

Compass: Pitch Up

Three-part special

Premieres Saturday August 11 at 6.00pm on ABC



In a three-part special, **Compass** shines a spotlight on the brave new world of giving; live crowdfunding, where The Funding Network bring donors and grassroots organisations face-to-face in the same room. Each organisation hopes to raise \$15,000.

The stakes are high as three charities face a room full of potential donors. It's like a philanthropic shark tank. Everything rests on their six-minute pitch. The audience will only put their hands in their pockets if a cause touches their hearts.

In three different towns, Sydney, Geelong and Brisbane, *Compass* host Kumi Taguchi takes us behind the scenes as each presenter is coached to craft and hone their pitch for maximum impact. Along the way Kumi finds out what makes these not-for-profits tick, why they need support and what they plan to do with the money... *if* they raise it.

Episode one: Saturday 11 August at 6pm on ABC

We are at the big end of town, right on Sydney harbour. Kumi meets Lana Borg from *Mama Lana's*, who's feeding the hungry and homeless in Sydney's Western Suburbs but yearns to do much more. Can Lana overcome her crippling fear of public speaking? "I feel like I'm gonna throw up, I feel queasy in the stomach. it's horrible."

Dominican nun and feminist Sister Diana Santleben is helping refugee women find their feet and their voice in a new land, teaching them to read and write in their mother tongue. Many of these women are illiterate so she runs Dari, Arabic and Pashto classes at *Zara's House* in Newcastle. "Teach a boy to read and you educate a man. Teach a girl to read and you educate a family, a nation, and the future."

Simone Patterson on the Gold Coast provides a sanctuary for women and children escaping domestic violence. It's one of the few refuges in Australia to welcome pets. The Gold Coast has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in Australia and Simone has to turn away up to 15 women every day. "The animals can end up in the middle of the domestic violence, we've had a woman in here who watched her dog be killed because she was going to leave." But the *The Sanctuary* is struggling financially. Could the Funding Network event be the lifeline they've been waiting for?

Production details: An ABC Production. Presenter: Kumi Taguchi, Producer: Kim Akhurst, Researchers: Mark Webb and Megan Hazlett, Editor: Danielle Akayan, Compass Series Producer: Jessica Douglas-Henry, Manager Religion & Ethics: Joe Gelonesi.

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Episode two: Saturday 18 August at 6pm on ABC

Kumi travels to Geelong, a regional town rebuilding and renewing after the loss of manufacturing jobs. Here in one of the poorest Victorian postcodes, Kumi meets Simon Reeves who is building and nurturing community from the ground up. He lives and works in Norlane, an area of high disadvantage. Simon runs *Norlane Community Initiatives* and uses food to “try and cultivate community and regenerate the neighbourhood in which we live.”

Recovering ice-addict Kane Nuttall is using his personal experience to help others break the cycle of drug addiction. After 12 years in addiction and a failed suicide attempt, Kane has now been clean for 3 years and started his support group, the *Power In You Project*. “There’s so much stigma that comes with addiction ... if you get called a junkie enough times or you get called a scumbag enough times, that’s all you think you that you are ever going to be.”

Youth worker Rachael Parker surfs with kids to teach them self-confidence and resilience, it’s all about getting back on the board after being knocked off. Surfing also helped Rachael overcome her own inner demons and inspired her to start *Ocean Mind*. “We put smiles back on young people’s faces. Young people that have been through traumatic events. Young people that might have been bullied at school. Young people that might be experiencing mental health issues. As a youth worker I understand the importance of putting a smile back on young people’s faces, of connecting them with the community and connecting them with the outdoor environment and with nature.”

\$15000 is a big ask for a small town like Geelong. Will the community get behind their own, dig deep and help make Geelong a better place to live?

Episode three: Saturday 25 August at 6pm on ABC

In episode **three** Brisbane hosts the collective giving and taps into the corporate dollar. Kumi meets Zoe Black who’s using animals to help people in social isolation. *Happy Paws Happy Hearts* works in the Brisbane RSPCA, where rescue dogs are trained by veterans suffering from PTSD. It’s mutually beneficially arrangement, which increases the dogs’ chances of adoption, while the veterans grow in self-confidence. The veterans “bond with the dogs seemed to be stronger than any other group that we’ve worked with. It was a little bit like, I’ve been through hell, you’ve been through hell.” Zoe’s set herself a very ambitious target to take the program to the next level. Will she get there on the night?

Melissa Redsell was pregnant at 16 and now mentors teens mums, encouraging them to finish their education and live *A Brave Life*. “There’s still so much stigma and judgment surrounding teen pregnancy. Like I was told you’d ruined your life, you’ll never amount to anything, life is over. We need to change that kind of language, the way we speak to them.”

Debbie Miller trains teachers to connect with children from complex backgrounds. In schools across Queensland *Pathways to Resilience* gives teachers words, music and actions to calm children, defuse tensions and help them self-regulate. This means more kids are better placed to learn and teachers to teach. “it’s very much about if we speak in this way how is a child going to feel, what’s going to happen in their brain and are we able to then connect with them, and are we going to see a shift.”

Hosted by a big corporate company, these three not-for-profits are hoping the philanthropic dollar will find them and give them the boost they need.