

Top bankers get together for pro bono venture

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By [Laura Millan](#) | In [Family Office](#), [Investment](#)



Some of Australia's top investment bankers will offer their skills and advice on mergers and acquisitions for the Adara Group, which will use the profits to help improve the lives of women and children in poverty in the developing world.

Big names that joined the initiative include businessman and philanthropist David Gonski, former AMP chairman and UBS senior advisor Peter Mason and UBS Australia chief executive Matthew Grounds.

Other participants are Suncorp and Coca-Cola Amatil non-executive director Ilana Atlas, Coca-Cola Amatil non-executive director Catherine Brenner, UBS Australia chairman Guy Fowler, Greenhill chairman and philanthropist Peter Hunt, Allens partner Diccon Loxton and Deutsche Bank chairman for Australia and New Zealand Steven Skala.

The bankers will join as panel members and will advise the Adara Group on a select number of transactions and mediations to generate fees that will benefit people in developing countries.

The Adara Group was founded by Suncorp non-executive director Audette Exel in 1998 and it specialises in providing help for maternal, infant and child health; remote and rural community development; and care, support and reintegration of children at risk.

"Adara Partners and the Adara Panel represent a major new initiative for the financial services and non-profit sectors," Exel said.

Gonski added: "The concept of Adara Partners and the Adara Panel represents real leadership in the financial services sector with experienced corporate advisors using their skills to directly benefit the less fortunate."

The initiative is supported by other well-known Australian families such as Paul Bassat, Suzi and Barry Carp, Peter Cooper, the Liberman family, Tracey Ryan and the Werdiger family.

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