**MEDIA RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 28 September 2020, 6 AM**

**New research investigates ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the social sector**

**Melbourne, 28 September:** The second phase of a national research project designed to measure the ongoing and evolving impact of COVID-19 on social purpose organisations was launched earlier today.

The study is an initiative of social-purpose organisation **The Xfactor Collective** with the support of **Equity Trustees**,and isdesigned to identify the issues affecting the social sector. The goal is to help identify what support is needed for those organisations to make it through the pandemic.

The first part of this **National Impact+Need Research Study** was conducted in May and revealed the many challenges faced by the social sector due to the pandemic.

“In the first survey, many organisations reported they had only a few months of financial reserves. In addition to financial pressures, many organisations were concerned about the mental wellbeing of their staff and volunteers. That is six months ago now, so we want to understand the evolving and ongoing impacts of COVID-19,” said Julia Keady, CEO and Founder of The Xfactor Collective.

“What we are hoping to achieve with [this second survey](https://www.asr2.com/surveymatters/anon/2183.aspx) is to understand how their circumstances have changed since then. What's different? What's new? What's still affecting them?

“These insights will inform what support social change-makers and organisations across our sector require right now. We can then leverage our collaborative, integrated and complementary network to provide relevant resources that can help bring us all out of this pandemic stronger than ever."

The ongoing effects of the pandemic are still taking a toll on large organisations and community grass-roots groups alike. In May, 53% of participants indicated the uncertainty and constant change was having the greatest overall impact.

Jodi Kennedy, General Manager, Charitable Trusts and Philanthropy, Equity Trustees said it is vital to stay on top of these changes and consider what they mean for the longevity of the sector and the one in 10 Australians it employs, let alone the people the sector supports.

“By understanding the ongoing - and new - impacts of this prolonged pandemic on the for-purpose sector, we as sector leaders can start to think about our role in reimagining the future. We not only have a responsibility to use what we’re learning, but a unique opportunity through this crisis to better plan for resilience, to ensure the sector not just survives, but thrives for the longer term," Ms Kennedy said.

"So, no matter what role people hold in the social sector – employee, CEO, volunteer, committee member, board member or sector advisor – we want to hear from you."

All social sector organisations are encouraged to [participate in the research study](https://www.asr2.com/surveymatters/anon/2183.aspx). The survey will close 18 October, with results announced in November.

**The Xfactor Collective** is an Australian-first community, of and for social changemakers, created so we can achieve social change in a more collaborative, holistic and integrated way, and ultimately achieve improved social outcomes, while also improving changemaker wellbeing.

**RESET 2020** is supported by a growing group of outreach partners including Philanthropy Australia, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Pro Bono Australia, Fundraising Institute of Australia, Australian Community Philanthropy, Social Change Central, Non Profit Alliance and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

The **National Impact+Need Research Study** is being managed by Specialist Research Agency and Foundation Member of the Collective, Survey Matters. Survey Matters is fully compliant with the Australian Privacy Act and the National Privacy Principles contained in the Act. In addition to adhering to the Australian privacy laws and regulations, Survey Matters Privacy Policy also extends to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), so organisations who take part in this research can be sure their information is kept confidential and secure.

Learn more about **RESET2020** at: <https://xfactorcollective.com/reset-2020>

A full data set of the **National Impact+Need Research Study – May Survey** will be made available and free to the sector on the Seer Data Platform in October. The baseline dataset was launched in August and is available for free to all sector organisations, and can be downloaded here: <https://xfactorcollective.com/research>

(ends)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MEDIA INQUIRIES**Julie Weldon, The Xfactor Collective RESET 2020 Communications Lead, julie.weldon@jawcomms.com.au , Phone 0423 110 802