



LES TWENTYMAN
FOUNDATION

BACK TO SCHOOL

2025/2026



LTFFOUNDATION.AU



TRENDS

RIISING COST OF LIVING

EDUCATION RELATED EXPENSES

HOUSING INSTABILITY & HOMELESSNESS

HEALTH AND DISABILITY-RELATED EXPENSES

SINGLE PARENT AND VULNERABLE FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

REFUGEE AND VISA-HOLDER BARRIERS

PASIFIKA AND MĀORI FAMILIES WITHOUT ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



CEO'S MESSAGE

In 2026, our Back-to-School Program continued to grow - reaching more than 1,100 students across our community. This milestone represents far more than a number; it tells a story of rising need through increased cost of living pressures, shared commitment and the extraordinary strength of a community that stands with young people when it matters most.

Guided by Les Twentyman's enduring vision, our Back-to-School program is built on a simple but powerful belief: every young person deserves a fair go. You see that belief in every textbook, stationery pack and study kit delivered; in every calculator and laptop provided, and in every student who walks into school ready to learn - confident, supported, and full of potential. We supported students across 41 local government areas.

The Foundation remains proud to carry forward this legacy of breaking down barriers to education and ensuring that no young person is left behind. What makes this achievement even more special is that the program is funded entirely through the generosity of our supporters - without any state or federal funding. Every donation, every act of kindness, and every moment of support helps transform opportunity into reality.

Together, we're doing more than providing school supplies. We're opening doors, igniting potential, and empowering the next generation to learn, grow, and thrive.

OUR VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

At the Les Twentyman Foundation, we believe every young person deserves a genuine chance to succeed. Our work is built on early intervention, meaningful relationships, and unwavering support for those facing disadvantage.

The Back-to-School Program brings this belief to life. By removing financial barriers, we ensure students have the essential tools they need, textbooks, stationery, calculators, and laptops, so they can step into the classroom feeling prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

Guided by our values of Respect, Dignity, Compassion, and Culture, we stand beside young people from all backgrounds, especially those overcoming complex challenges. We don't just provide resources, we invest in potential, nurture resilience, and help young people build brighter, more hopeful futures.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

THIS YEAR OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORTED:



1,154

STUDENTS

(25.9% increase from
2024/25. 42.3% increase
in the last two years)

250

SCHOOLS

(35 more schools from
215 in 2024/25. 72
school increase in the
last two years)



55

**CULTURAL
BACKGROUNDS**

(13 more cultural
backgrounds from 42 in
2024/25)

155

**STUDENTS
SEEKING ASYLUM**

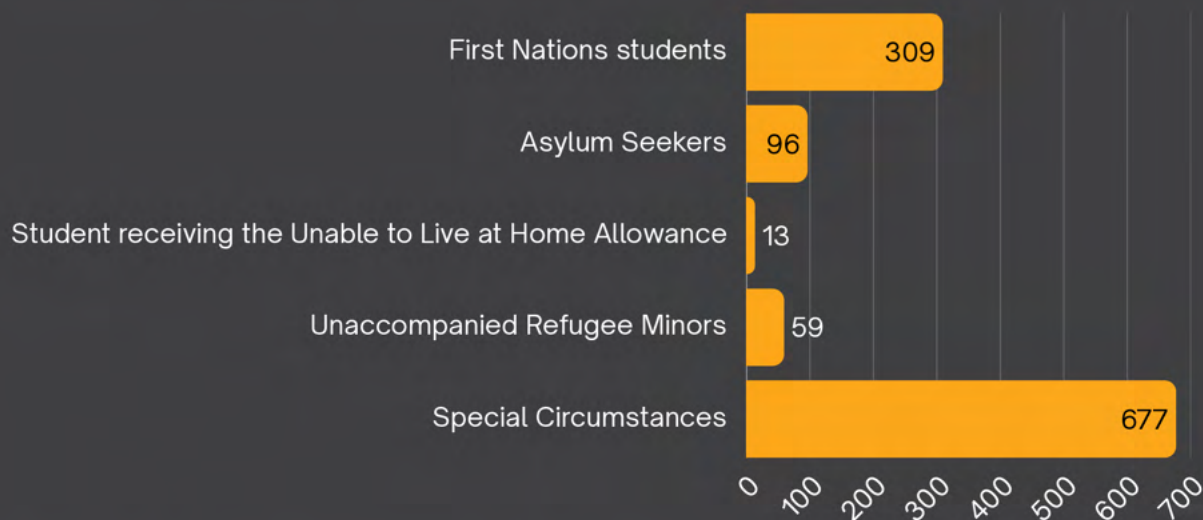
(13.43% of all referrals in
2025/26)



REFERRAL PATHWAYS

Access to the Back-to-School program is facilitated through referrals from school wellbeing teams. This structured referral pathway ensures that support is directed to the young people with the greatest level of need.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



Referrals must come from a school wellbeing team.

Priority eligibility categories are as follows:

- First Nations students
- Asylum Seekers
- Students receiving the Unable to Live at Home Allowance
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
- Special Circumstances e.g. Young people experiencing significant financial hardship

KEY STATISTICS



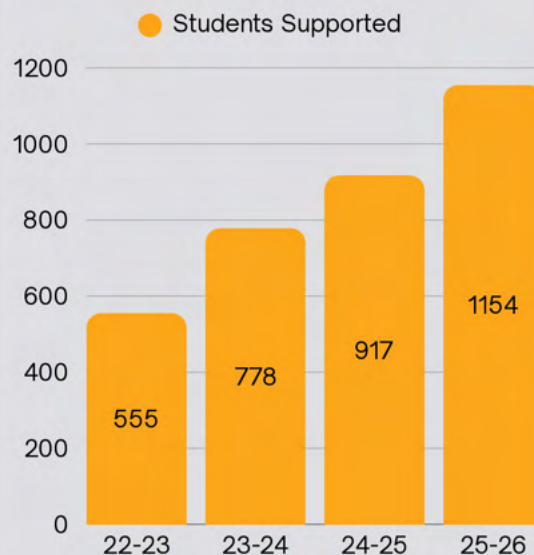
RIISING DEMAND FOR SUPPORT

A total of 1,154 students were supported through the Back-to-School program in 2025/26, representing a significant increase from 917 students in 2024/25. This growth in referrals reflects the escalating financial pressures experienced by families, with rising costs associated with school uniforms, digital devices and fees, compounded by broader inflationary impacts. This is making it increasingly difficult to afford essential educational items. These challenges are particularly pronounced for larger families managing multiple booklists, where the cumulative cost of equipping several children for school places considerable strain on household budgets. As a result, more families are seeking support to ensure their children have the necessary resources they need to learn and grow.

This year, our commitment to supporting every student's right to a positive future has remained at the centre of our work. Guided by the values of Respect, Dignity, Compassion and Culture, the program continued to reduce financial barriers that can prevent full participation in education, while also strengthening students' confidence and sense of belonging. Each student supported represents an opportunity to build resilience and restore hope. This support is helping to create conditions where young people are better positioned to engage, grow and achieve their potential within their school community.

STUDENTS SUPPORTED

Compared with 2024–25, the program supported 25.8% more students, increasing from 917 to 1,154 young people. This continued growth highlights the ongoing financial strain experienced by many families, with rising everyday expenses and education-related costs placing increased pressure on household budgets. For families already facing disadvantage, these challenges can make it difficult to access even the most basic school essentials. In response, the program remains committed to ensuring students are equipped with the resources they need to stay engaged in their education and start the school year with confidence.



COSTS

Last year together with public donations, partnerships and donor funds we provided goods to the value of \$304,943. This year we have enriched young students lives by providing goods to the value of \$414,201.

Total Savings



(Savings increased from \$233,390 to \$290,879 this year, reflecting increased value generated through partnerships and in-kind donations)

\$290,879



Total Expenditure



(Increased from \$71,553 last year due to 25.9% more students supported and new editions of textbooks required that could not be donated in-kind)

\$123,322



THANKS TO MAJOR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



The success of the Back-to-School Program in 2026 has been made possible through the generosity and ongoing support of our donors, corporate partners, schools, community organisations and individual donors. Together, these partnerships have enabled us to provide essential resources, including textbooks, calculators, laptops, and other learning materials, ensuring students have the tools they need to succeed.

Particular thanks to Cambridge University Press & Assessment, and a special thank you to the Computer Company Gisborne, HP Life, Envest Group, Oxford University Press, Mackillop College, Jacaranda, Matilda Education and Pearsons for their generous contributions towards our program.



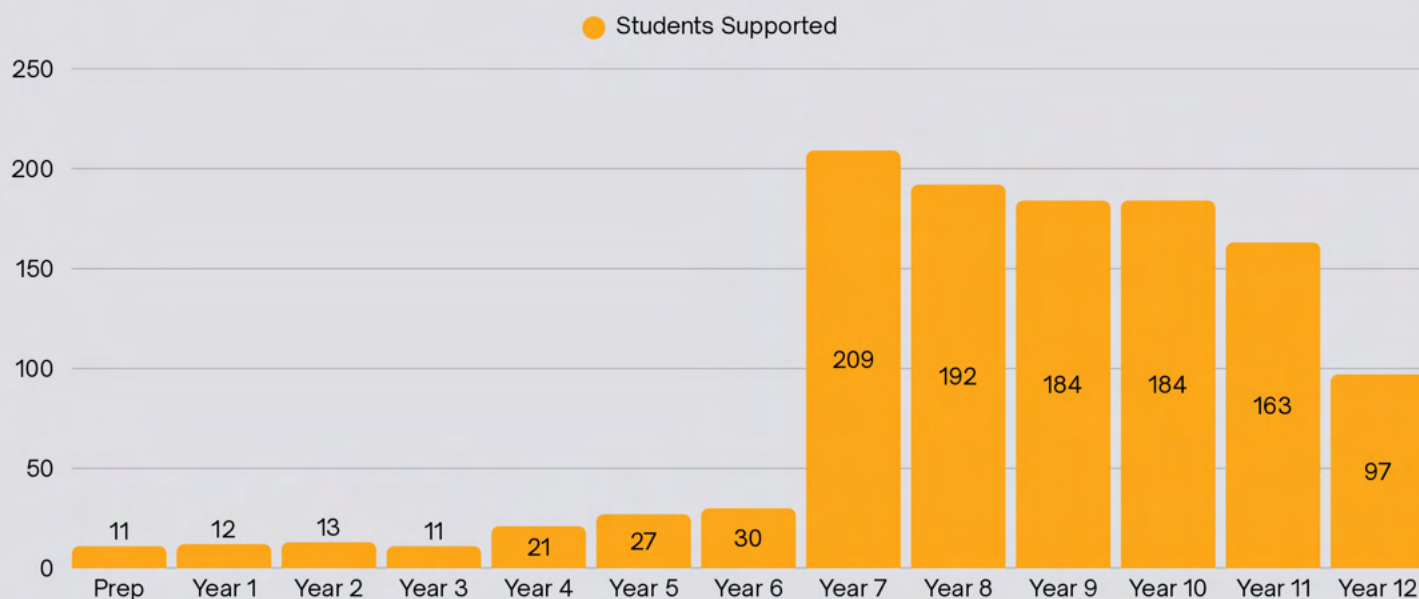
LIFE



ENVEST



YEAR LEVELS SUPPORTED



SUMMARY

The majority of students supported were of high school age, with 1,029 students from Years 7–12 receiving support. A further 125 primary school students from Prep to Year 6 were also supported, highlighting the importance of early intervention and ongoing support throughout a young person's education journey.



CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS

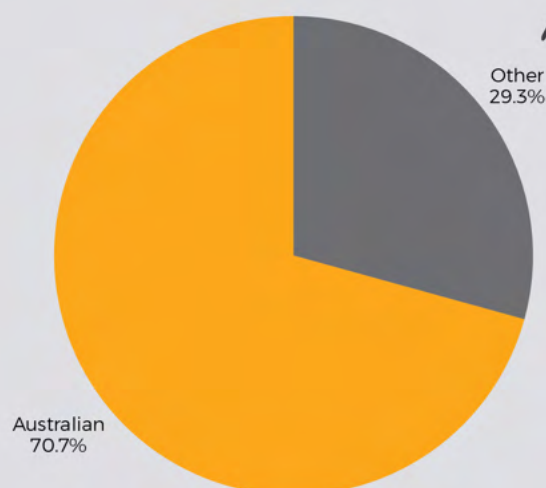
The program proudly supported students from 55 distinct cultural backgrounds, reflecting the rich diversity of the communities we support. Students came from a broad range of nationalities.

The most represented backgrounds among students supported through this year's program were Australian, First Nations, New Zealander, Afghan and Palestinian. Young people identifying as First Nations or from culturally linguistically diverse (CALD) communities continued to account for a significant proportion of program participants, reflecting the diverse communities accessing support through the program.

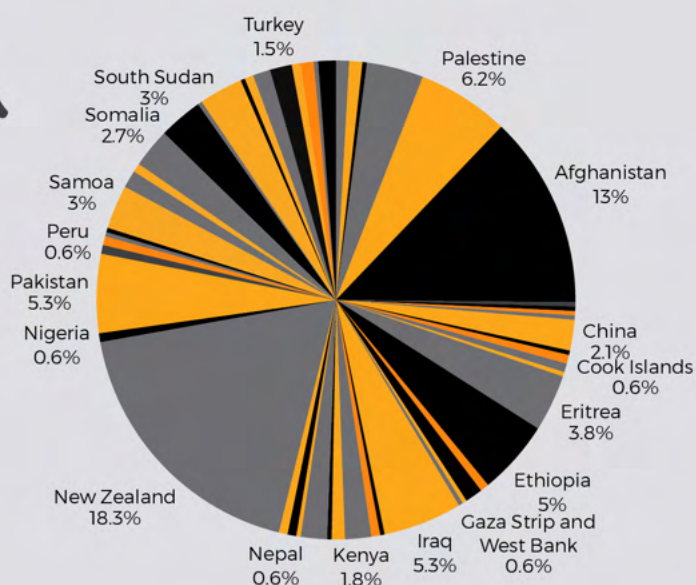
We remain committed to creating an inclusive program that recognises and responds to the diverse needs of every student and family we support. Through culturally responsive practices and a strong focus on accessibility, we aim to ensure all young people feel supported, understood and connected throughout their educational journey.

By valuing diversity, we continue to strengthen a community where all young people are encouraged to participate, belong and succeed.

70% OF STUDENTS SUPPORTED WERE AUSTRALIAN



OTHER CULTURES SUPPORTED



VOLUNTEERS

GRATITUDE TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

The success of the 2025/26 Back-to-School Program would not have been possible without the dedication, generosity and support of our volunteers and community partners. Their time and commitment played a vital role in ensuring a smooth delivery of the program.

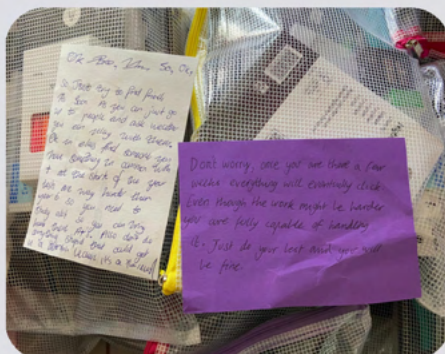
A special thank you to Cambridge University Press for assisting in the preparation of our stationery kits and generously donating their time throughout January, February, and March to support the distribution of customised book packs.

We would also like to acknowledge Cheltenham Secondary College, one of the schools where we proudly provide youth work support, along with Camberwell Grammar School, for their assistance in creating stationery kits for students and families accessing the program.

To every volunteer, supporter and partner who contributed to this year's program, thank you for helping us create positive and equitable educational opportunities for young people across our community.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOMENTS



Phone

03 9689 4800



Email

backtoschool@ltfoundation.au



Website

www.ltfoundation.au



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!

