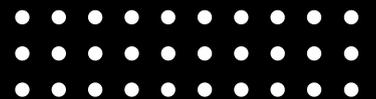


# BACK TO SCHOOL REPORT 2024/25

Helping ensure that young people in need can start the school year with the tools they need to succeed.



# Table of Contents

## BACK TO SCHOOL EVALUATION 2024/2025

→ 01	CEO's Message	→ 14-15	Gratitude to Donors & Supporters
→ 02	Back-to-School Snapshot	→ 16	Donating Schools & Suppliers
→ 03	Background	→ 17	Primary School Support
→ 04	Referral Pathways	→ 18	Secondary School Support
→ 05	Eligibility Criteria	→ 19	Council Areas Supported
→ 06	Program Offers	→ 20-22	Schools Supported
→ 07-09	Key Statistics	→ 23	Cultural Backgrounds
→ 10	Costs	→ 24	Referring Organisations
→ 11	Technology	→ 25	Volunteers
→ 12-13	Trends	→ 26	Back-to-School Moments



# CEO's Message



## A word from our CEO – Paul Burke

This year, our Back-to-School Program supported over 900 students— significantly more than ever before. It's a powerful reminder of both the growing need in our community and the enduring strength of Les Twentyman OAM's vision.

Les built this Foundation on a simple yet profound belief: every young person deserves a fair go. His legacy lives on in every student pack, every laptop delivered, and every student who walks into school with the tools they need to succeed.

We are proud to continue this mission—standing up for young people and making sure no child is left behind.

Thank you to everyone who supports this vital work. Together, we're helping empower the next generation to lead with knowledge and purpose. This program is entirely funded through the kindness and generosity of our donors with no state or federal government support.

## Our Vision, Mission, and Values

At the Les Twentyman Foundation, our vision is to see every young person reach their full potential. We are dedicated to providing positive intervention and unconditional support to youth at risk, empowering them to overcome barriers and create brighter futures.

The Back-to-School Program is a reflection of this commitment, ensuring that no young person is held back by financial constraints. By providing essential tools such as textbooks, stationery, calculators, and laptops, we help young people start the school year equipped, confident, and ready to succeed.

Guided by our core values of Respect, Dignity, Compassion, and Culture, we work with students from diverse backgrounds and those facing adversity. We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive, and through this program, we make that possible.



### VISION

To see every young person reach their true potential



### MISSION

To provide positive intervention and unconditional support for at-risk youth



### VALUES

Respect, Dignity, Compassion and Culture

# Back-to-School Snapshot



## 917

### Students Supported

(17.9% increase from 778 in 2023/24)



## 215

### Schools Supported

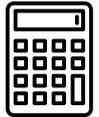
(+38 more schools from 177 in 2023/24)



## 188

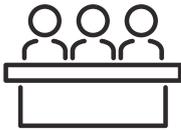
### Laptops Distributed

(+46 unit increase from 142 in 2023/2024)



## 285+

### Scientific & Graphic Calculators Distributed



## 43

### Council Areas Supported

(+10 new areas from 33 in 2023/24)



## 42

### Cultural Backgrounds Supported



## 214

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students Supported



## 152

### Students Seeking Asylum / Refugee Minors Supported



## \$233,390

### Total Savings

(Increased due to the \$49,497 donation from Cambridge University Press and the increase in pre-loved textbooks and materials supplied to the foundation by schools and organisations who partner with us)



## \$71,553

### Total Expenditure

(Down on last year due to a large donation, an increase in pre-loved textbooks - see total savings - and continued support from Officeworks)



**READ ON FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

# Background



## Vision

The Back-to-School Program is a long-standing initiative that reflects our core vision, mission and values, designed to ensure every child and young person has access to the essential education tools they need to succeed, regardless of their financial or social circumstances. Since 1989, the program has helped students begin the school year feeling prepared and confident by providing essential items such as textbooks, stationery, calculators and laptops.

The program is designed to promote school engagement, improve educational outcomes and reduce the financial pressure on families. It specifically supports students from low-income, socially disadvantaged households, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, newly arrived migrant and refugee families, and those experiencing significant life challenges.

By removing barriers to learning, the program empowers young people to stay connected to their education and reach their full potential.

**“Thank you for helping my parents to purchase books for me through high school back 25+ years ago, my parents had it tough and Les Twentyman helped.”**

*-Back-to-School Recipient*

# Referral Pathways

Students can be referred to the Back-to-School program by their school's wellbeing team, or a recognised welfare agency. All referrals must meet the program's eligibility criteria.

In addition to these formal referral pathways, several students and their families self-referred to the program—demonstrating a strong willingness among young people to seek help and re-engage with their education. Each of these self-referred students were contacted and redirected to appropriate support services within their school or local community and then assessed against the program's eligibility criteria.

This proactive approach ensures schools and support services are aware of the students' needs and can provide coordinated, wraparound support, including referrals to additional services where appropriate. The goal is to ensure every student receives holistic support to stay engaged and have a connected, successful school year.

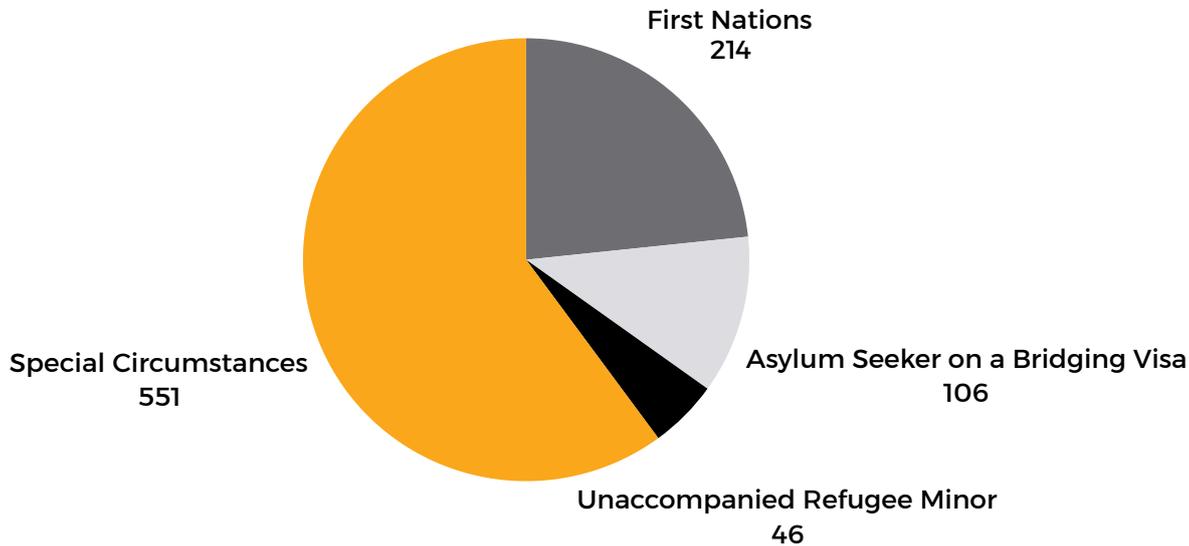
Many of these students returned through the formal referral pathway, indicating the effectiveness of this approach. As a result, they were supported through the Back-to-School process and linked into relevant community support to help them thrive.



**“The family has been impacted by family violence, with the father being moved out of the home. The mother, a stay-at-home parent, relies primarily on Centrelink as her source of income. We are incredibly grateful for the support provided by the Les Twentyman Foundation during this challenging time. Your assistance has made a meaningful difference in helping the family feel safer, more stable, and supported as they begin to rebuild their lives.”**

*-The Orange Door*

# Eligibility Criteria



*Referrals must come from a recognised organisation or school well-being coordinator.*

The eligibility criteria are:

- First Nations
- Unaccompanied refugee minor
- Asylum Seeker on Bridging Visa
- Special Circumstances :
  - Impacted by Family Violence
  - Experiencing Homelessness
  - Diagnosed Long Term Life Impacting Health Challenges
  - Documented Financial Distress



**“It’s a privilege to speak about something so close to my heart—the Les Twentyman Foundation. The families at St Albans Secondary College are so lucky to have such an incredible charity working tirelessly for their benefit.**

**Without the Foundation, many families would face the heartbreaking challenge of sending their children to school without the resources they need—no books, no laptops, no stationery. The joy, relief, and gratitude I see on the faces of these families when I deliver school supplies are priceless. You guys are heroes”.**

*-Jess – St Albans Secondary College*

# Program Offers



## What We Delivered

The Back-to-School Program equips students in need with educational essentials they might otherwise go without. Here's what the program and our partners offered in 2024/25:

**Stationery:** Essential school supplies, including notebooks, pens, and other stationery items were provided, helping students stay organised and prepared.

**Textbooks:** We distributed new or gently used textbooks, listed on the students' school booklist.

**Graphic & Scientific Calculators:** Graphic calculators and new scientific calculators were provided to support students' educational requirements.

**Refurbished Technology:** Donated and professionally refurbished laptops were distributed to 188 young people to support digital learning.

Through these efforts, the program helps alleviate financial burdens and ensure that students have the necessary tools to engage with their education, contributing to their academic success.

# Key Statistics



## Responding to Growing Need

In 2024/2025 referrals exceeded 900, a significant increase on last year's referral numbers. This increase reflected the growing challenges facing the families the foundation works with, particularly the larger families facing multiple booklists who struggled with the rising costs of new textbooks, stationery, essential technology and uniforms, all made the more difficult by the soaring cost-of-living crisis.

This year, more than ever, we reinforced our belief in positive futures for every student. Through the values of Respect, Dignity, Compassion, and Culture, we not only alleviated financial barriers but also fostered a sense of empowerment, resilience, and hope. With each student we supported, we helped pave the way for brighter, more promising futures where young people are inspired to reach their full potential.

**“We are beyond grateful to the Les Twentymen Foundation for stepping in when we needed it most. Your support has done more than provide the basics - it’s given us hope and the comfort of knowing we’re not alone in this. Your kindness has made a world of difference, and we can’t thank you enough.”**

*-Odyssey Victoria*

# Key Statistics



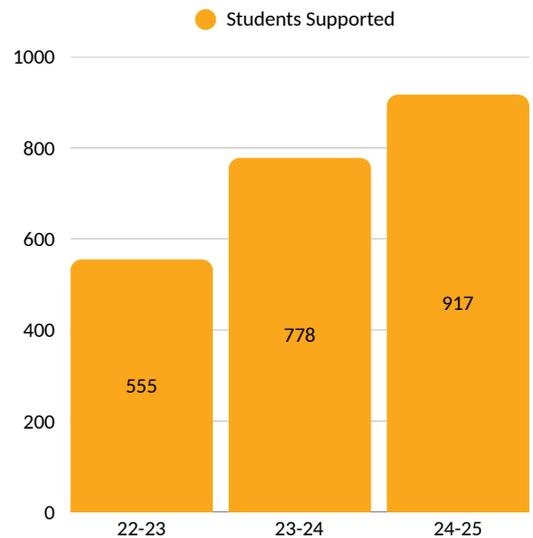
## Students Supported

In 2024/25, our Back-to-School program supported 917 students, an increase of 17.9 % from the 778 students we assisted in 2023/24. This significant growth reflects the impact of the cost-of-living crisis affecting the nation, particularly families already struggling to keep their heads above water. As financial pressures intensify for families, our program continues to ensure students start the school year equipped and ready to succeed.

**917 students**



17.9% Increase from the 778 students assisted in 2023/24.



## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

In 2024/25, 214 students identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander received support, accounting for 23.3% of all students assisted through the Back-to-School program. We remain focused on breaking down systemic barriers and promoting equitable access to education for Indigenous people, recognising the cultural and community strengths they bring to learning.

**214 students**



23.3% of total referrals were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students



# Key Statistics

## Supporting Students Seeking Asylum

We assisted 152 students who were seeking asylum during 2024/2025, including those on bridging visas and unaccompanied refugee minors, representing 16.6% of the 917 total referrals received this year. Many of these students face complex and compounding challenges. By responding to their specific needs, we help open doors to learning, belonging, and opportunity, regardless of their migration status.

Our program continues to evolve to meet the diverse needs of the young people we serve, creating real pathways to education, stability, and brighter futures for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

152



16.6% of total referrals were students seeking asylum.



**"I come to Australia from Ukraine in 2022 with my daughters. I am single mum with visa 786. My girls start high school in 2025. Thank you Les Twentyman Foundation for help with school things. My girls feel ready for new life here."**

*-Parent of Back-to-School Recipient*



# Costs

## Maximising Impact Amid Growing Demand

As the cost-of-living continues to rise and puts pressure on families across the country, the demand for school essentials has grown significantly. For many young people, having the right tools for learning is no longer a given; it's a growing gap that risks leaving them behind.

## Costs

With a significant rise in student referrals in 2024/2025, the foundation extracted every cent out of every dollar spent to hold down costs as demand soared.

An extremely generous donation of \$49,497 worth of textbooks from Cambridge University Press actually led to a reduction over last year in what the Foundation needed to spend on new textbooks.

### Total Savings



(Increased due to the \$49,497 donation from Cambridge University Press and the increase in pre-loved textbooks and materials supplied to the foundation by schools and organisations who partner with us)

**\$233,390**



### Total Expenditure



(Down on last year due to a large donation, an increase in pre-loved textbooks - see total savings - and continued support from Officeworks)

**\$71,553**



**"This family has a long history of service involvement. The children experienced severe abuse in their father's care and are now safely with their mother. Family Services is helping rebuild relationships and connect them to support, with court proceedings ongoing."**

*-Anglicare Victoria*

# Technology

## Scientific and Graphics Calculators – A Vital Resource for Student Learning

Scientific and graphics calculators are more than just classroom tools—they are critical to student success in mathematics and science.

For many students, particularly those experiencing financial hardship, the lack of access to a calculator can create a serious barrier to learning. These essential devices are helping to level the playing field, giving students the tools they need to participate fully in their education and reach their academic potential.

36 Graphics Calculators were distributed with a total value of approximately

**\$9,000**



Over 250 Scientific Calculators were distributed with a total value over

**\$9,500**



## Laptops – Supporting the Growing Need for Educational Technology

This year there has been a significant increase in the demand for laptop computers. Laptops are an essential instrument in the academic process, enabling students to access educational resources, complete assignments, and participate in both classroom-based and remote learning environments. In the absence of these critical devices, students risk falling behind academically, with some potentially being sent home due to the lack of access to necessary tools or students disengaging from their education.

188 Laptops were distributed with a total value of over

**\$ 93,000**



**“The young person and their family are facing financial challenges, making it difficult to purchase a laptop for school. This lack of access to necessary technology is contributing to the young person's disengagement from school, and they are currently refusing to attend. Providing this laptop will remove a significant barrier, enabling the young person to re-engage with their education and participate more fully in their schooling.”**

*-Odyssey Victoria*

# Trends

## Rising Cost of Living

The current cost-of-living crisis affecting the nation is hitting those with the least the hardest.

## Education- Related Expenses

- High costs of uniforms, technology, and school supplies.
- Frequent curriculum updates and textbook changes, which limit the ability to reuse or purchase second-hand materials.
- Increasing reliance on digital tools and paid subscriptions – even in primary schools – adds additional, often unexpected expenses.

## Housing Instability

The rental crisis remains a major concern. Many families face eviction or struggle to secure housing due to limited availability and soaring rent prices, leading to additional stress and uncertainty. For young people, frequent relocations can mean school changes, educational disruptions, and the loss of important peer and support connections.

## Health and Disability-Related Expenses

Households dealing with chronic illness, disability, or mental health challenges face rising costs for medications, therapies, and specialised dietary needs. This is especially challenging for families already under financial strain. A significant portion of families needing support are single mothers, some of whom face barriers to employment due to gaps in work experience, lack of confidence, or past trauma, including domestic violence. These factors contribute to long-term financial insecurity.



## Family Circumstances

Single-parent families, particularly those affected by bereavement, unemployment, or domestic violence, remain overrepresented among referrals. Larger families with multiple school-aged children experience amplified costs, with school-related expenses multiplying quickly.

## Refugee and Visa-Holder Barriers

Refugee and asylum-seeking families, as well as those on temporary or restrictive visas, often face:

- Limited access to income support or employment.
- Difficulty navigating a new education system.
- No eligibility for government subsidies, such as Centrelink, subsidised childcare, or health services.

## Pasifika and Māori Families Without Access to Government Assistance

Māori and Pasifika families on temporary visas are particularly vulnerable, as they often fall outside eligibility for public support. As a result:

- Educational and health expenses must be covered without subsidies.
- With limited safety nets, these families face heightened vulnerability to housing instability, food insecurity, and challenges in meeting educational expenses.
- The lack of access to formal support often places additional pressure on local community networks and organisations to provide assistance.



# Gratitude to Donors and Supporters



This year, our success and impact have been made possible through the incredible generosity of our donors, partners, and supporters. We extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals, corporate sponsors, institutions, and schools whose unwavering commitment has been crucial in driving positive change and making a profound difference in the lives of the students we serve.

Guided by our core values, we work alongside students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that every young person can reach their full potential. Your support has enabled us to provide critical resources and create pathways for these students to overcome challenges, build resilience, and thrive academically and personally.

We cannot deliver these services without you. Thank you for walking alongside the Les Twentyman Foundation as we work to improve the lives of the students we work with.



# Gratitude to Donors and Supporters

## Support from Educational Publishers

A big thank you to Cambridge University Press for their generous donation of new textbook editions and discounted access to essential learning resources. Their contribution ensures our students have access to up-to-date and high-quality materials, crucial for their academic progress.

## Technology Partnerships

We are incredibly grateful to The Computer Company in Gisborne for the work they do and to HP, Jacaranda, Morrows, Intech3, and the many individuals who reached out and donated after our feature on A Current Affair, which highlighted Ray Cooper's incredible support for our Back-to-School program.

## Community Collaboration and Contributions

We are also fortunate to be supported by a network of local service providers, schools, and businesses, all of whom generously donate resources to help our students succeed. These contributions have enabled us to supply everything from school supplies to calculators and technology, ensuring that every student has what they need to excel.

We look forward to continuing these valuable partnerships and further strengthening our community connections in the year ahead, as we work together to make a lasting difference in the lives of the students we support.

Your kindness and commitment have been instrumental in helping us bridge the digital divide. Through your contributions, we've been able to provide calculators, laptops, and critical learning materials to students who would otherwise go without. Together, we are creating equitable opportunities for young people to thrive in their education and beyond.



# Donating Schools

- Balwyn High School
- Brighton Secondary College
- Camberwell Girls Grammar School
- Camberwell Grammar School
- Carey Baptist Grammar School
- Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School
- Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak
- MacKillop College
- Marcellin College
- Melbourne Grammar School
- Methodist Ladies' College
- Ruyton Girls' School
- Scotch College
- St Bede's College
- St Bernard's College
- St Catherine's School
- St Kevin's College
- St Leonard's College
- St Michael's Grammar
- Strathmore Secondary College
- Trinity Grammar School
- Wesley College
- Whitefriars College
- Xavier College



# Donating Suppliers

- Box of Books
- Cambridge University Press
- Edrolo
- Jacaranda
- JP Books
- Officeworks
- The Computer Company

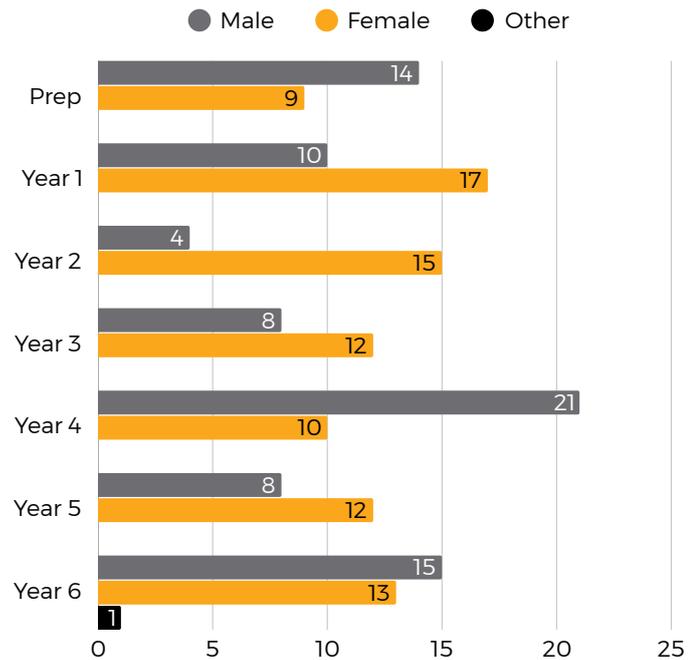


# Primary School Support

Growing financial pressures, combined with the expectation for families to supply their own stationery, textbooks, and technology, have placed added strain on many households. In some primary schools, families were asked to supply the full suite of learning materials—an expense that proved overwhelming for many. As a result, we saw a noticeable rise in referrals for support among Primary School Students.

During the 2024/25 Back-to-School period, our program responded by providing essential assistance to 169 primary school students, making up 18.4% of our total referrals. By providing the right tools at the right time, we gave students not just supplies, but a stronger chance to succeed.

**Breakdown by Year Level and Gender**  
The following data demonstrates the age and gender distribution of primary-aged children we supported across all year levels:



## Impact Highlights

### Meeting Growing Needs

This year's increase in referrals reflects the growing financial strain on families and the widening gap in access to basic educational tools.

### Comprehensive Coverage

Our support reached every primary year level—from Prep to Year 6—demonstrating the program's inclusive approach to early education. While we had to prioritize our secondary students with technology devices, primary school students still received vital educational materials to ensure they were not left behind.

### Equity in Education

By supplying vital school materials, we helped ensure all children had a fair and supported start, regardless of their financial circumstances.

### Setting the Foundation

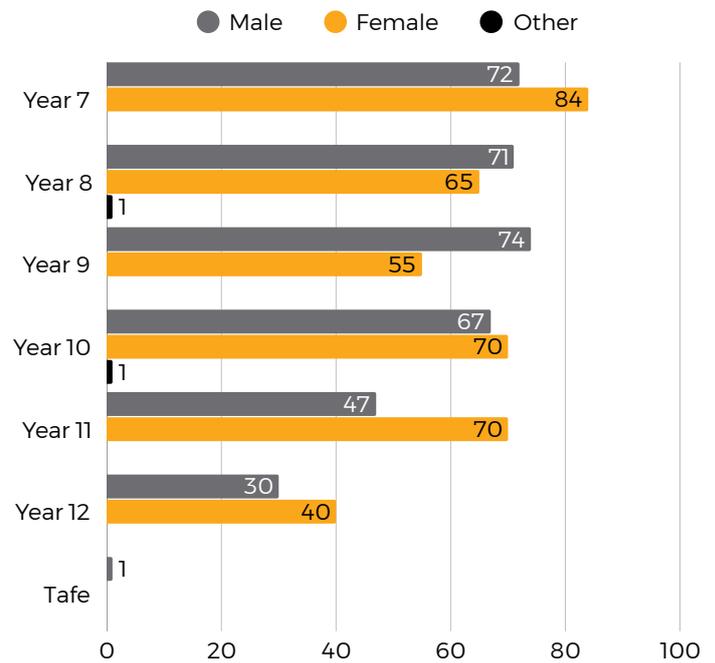
Supporting young students in these formative years strengthens long-term learning outcomes and builds confidence and resilience from the ground up.

# Secondary School Support

## Strengthening the Path to Graduation

This year, the Back-to-School Program made a meaningful difference for secondary students, helping them transition in the new school year with greater stability. Despite increasing financial strain and growing reliance on digital learning, our assistance was key to keeping students connected to their education and focused on their educational goals.

We provided essential resources to 748 high school aged students, accounting for approximately 81.6% of all student referrals to our program.



## Impact Highlights

### Comprehensive Coverage

Support was delivered across all secondary year levels, from year 7 to year 12, ensuring students were prepared and well-resourced to start the school year confidently and successfully.

### Equity in Action

The program embraced inclusivity by providing tailored support to all students, regardless of gender identity. Boys, girls, and non-binary students were equally supported, reflecting our commitment to diversity and respect.

### Empowering Success

Providing essential educational tools and resources laid the groundwork for stronger academic participation, improved well-being, and long-term learning outcomes.

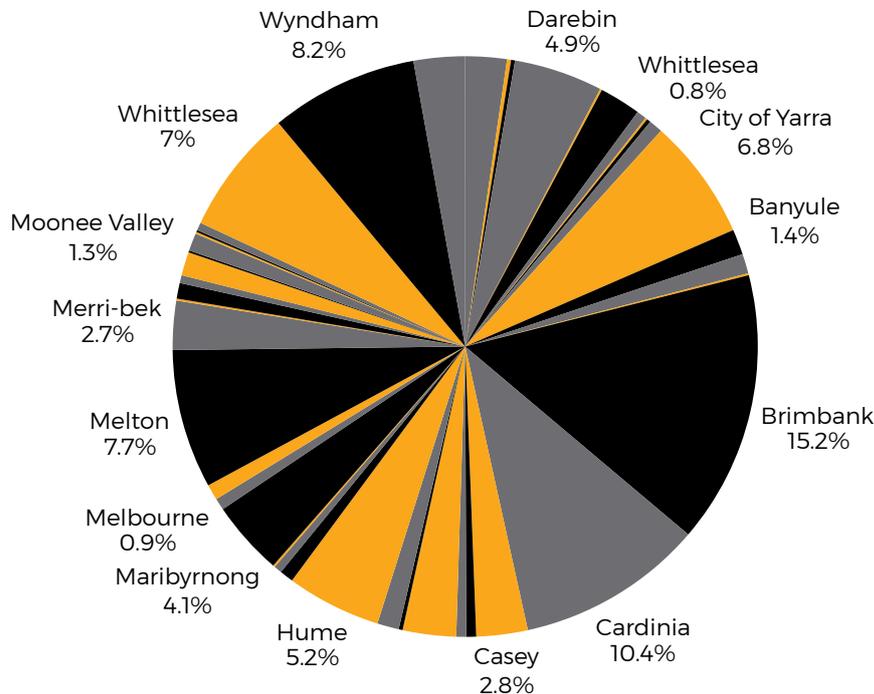
# Council Areas Supported

## 43 Local Government Areas Supported

The Back-to-School Program supported students in 43 local government areas in Victoria, an increase of 10 local government areas from last year.

By supporting 215 schools in key regions such as Brimbank, Cardinia, City of Yarra, Darebin, Hume, Maribyrnong, Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham, we are ensuring that students in these communities have access to critical educational resources.

By prioritising areas with the most significant educational needs, we are optimising resource allocation to maximise positive outcomes and empower students to thrive in their academic pursuits.



**"When our home was destroyed in a fire, we lost everything we had. With another child on the way, it felt like the weight of the future was overwhelming. But with support, the kids have what they need for school and a fresh start".**

*-Parent of Back-to-School Recipient*

# BTS Supported Students from 215 Schools

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**In comparison to the previous year, we have supported 38 more schools in the 2024-25 program.**

- Aitken Hill Primary School
  - Albanvale Primary School
  - Albert Park College
  - Alkira Secondary College
  - Altona College
  - Ascot Vale Primary School
  - Ashwood College
  - Australian International Academy
  - Bacchus Marsh College
  - Ballarat Christian College
  - Ballarat High School
  - Barrawang Primary School
  - Bayside P-12 College
  - Beaconhills College
  - Beaufort Primary School
  - Bellbridge Primary School
  - Belvedere Park Primary School
  - Bemis Secondary College
  - Berwick College
  - Beveridge Primary School
  - Blackburn High School
  - Box Hill Institute
  - Braybrook College
  - Brentwood Park Primary School
  - Broadmeadows Valley Primary School
  - Brookside P-9 College
  - Brunswick Secondary College
  - Bundoora Secondary College
  - Camberwell High School
  - Caroline Chisholm Catholic College
  - Carranballac P-9 College
  - Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs
  - Catholic Regional College North Keilor
  - Charles La Trobe P-12 College
  - Cheltenham Secondary College
  - Cheltenham Secondary College
  - Coburg High School
  - Collingwood College P-12
  - Copperfield College
  - Corpus Christi Primary School
  - Craigieburn Primary School
  - Craigieburn Secondary College
  - Craigieburn South Primary School
  - Cranbourne East Secondary College
  - Cranbourne West Secondary College
  - Creekside K-9 College
  - Creswick Primary School
  - Dandenong High School
  - Dandenong South Primary School
  - Darley Primary School
  - Davis Creek Primary School
  - Debney Meadows Primary School
  - Deer Park North Primary School
  - Djerriwarrh Community College
  - Docklands Primary School
  - Dohertys Creek P-9 College
  - Eastwood Primary School
  - Edenbrook Secondary College
  - Edgars Creek Secondary College
  - Elevation Secondary College
  - Elisabeth Murdoch College
  - Emerald Secondary College
  - Emmaus College
  - Epping Primary School
  - Epping Secondary College
  - Epping Views Primary School
  - Essendon Keilor College
  - Essendon Primary School
  - Exford Primary School
  - Fairhills High School
-

# Schools Supported

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- Footscray City Primary School
  - Footscray High School
  - Footscray Primary School
  - Footscray West Primary School
  - Foundation Learning Centre
  - Fountain Gate Secondary College
  - Gladstone Park Secondary College
  - Glengala Primary School
  - Glenroy College
  - Greensborough College
  - Hallam Secondary College
  - Hampton Park Secondary College
  - Hazel Glen College
  - Heathdale Christian College
  - Heathmont College
  - Heidelberg Primary School
  - Hoppers Crossing Secondary College
  - Hume Central Secondary College
  - Ilim College Kiewa Campus
  - John Fawcner Secondary College
  - Kambrya College
  - Keilor Downs College
  - Kensington Primary School
  - Keysborough Secondary College
  - Kingsville Primary School
  - Koo Wee Rup Primary School
  - Koo Wee Rup Secondary College
  - Kurunjang Primary School
  - Kurunjang Secondary College
  - Kyneton High School
  - Lakeside College
  - Lakeview Senior College
  - Lalor East Primary school
  - Lalor Primary School
  - Lalor Secondary College
  - Langwarrin Park Primary School
  - Laverton P-12 College
  - Lilydale High School
  - Mackillop College
  - Manor Lakes P-12 College
  - Marian College
  - Maribyrnong College
  - Maribyrnong Sports Academy
  - Maryborough Education Centre
  - McKinnon Secondary College
  - Meadowglen Primary School
  - Melton Secondary College
  - Melton South Primary School
  - Melton West Primary School
  - Mentone Girls' Secondary College
  - Mercy College
  - Mernda Central P-12 College
  - Mernda Primary School
  - Mickelham Secondary college
  - Mildura Senior College
  - Mill Park Secondary College
  - Minaret College
  - Monterey Secondary College
  - Moonee Ponds Primary School
  - Mooroolbark College
  - Mount Lilydale Mercy College
  - Mount Ridley P-12 College
  - Narre Warren South P-12 College
  - Nearnung Primary School
  - Noble Park Secondary College
  - North Melbourne Primary School
  - Officer Secondary College
  - Our Lady of Mercy College
  - Padua College
  - Pakenham Lakeside Primary School
  - Pakenham Secondary College
  - Parade College
  - Parkmore Primary School
  - Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College
  - Patterson River High School
  - Penola Catholic College
  - Phoenix P-12 Community College
  - Plenty Valley Christian College
  - Point Cook P-9 College
  - Point Cook Senior Secondary College
-

# Schools Supported

- Preston High School
- Preston Primary School
- Preston South Primary School
- Princes Hill Secondary College
- Reservoir High School
- Resurrection Primary School
- Richmond High School
- Rockbank Primary School
- Rosebud Secondary College
- Rosehill Secondary College
- Rowville Secondary College
- Rye Primary School
- Sandringham College
- Santa Maria College
- Scoresby Secondary College
- Seabrook Primary School
- SEDA College
- Sirius College
- South Melbourne Primary School
- Springside West Secondary College
- St Albans Meadows Primary School
- St Albans North Primary School
- St Albans Secondary College
- Staughton College
- Sunshine College
- Swinburne Senior Secondary College
- Tarneit P-9 College
- Tarneit Senior College
- Taylors Lakes Primary School
- Taylors Lakes Secondary College
- The Grange P-12 College
- The Lakes South Morang College
- Thomas Carr College
- Thornbury High School
- Truganina P-9 College
- Upper Yarra Secondary College
- Victoria University Secondary College
- Wallan Secondary College
- Wallarano Primary School
- Warragul Regional College
- Warrandyte High School
- Warreen Primary School
- Wellington Secondary College
- Werribee Primary School
- Werribee Secondary College
- Westall Secondary College
- Western English Language Schools
- Western Port Secondary College
- Wheelers Hill Secondary College
- Whittlesea Secondary College
- William Ruthven Primary School
- William Ruthven Secondary College
- Williamstown Primary School
- Woody Yaloak Primary School
- Wollert Secondary College
- Woodman's Hill Secondary College
- Woodville Primary School
- Wyndham Central Secondary College
- Wyndham Vale Primary School
- Yarra Hills Secondary College
- Yarrabing Secondary College
- Yarrambat Primary School
- Yarraville West Primary School
- Yubup Primary School
- Yuille Park Community College



# Cultural Backgrounds

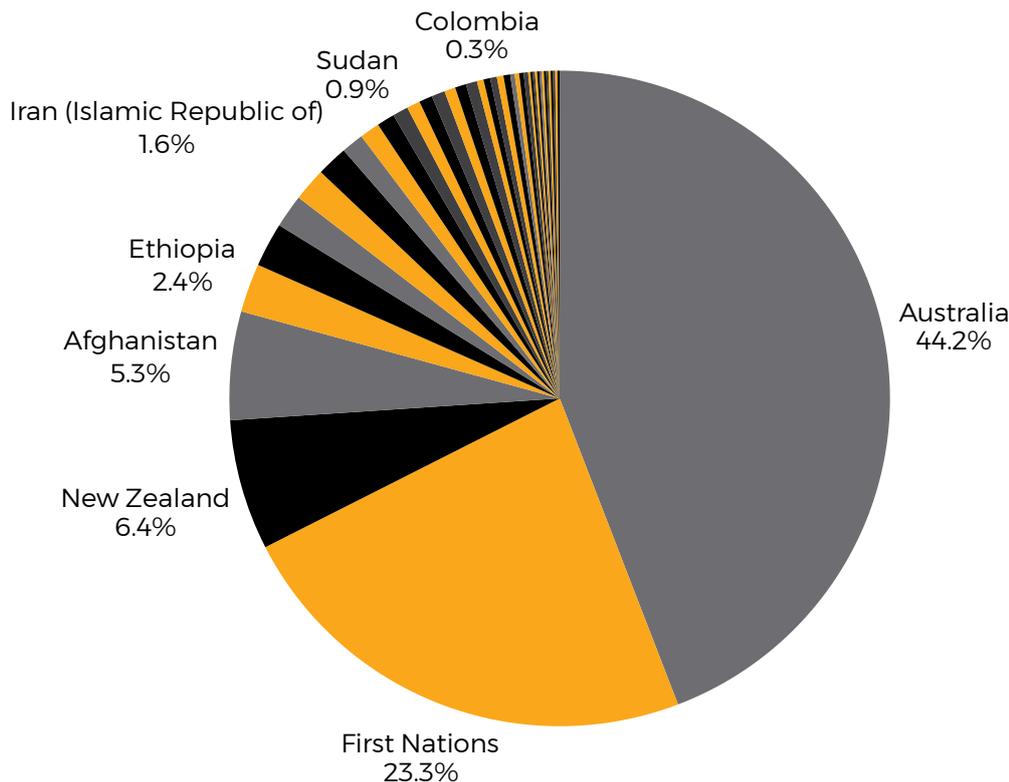
## Celebrating Diversity in Education

Our program proudly supported students from 42 distinct cultural backgrounds, reflecting the vibrant diversity of our community. From Eritrean to Iranian, South Sudanese to New Zealander, our reach extended across a rich spectrum of nationalities.

The top five backgrounds represented in this year’s program were Australian, First Nations, New Zealander, Afghan, and Ethiopian students. Notably, students from First Nations communities and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds made up more than half of all supported recipients.

Our ongoing commitment to inclusion ensures that each student, regardless of cultural heritage, receives the tailored support they need to succeed. By embedding cultural awareness into every aspect of our work, we foster a welcoming and empowering learning environment where every student feels valued, respected, and seen.

Together, we are not just providing school supplies, we are helping build an equitable education landscape where every child can thrive and where diversity is not only welcomed but celebrated.



# Referring Organisations

**We have supported 57 referring organisations in the 2024-25 program.**

Aborigines Advancement League	Key Assets Australia
AMES Australia	Les Twentyman Foundation
Anglicare Victoria	Lighthouse Foundation
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre	MacKillop Family Services
Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative	McAuley Care Community Service for Women
Berry Street	Merri Health
Bert Williams Aboriginal Youth Services	MiCare
Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service	Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation
Bridgingworx Limited	Odyssey House Victoria
Brotherhood of St. Laurence	OzChild
Carers Victoria	ReachOut
City of Whittlesea - Youth Services	Salvation Army
Cohealth	South East Community Links
Community Information & Support Glen Eira Inc.	Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
Cooee Bunji Indigenous Corporation	St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria
Dandenong & District Aborigines Co-Operative Limited	The Smith Family
Department of Education	The Support People
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	The Zone
Drummond Street Services	Uniting Vic.Tas
EDGE Youth Services	Very Special Kids
Engage Pasefika	Victoria Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd
FamilyCare	Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency
Foundation House	Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.
GenWest	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
Hosanna Community Care	Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
inTouch	VincentCare
IPC Health	Whittlesea Community Connections
Jesuit Social Services	Youth Support and Advocacy Service
Kensington Neighbourhood House	

**"Single mum with three school-aged children, struggling with extremely poor mental health and unable to work and afford basic school essentials."**

*-The Salvation Army*

# Volunteers

## Gratitude to our Incredible Volunteers

We extend our thanks to the dedicated individuals, volunteers, community partners, and corporate supporters who generously gave their time and energy to help create and assemble our stationery packs and individual study and learning packs.

Your commitment has directly impacted the lives of young people across our communities. From packing pencils and notebooks to carefully curating personalised learning supplies, every contribution played a vital role in supporting students on their educational journey. Your efforts not only provided practical support but also sent a powerful message of care, encouragement, and belief in their potential.

Thank you for being part of something meaningful. Together, we are helping students start their school year with confidence and hope.

## Make a Difference Appeal

In 2024, Officeworks was proud to partner with the Les Twentyman Foundation through the Make a Difference Appeal, helping deliver critical Back-to-School support to more than 900 students.

Thanks to the generosity of Officeworks customers, who donated online or rounded up purchases in-store, the campaign raised an impressive \$67,468. The funds enabled the Foundation to purchase essential school supplies, including stationery, backpacks, and learning tools for over 900 students. This partnership ensured that vulnerable young people started the school year equipped and supported, reinforcing the Foundation's mission.



**"I am single mum with five kids. I had bad accident last year and now I cannot work. Life very hard. Les Twentyman Foundation help my children with school things. I feel very thankful. My kids happy to go school. Thank you so much."**

*-Parent of Back-to-School Recipient*

# Back-to-School Moments

BACK TO SCHOOL REPORT 24/25



LES TWENTYMAN FOUNDATION

Phone **03 9689 4800** ↑

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Email **backtoschool@lftfoundation.au** ↑

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Website **www.lftfoundation.au** ↑

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Address **56 Whitehall Street, Footscray 3011** ↑

## HELP US

If you would like to help us make an impact you can donate now with the QR code provided.

Want to see more of our work? Be sure to check out our socials!

