



TOWARDS PROSPERITY, FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

CEDA PHILANTHROPY



CEDA'S VISION | PROGRESS 2050

Progress 2050 is our shared plan for how Australia can realise our economic and societal potential. It provides a plan to address the issues that matter most to our nation, connecting our bold vision for a better future with shared goals and strategies for getting there.

Progress 2050 aligns with CEDA's long-standing purpose and expertise as an independent, member-driven think tank. For more than 60 years we have been promoting debate on, researching and advocating for, the policy change needed to progress economic and social development – for the benefit of all Australians.

To create influence at scale, the philanthropic sector offers fresh perspectives and agility that will be central to any successful response.

For the first time, CEDA is inviting philanthropic partners who share our vision to help drive long-term prosperity for all Australians.

PROGRESS 2050

Progress 2050 is our vision of long-term prosperity for all Australians.

At its core, Progress 2050 recognises that an economy is about people. It is built on two connected pillars - a strong economy and a strong social compact, because one cannot thrive without the other. Together they create a target for Australia's future: a nation that is innovative, inclusive and resilient.

Strong Economy



**PRODUCTIVITY,
INVESTMENT AND
INNOVATION**



**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS
AND WORKFORCE**



**ENERGY TRANSITION
AND CLIMATE
ADAPTATION**

Goal 1: Australia's businesses are amongst the most competitive and dynamic in the world.

Goal 2: Australia's skills, knowledge and ideas are valued, invested in and sought after – locally and globally.

Goal 3: Australian businesses and communities lead climate adaptation and the transition to affordable, reliable and secure clean energy.

Strong Social Compact



**WELLBEING, SECURITY
AND PARTICIPATION**



**DISADVANTAGE AND
OPPORTUNITY**



**INCLUSION AND
EQUITY**

Goal 4: All Australians have access to the education, housing and care they need to thrive.

Goal 5: All Australians have the opportunities and support to live a productive, connected and meaningful life.

Goal 6: Australia's success is characterised by the vibrancy and diversity of our workplaces and society.

WHY CEDA?

CEDA's channels of influence, honed over more than 60 years, and our 400+ cross sector member base can be activated to create influence at scale.

Our trusted independence, track record of expertise, ability to bring diverse perspectives and our genuine convening power mean we offer the authentic ability to influence in this environment. Our approach:



IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with CEDA is an investment in impact.

CEDA's existing partnerships demonstrate the unique role CEDA plays.

In each case, targeted investment allowed CEDA to:

- Undertake independent, high-quality research
- Convene leaders across sectors and perspectives
- Sustain focus on complex, long-term policy challenges

For philanthropists, these examples illustrate how support for CEDA translates into **influence at scale**: shaping national conversations, strengthening decision-making, and accelerating the pathway from evidence to action.

The partnerships that follow show what investment in CEDA makes possible — and the opportunity for philanthropy to extend this impact further, with greater independence, ambition and longevity.

CEDA x NAIC | AI Leadership Summit + Community of Best Practice

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

CEDA and the National Artificial Intelligence Centre (NAIC, part of DISER) joined forces in 2023 to deliver Australia's first annual AI Leadership Summit. The Summit brought together business, government and community leaders to navigate the fast-moving AI landscape - building understanding, challenging what can and should be done, and providing practical guidance on AI adoption and transformation. The CEDA x NAIC AI Leadership Summit is Australia's leading independent cross sectoral forum focused on AI and the public interest.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

- **600+** attendees, growing year on year from 2023 to 2025
- **Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane** - national reach
- **2026** includes a dedicated SME and Regional AI Adoption stream

AI COMMUNITY OF BEST PRACTICE

This cross-sector community of professional working together to understand how best to utilise AI, manage the ethical implications and apply the tools to enhance productivity, was a direct outcome of the Summit partnership.

PARTNERSHIP IMPACTS

Shape Australia's AI agenda

The co-design of this event directly influenced how business and government understand and adopt AI. NAIC's expertise informed the program; CEDA's independence gave it credibility.

National reach and visibility

600+ senior attendees across government, industry and academia. Valuable exposure of this rapidly growing but still unfamiliar technology enhanced by communication to CEDA's 70,000+ subscriber network.

Practical impact at scale

The 2026 SME and Regional stream extends reach, addressing the AI adoption gap where it is most acute and consequential for national productivity, enabling exposure to those most likely to be greatly impacted by isolation from new technology developments.

Year-round community

The AI Community of Best Practice sustains the conversation between summits, giving partners ongoing presence in a growing network of AI practitioners and leaders, supporting ongoing knowledge development

Proven track record

Three years of consecutive growth, expanding from one city to three. A partnership with demonstrated momentum, public profile and capacity to keep growing.

CEDA + URBIS PARTNERSHIP | Practical Solutions for Housing Supply

WHAT WE DID

In 2025, CEDA partnered with Urbis to deliver a **12-month research and senior roundtable series** under CEDA's *Progress 2050* framework, focused on Australia's long-term housing challenge.

The partnership will produce **five major reports** supported by senior-level roundtables that convened leaders from government, industry, finance, planning, and community sectors.

The work was designed to move the national housing debate beyond polarised options – high-rise inner-city development or outer-suburban sprawl – by providing an evidence-based pathway for scalable reform aligned with Australia's demographic, economic and infrastructure realities.

FIVE RESEARCH REPORTS – combining CEDA's economic modelling with Urbis' housing and urban systems expertise.

Gentle density *Dec 2025*

Alternative construction methods

Densification and planning reform

Social and affordable housing

Supporting housing demand

PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

Flagship Report (Dec 2025) : CEDA - A middle path: How gentle density can help solve Australia's housing crisis

This report emerged as the most influential publication in the series. Developed jointly by CEDA economists and Urbis housing specialists, the report quantified, for the first time at a national and multi-city scale, the potential supply impact of modest planning reform in established suburbs.

Demonstrated that modest planning reform in established suburbs could unlock **~1 million additional homes nationally**.

Reframed the housing debate from polarised options to a **practical, scalable “missing middle” solution**.

Policy and system impact

- Referenced in **government-focused policy media** and cited as evidence in debates on planning reform and housing affordability.
- Integrated into the **mainstream policy evidence base** alongside Grattan Institute analysis, strengthening bipartisan and cross-sector consensus on planning reform.
- Directly acknowledged in **ministerial speeches delivered at CEDA**, positioning CEDA research as central to housing reform thinking in NSW and nationally.

This partnership converted independent research into **measurable influence on Australia's housing policy debate**.

Why independent resourcing through partnerships is powerful

Government cannot fund its own challengers. The most influential housing reforms require evidence that sits outside political cycles, department and electoral constraints.

CEDA + JUSTICE RESEARCH | An example of what further resourcing could enable

Turning evidence into reform: why this work needs support

CEDA convened an unusual and powerful coalition to address one of Australia's fastest-growing policy challenges: the rapid rise in women's incarceration. We focused on women because imprisonment rates are growing sharply, the impacts on families and communities are severe, and the long-term fiscal costs to government are significant. The evidence is clear — what has been lacking is coordinated action.

Drawing on our independence and trusted reputation, CEDA brought together prison operators, leading academics, groups representing lived experience, and reform-focused consultants. These perspectives rarely align, yet through this process they reached shared conclusions on what needs to change. Their collective insights informed *Double Jeopardy* (2022), a research report that demonstrated both the human and economic case for reform. This created a rare opportunity: cross-sector consensus, strong evidence, and momentum for change across jurisdictions.

With adequate resources, CEDA could have translated this coalition into sustained advocacy — developing compelling materials, engaging decision-makers, and driving reforms that deliver better budget outcomes, improved employment participation, and a stronger social compact.

That opportunity was missed not because the case was weak, but because we lacked the resources to move from research to action – to convert evidence and alignment into real policy impact — reducing incarceration, strengthening families, and delivering lasting economic and social benefits.

CEDA | JUSTICE RESEARCH

ABOUT THE WORK

CEDA has built a substantial body of research on Australia's justice system, focused on the economic and social costs of rising incarceration, the failure of tough-on-crime approaches to reduce reoffending, and the case for diversion, justice reinvestment and community-based responses. The work cuts across women's imprisonment, First Nations incarceration, recidivism and the broader cycle linking disadvantage to criminal justice system contact.

KEY RESEARCH

- [Double jeopardy 2022](#) - *economic and social costs of female incarceration*
- [Disrupting disadvantage 2019-2021 series](#) - *justice as a driver of entrenched disadvantage*
- [Costs, consequences and alternatives](#) *First Nations incarceration and justice reinvestment*
- [Bail reform advocacy](#) *analysis of remand rates and impacts on vulnerable women*
- [Recidivism and post-release support](#) *housing, employment and reintegration pathways*

THE NUMBERS

\$5.4bn annual prison operating cost, **45%** two-year recidivism rate, **10x** First Nations incarceration relative to population share

KEY FINDINGS AND POSITIONS

Rising incarceration despite falling crime

Australia's imprisonment rates have reached historic highs even as serious crime rates fall. The current approach is not making communities safer and is placing unsustainable pressure on state budgets.

Women and First Nations people are most affected

Female incarceration grew more than 60 per cent over a decade. First Nations people are incarcerated at 10 times their share of the population. Many women are held on remand, unsentenced, for low-level offences.

Prison entrenches disadvantage, it does not break it

More than 50 per cent of prisoners return to custody within five years. People leave prison homeless, jobless and without support, increasing the likelihood of reoffending across generations.

The economic case for reform is clear

At \$367 per prisoner per day, incarceration is one of the fastest-growing areas of government spending. Diversion and community-based responses deliver better outcomes at lower cost.

Justice reinvestment works

Redirecting resources from prisons into community support, housing and employment has proven effective internationally and in Australian pilots. CEDA has consistently backed this approach.

Reform requires political will and evidence

CEDA has called for national targets to reduce imprisonment and reoffending, better data collection, and coordination through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.

USEFUL LINKS

[CEDA - Progress 2050](#)

[CEDA - Goal tracker](#)

RELATED CONTENT

CEDA has a large catalogue of research and media reports which demonstrate the direct relationship between our economy and our social compact. Some examples are below:

[CEDA - A middle path: How gentle density can help solve Australia's housing crisis](#)

[CEDA - Op-ed: Australia needs more aged care workers and migration has to be part of the plan](#)

[CEDA - Australians are right to feel miserable right now](#)

TOWARDS PROSPERITY, FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

CEDA Philanthropy

More information please contact:

Annemarie Rolls

Annemarie.rolls@ceda.com.au

0413 089 787

>ceda