is an experienced commercial banker and business owner and was the founding CEO of Westpac’s Davidson Institute.



Chief Executive Officer

Nathan Hawkins



Nathan has over 15 years' experience in leadership roles across education, marketing, not-for-profit and philanthropic sectors. After an early academic career phase in public health research and teaching, Nathan moved into community-based work designing, implementing, and evaluating Government-funded public health initiatives.

Since then, he has led charities working to tackle disadvantage both nationally and internationally. He has also provided strategic marketing consulting to a variety of Australian-based companies and most recently, has helped develop growing major and principal gift philanthropic programs, working with some of Australia's most significant philanthropists. Nathan holds a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Hons).

Nathan was appointed Head of Business Development in 2021 and CEO in December 2023.



Governance

Structure

Many Rivers Microfinance Limited is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with no tradable securities. It is regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Many Rivers is classified as a Public Benevolent Institution and is an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and accesses Charitable Tax Concessions.

Composition

The Board must have not less than 4 and not more than 12 Directors and the Board shall determine the number of Directors within that range.

Tenure

Directors are asked to commit to 3-year term and are expected to serve up to a maximum of 3 terms.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held 6 times per year in February, April, June, August, October and December. In addition, there is a strategy workshop held the day before the February Board meeting and an annual conference with all staff in August. The AGM is held in December.

Board meetings are held in Sydney in person and online via Teams or Zoom)

Remuneration

Directors are remunerated with an annual base fee of \$36,000 including superannuation allowance, plus a supplement for committee Chairs. Directors are also reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending board and related meetings.

Records

Financial Reports and a copy of the Constitution can be found [here](#).



The opportunity – Non-Executive Director

Specific skills and experience:

The Board of Many Rivers is looking to appoint up to 3 new non-executive Directors to increase the Board's size and capability, enable a formal succession plan to be implemented and to access a broader range of skills and experience, relevant to the organisation's growth strategy and aspirations.

New Directors will bring skills, experience and networks in the following areas:

1. Commercial skills specifically in understanding different forms of social capital and / or impact investing. Individuals who can bring creativity and access to different forms of capital and who understand the delicate balance required between social and financial returns.
2. Individuals highly regarded in community, in particular the communities that Many Rivers operates in. Individuals who will enable stretch thinking to address the opportunities for individuals with respect to economic capability and community development.
3. The ability to navigate change, growth and transformation whilst balancing risk and operational capability.

Geographic, gender and cultural diversity are important, and we would encourage people from around Australia with experience of working in remote regions where access to services and resources or larger markets is quite challenging. In addition, we would encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All Directors will bring a genuine commitment to the vision, mission and values of Many Rivers, together with general capabilities and experience that will underpin the organisations strategic growth aspirations and social impact.

Duties and expectations of Directors:

In addition, Directors will be comfortable with and experienced in governance excellence. As a Director you will be required to:

- Participate in setting the vision, strategy and direction of the organisation.
- Set the right tone for a culture that needs to balance strong internal team relationships and external client and community relationships and takes a pride in delivering the performance outcomes set through the planning process and agreed with funding partners.
- We have to walk-the-talk and do what we say we will do.
- Monitor performance of the business and maintain ultimate accountability for the achievement of the organisation's strategic goals.
- Ensure ongoing financial viability of the organisation.
- Approve major capital expenditures.
- Ensure all legislative and compliance obligations are met.
- Ensure major risks are managed.
- Appoint the CEO and ensure management succession is well planned and managed.
- Approve remuneration policy.
- Sign off on accounts.
- Establish ethical standards.



Further information

Website

<https://manyrivers.org.au/>

Annual Reports

<https://manyrivers.org.au/our-governance/>

ACNC Profile

[ACNC](#)

10th Annual MED and 3rd Annual CED Monitoring and
Evaluation Report 2022

[Report link](#)



For more information



For all enquiries please contact

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