



SUMMER 2020

Brighter Futures

A start in life

a brighter future for young australians



☉ TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Families share their stories

We maintain close contact with our families throughout the school year and this two-way communication helps maximise our support to students and their families.

The 'good news' stories we get from parents/carers, and students themselves, confirm the value of our programs, and are a joy to share with you ...

"I'm so excited to share her school reports with you, she worked hard this semester and I loved reading the teacher's comments. It's the first report we've read together (normally she glances at the grades and walks away.) We sat chatting for half an hour about it!"

"His confidence hit an all-time low and he was in a rut ... somehow, thankfully, he turned himself around. He placed an ad asking if there were any tradesmen requiring an apprentice next year. Dozens of offers later he's been doing work experience two days a week ... he absolutely loves it and the company love him. His boss will enrol him in TAFE in the New Year and make him an official apprentice! He turned things around himself and I'm very proud of him."

"A big win with Carey last night! After dinner he came and talked with me for 40 minutes about his goals and what he's been learning. He apologised for his recent behaviour and tried to work out what's been happening. It's so nice to see some real growth and maturity. Thanks for the call yesterday, I feel it went well."

"I just wanted to thank you and the team for your years of support for my family. I feel we no longer need your help and would rather some other family/children benefit. I'm so thankful to have had A Start in Life support, I know it's helped them set and achieve their goals."

"I started at the agricultural college this week. I'm loving it and there's so much I'm doing. I'm starting wool classing soon, after school on Mondays. I'm also doing a leather making class and we're making a belt. Thank you for your help with everything. I'll let you know in a few weeks what I've been up to."



Support we provide

Supporting the individual needs of students is our priority and we create a tailored support plan each year for every student.

This is only possible through your generous support and our ongoing communication with students, and their support network of family, teachers and tutors.

The table below provides examples of support *A Start in Life* might provide within each category of assistance and the benefits arising.

Category	Individual support Examples
School basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rural student aspiring to a career in agriculture could simultaneously obtain a practical education and complete her final years of study after joining a government subsidised boarding school Transport was required to help two students get to and from their specialist school
Camps and excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bachelor of Science student could attend an excursion to the botanical gardens to complete a genetic tissue analysis from seedlings A year 9 student raised funds (which we matched) to attend her school's 2 day ski excursion
School uniforms and shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The all-important "leavers jumper" was organised for a year 12 student For a year 2 student it was a brand new (very red) school jumper she received for winter, plus different shoes to use for classroom and sport activities
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online access to "Reading Eggs" helped a daughter independently practice and develop her reading skills, beyond levels her mother could assist with An iPad with mobile data ensured a student could access school programs and catch up to peers
Tuition (remedial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When sporadic help was insufficient for one student – regular and continuous tuition lifted the skills and raised the confidence of this student Believing dyslexia was an issue, a school recommended reading intervention. Working one-to-one with a highly qualified instructor helped identify anxiety as the underlying issue and a new course of action was planned
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural students require college accommodation for first year university as they learn to live independently and settle into new surroundings A tertiary student was able to stay at home and assist her disabled mother as she could defray some of the family living costs
Extra-curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anxiety was relieved for a year 12 student when she began attending yoga. A paediatrician advised yoga for a year 6 student's muscle development. With school unable to further develop one student's advanced coding skills, an external (challenging) programming course was made available
Books, Stationery, Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fabric purchased for a Bachelor of Textiles student helped transform her design sketches into real life production 75% of our primary school students receive a voucher to choose their own books – comics, fantasy, non-fiction and more – we don't mind as long as they're reading!



Self Improvement

We continually seek opportunities to develop our program by working with our students and the wider education community.

You, our valued supporters, help make this possible and we want to share with you three parts of the program we will continue to grow in 2020.



continuing to make this available to students now returning to school:

"I've noticed his self-esteem increased alongside the reading accuracy and technique application improvements."

1. Partnering with schools

Our program benefits from being able to work with the teachers of our students. To maximise this, we now support a program developed by teaching staff for students at their specialist school. They provide the skills and experience, *A Start in Life* supports with resources.

Although small, this program has so far helped 46 students participate in weekly sessions to develop: **Friendships, Positive Social Behaviours, Self Awareness, Behavioural Regulation and Emotional Regulation.**

With your help, we look forward to continuing this partnership.

2. The essential role of tutors

Where students have faced adversity early in life, "gaps" in their learning occur, often in core subjects like English and Maths, causing a "snowball effect" across all their studies. To overcome this, we provide funds and help students source the right tutor.

The feedback we have received demonstrates the importance of

"It is such a delight to see Sarah's growth and success at school and in her maturity. She remains motivated with schoolwork but needs ongoing support as issues arise. It was lovely to hear she received an award – well deserved!"

"I've quickly discovered the best way for her to stay engaged is being challenged. When she attempts a difficult question and gets it right – her confidence is automatically boosted."

3. Opportunity for work placement

Tertiary students are all working toward the dream career, and gaining practical experience in their chosen field is an essential part of this. Last year we introduced a work placement grant to help them put into practice what they have learnt in lectures.

The grants awarded support for tertiary students across 104 weeks of placement within the following fields: **Human Resources, Childcare, Education, Radiology, Veterinary Practice, Paediatrics, Speech Pathology, Aviation and Dentistry.**

Support for all

The December/January bushfires have caused devastation for many Australians. This, on top of the drought already impacting so many of our rural communities.

We are aware of the enormous impact these events may have at the beginning of the new school year. *A Start in Life* is committed to ensuring each student has a smooth return to school in 2020 by prioritising support of students for whom school, home or family has been impacted.

This support will also be made available to students who now, because of these events, need help where it was not previously required. We will endeavour to provide resources destroyed, left behind or not previously available. Working together with schools and families, we are confident this support will make a vital difference and we are immensely grateful to our supporters for making this possible.



Back to School

A new year and decade ahead – exciting times!

Not only will our current year 2s be year 12s by decade-end, but *A Start in Life* will turn 100! We'll celebrate by doing what we do best – assisting young Australians overcome barriers.



IN 2020 OUR PLANS WILL HELP

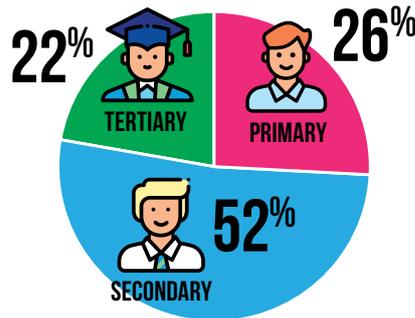

200
STUDENTS

IN


116
SCHOOLS


15
UNIVERSITIES / TAFES

COMPRISING



THROUGH


4,500
HOURS OF STUDENT SUPPORT


1,000+
STUDENT CHECK-INS
CHECKING STUDENT PROGRESS, DEVELOP SUPPORT PLANS, REVIEW SCHOOL REPORTS AND MORE

WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR STUDENTS ACADEMIC WELLBEING, HOWEVER, IT DOESN'T END THERE! ... BELOW IS A PROJECTION OF JUST SOME OF THE OTHER SUPPORT WE EXPECT TO PROVIDE DURING THE COMING YEAR...


2,620
HOURS OF
EXTRA-CURRICULAR

SUPPORTED BY

 YOU
  TEACHERS
  TUTORS
  PARENTS
 

 420 SWIMMING LESSONS	 160 MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES	 200 DANCE CLASSES	 380 1-ON-1 MUSIC LESSONS	 400 SOCCER GAMES	 54 TUTORS	 1,080 TUTOR HOURS	 11 YEAR 12 FORMAL	 188 CAMPS & EXCURSIONS	 540 LEARNING GOALS	 368 NEW READING BOOKS
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I want to help *A Start In Life* and invest in the future of young Australian students.

How you can make your gift:

-  Donate online at www.astartinlife.org.au
-  Call us **(02) 9264 3017**
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Or please debit my credit card MasterCard Visa Amex

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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- I would like a receipt emailed to me. Providing your email address allows us to email your tax receipt to you, minimising postage costs and paper usage.

Donations of \$2 or more may be tax deductible.