

# 2020 Annual Review

# Schools Plus



 Together, we can help close the education gap. 





# About Schools Plus

**Schools Plus helps children facing disadvantage succeed at school. We exist to help close the education gap. We believe all children should have access to a great education regardless of their background.**

As a national charity, we work with teachers and schools in disadvantaged areas to empower them with funding, coaching and resources to create lasting change in their school.

We were founded following a recommendation in the 2011 Review of Funding for Schooling (Gonski Review), making it simple, effective, and tax-deductible to donate to projects that help children facing disadvantage succeed at school.

**More than 4,600 government, Catholic and independent schools in Australia are eligible\* for our support.**

Through Schools Plus, individuals and organisations can support projects that really make a difference. These could be in areas such as student wellbeing, engagement in learning, effective teaching, family engagement with schools, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education.

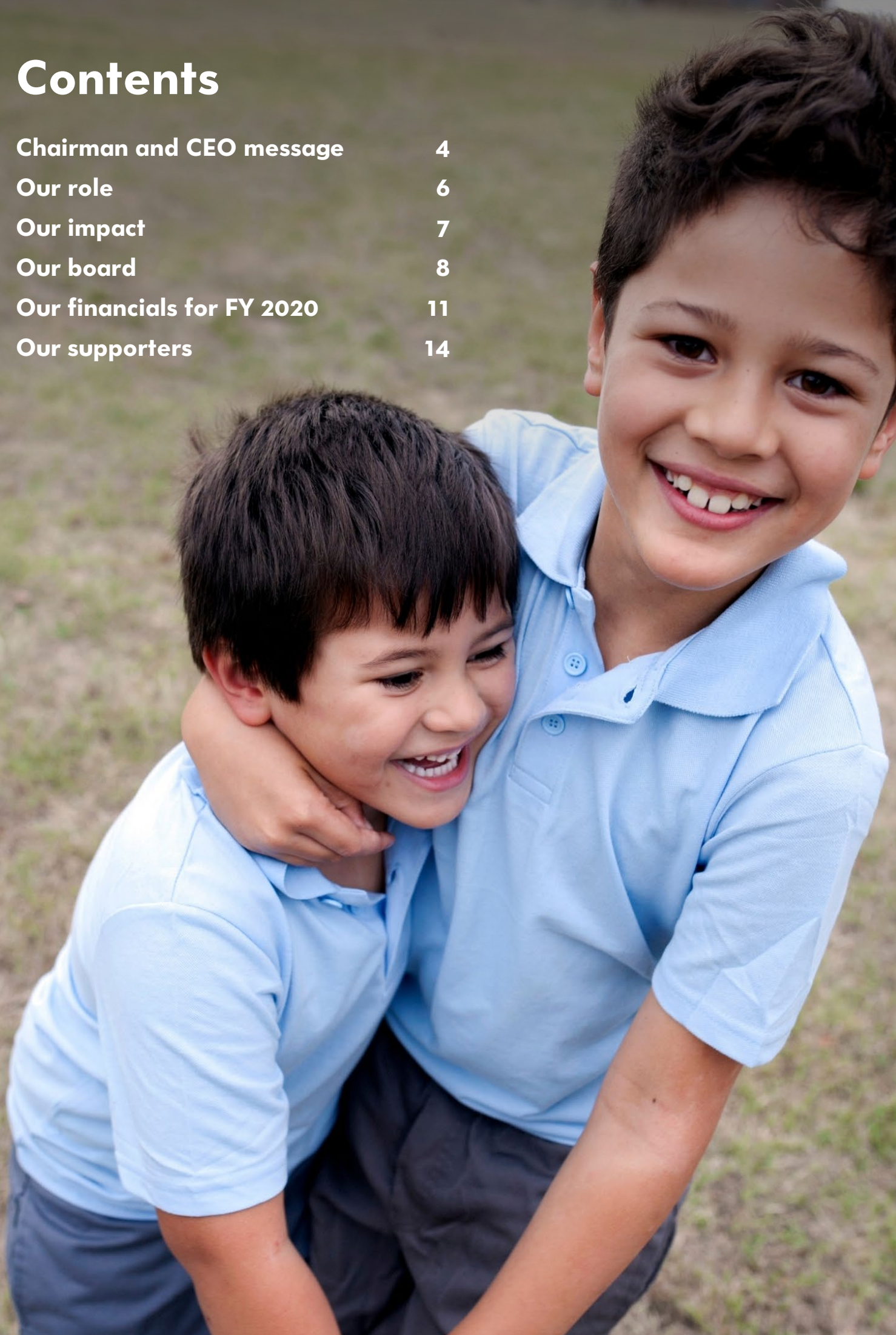
To maximise the impact of every dollar donated to schools, all of our initiatives are teacher-led and tailored to best meet the needs of students in their specific school. Read our latest [Impact Report](#).

\*Eligible schools have a value below 1000 on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) or are defined as special schools by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).



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# Chairman and CEO message

The last financial year has been a memorable one, in so many ways. Against a backdrop of sequential crises - drought, flooding, bushfires, and the coronavirus pandemic - the children we exist to help have never needed our support more. And we were able to rise to that challenge, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, raising almost \$10m in funding to help children facing disadvantage succeed at school.

Bushfires ravaged NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, destroying homes, wildlife, livelihoods and schools. Once again, our donors rallied to support, with incredibly generous donations from supporters, including Atlassian, Australian Capital Equity and Commonwealth Bank, for bushfire relief for schools. We have since worked with schools to implement a variety of projects, many focusing on student mental health and wellbeing and trauma informed practice. Our donors have funded camps to build confidence and resilience for Year 9 students, projects that build teachers' skills to work with kids experiencing trauma, and helped build community school gardens with chickens, rabbits and vegetable patches to help children overcome anxiety, to name just a few. It has been humbling to witness the creativity and spirit of the teaching staff as they work tirelessly to help their communities recover.

The impact of school closures as a result of the coronavirus pandemic was well documented, and parents across the country found a new appreciation for teachers. But while grappling with digital learning was an inconvenience for most families, for some it was impossible. Families with no access to the internet or any form of digital device were unable to participate in online learning. Schools Plus had requests for help from many schools and so we launched a Crisis Appeal for emergency funding. Once again, our donors stepped up, and we were able to help over 50 schools access a variety of resources, many of them linked to the digital divide.

Ironically, the pandemic meant that we had to cancel our Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards ceremony celebrating the incredible impact of 12 selected teachers on student learning. However, in the spirit of online learning, the 12 2020 Teaching Fellows had a digital audience with Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan and were able to share examples of the tremendous work they have been responsible for. We were also delighted to see 2019 Teaching Fellow Ashley Stewart, from Newton Moore Senior High School in Bunbury, Western Australia, be named alongside educators from around the world in the Top 50 finalists for the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2020.







Our Fair Education program, which is designed to develop the capacity of school leaders in disadvantaged communities to better engage families and communities in their children's education, has continued to grow over the last financial year. The program has now expanded to deliver results across 140 schools in three states: NSW, Queensland and Victoria, with 40,000+ students benefitting from the program. The three-year program comprises coaching for school leadership teams, funding for school specific projects, ongoing project management and evaluation.

**We continue to focus our efforts on helping students facing disadvantage to succeed, by empowering teachers with funding, coaching and resources to help them create lasting change.**

We know from talking to our donors that the emphasis on projects that deliver sustainable change really sets us apart. This strategy makes us more effective in delivering our mission to help close the education gap caused by disadvantage and puts our knowledge sharing initiatives at the centre of our work.

Knowledge sharing activities have been hosted throughout 2019-20, with a focus on building a community of practice within and beyond the schools supported by Schools Plus, as well as extending reach to the broader education community including departments of education, tertiary education institutions and other education organisations. We have reached over 270 teachers and school leaders from 160 schools via our collaboration forums and webinars. A real personal highlight of this program was our pilot webinar focusing on girls in STEM and featuring two of our 2019 Teaching Fellows, Sarah Chapman and Ashley Stewart. We are now exploring how to bring the expertise of our network to a wider audience.

For most of the country, we are returning to a new normal, but the indications are that there will be a far-reaching and detrimental impact for children as a result of the disruption to their learning. We will continue to work with school leaders, teachers and educational experts to help implement activities to overcome this impact, all made possible by the incredible generosity of our donors. We have now directed over \$23m of funding to schools and helped over 275,000 children across the country since our inception in 2015. If you would like to read more about our impact, please download our [Impact Report](#).

**ANGUS JAMES AND ROSEMARY CONN**  
Chairman and CEO, Schools Plus



# Our role

We work with disadvantaged schools to:

## HELP CLOSE THE EDUCATION GAP



### OUR MISSION

- Teachers create sustainable change to help their students succeed



### OUR GOALS

- Increase philanthropic support for schools
- Increase capacity of teachers to lead change



### OUR ROLE

- Connect donors and school-led projects
- Raise awareness and case for support
- Support teachers with coaching and project resources
- Share evidence and insights from our work

# Our impact

Since 2015, Schools Plus has



raised **\$23.3 million**  
for schools

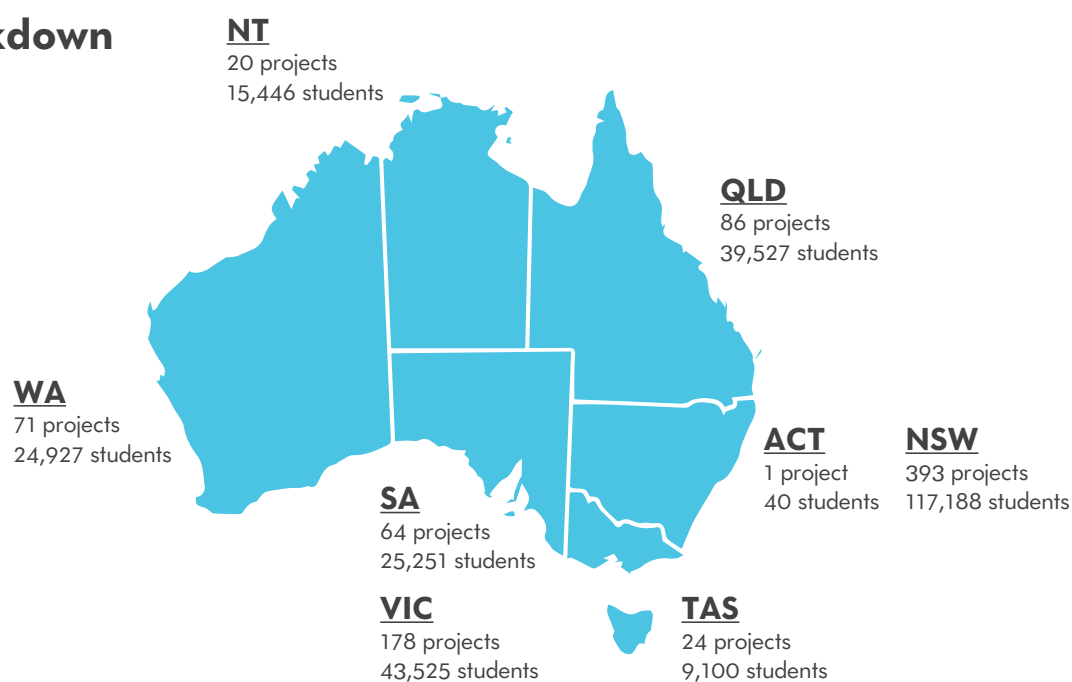


supported more  
than **800 projects**

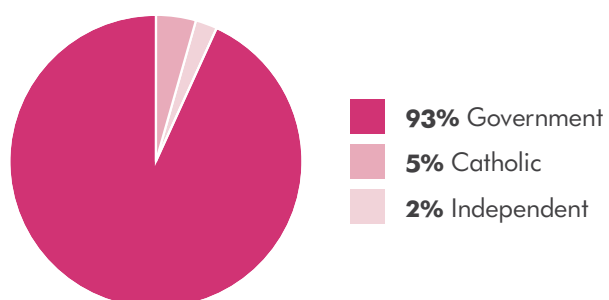


benefitted over  
**275,000 students**

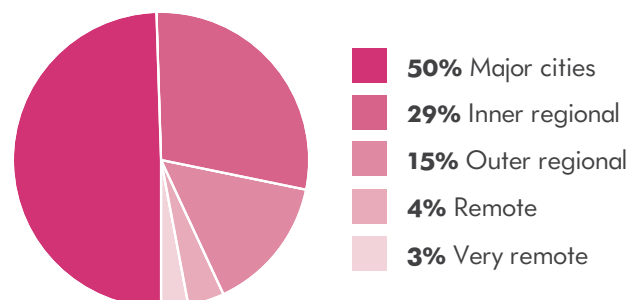
## State breakdown



## Project breakdown by sector



## Project breakdown by location



\*Figures correct as of October 2020.

# Our Board

**Schools Plus has a passionate and professional Board of Directors who volunteer their time to help increase education equity.**



**ANGUS JAMES** Chairman  
Angus is Principal Partner at independent corporate advisory partnership Aquasia. He is a former CEO of ABN AMRO Australia/New Zealand, non-Executive Director of the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.



**ROSEMARY CONN** CEO  
Rosemary is the inaugural CEO of Schools Plus, with extensive experience in the business and not-for-profit worlds. She has worked closely with schools, corporations and the community to bring about positive change in previous roles with Beacon Foundation, Good2Give Australia and Deloitte.



**KIM WILLIAMS** AM  
Kim has held various executive leadership positions, including as Chief Executive at News Corp Australia, FOXTEL, Fox Studios Australia, the Australian Film Commission, Southern Star Entertainment and Musica Viva Australia since the mid-1970s. He is the chair of the Thomson Reuters Trustees and a current commissioner of the AFL and has held numerous other positions as a chair and board member in public and private roles over the last 40 years.



**LISA PAUL** AO PSM  
Lisa was Secretary of the federal Department of Education from 2004-2016. In 2020 she has been Coordinator of BizRebuild, a Business Council of Australia initiative to help communities affected by the 2019-20 bushfires recover. She also holds positions on many boards including those in mental health, science, and government industries.



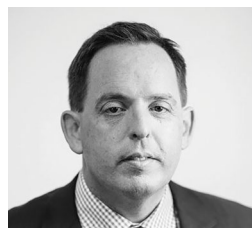
**BELINDA WALL**  
Belinda is the Director, Educational Leadership for the Wollondilly Principals Network. She was the Principal of Woonona High School in Wollongong and has been the Deputy Principal of three high schools. Belinda is also President, Secondary Principal Council, Illawarra South East Region.





### **PETER JACKSON**

Peter was CEO of Melbourne Football Club from 2013 to 2018. Previously, he held various positions in the AFL industry including CEO and/or Managing Director of Essendon Football Club (1996-2009) and Chairman of AFL Victoria and SportsReady. Peter now runs his own executive leadership development consultancy.



### **MICHAEL DEVINE**

Michael is the Director of the Frankston North Education Plan and a Senior Education Improvement Leader in the South East Victoria Region of the Department of Education and Training (DET). Prior to this, he was the Principal of Western Port Secondary College. He is passionate about addressing the impact of education in disadvantaged communities and an unrelenting focus on whole-school improvement and cultural change, to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes.



### **CATHERINE BRENNER**

Catherine has been in the business community for more than 25 years as a senior investment banker and as a non-executive director and chair in the education, arts, health, community, manufacturing, fast moving consumer goods, financial services, property and building materials sectors. She is the proud daughter, granddaughter and sister of educators.



### **EBRU DAVIDSON** COMPANY SECRETARY

Ebru is a corporate lawyer and partner at the national law firm, Thomson Geer. She has extensive experience in private and public mergers and acquisitions, equity capital markets and securities law. Ebru is an accredited Chartered Secretary and a member of the Governance Institute of Australia.

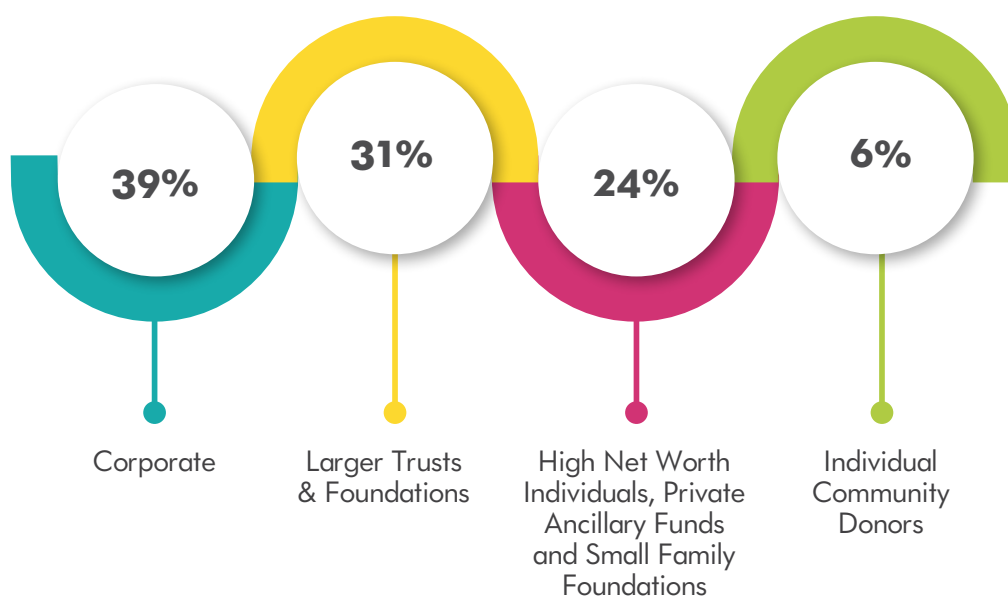




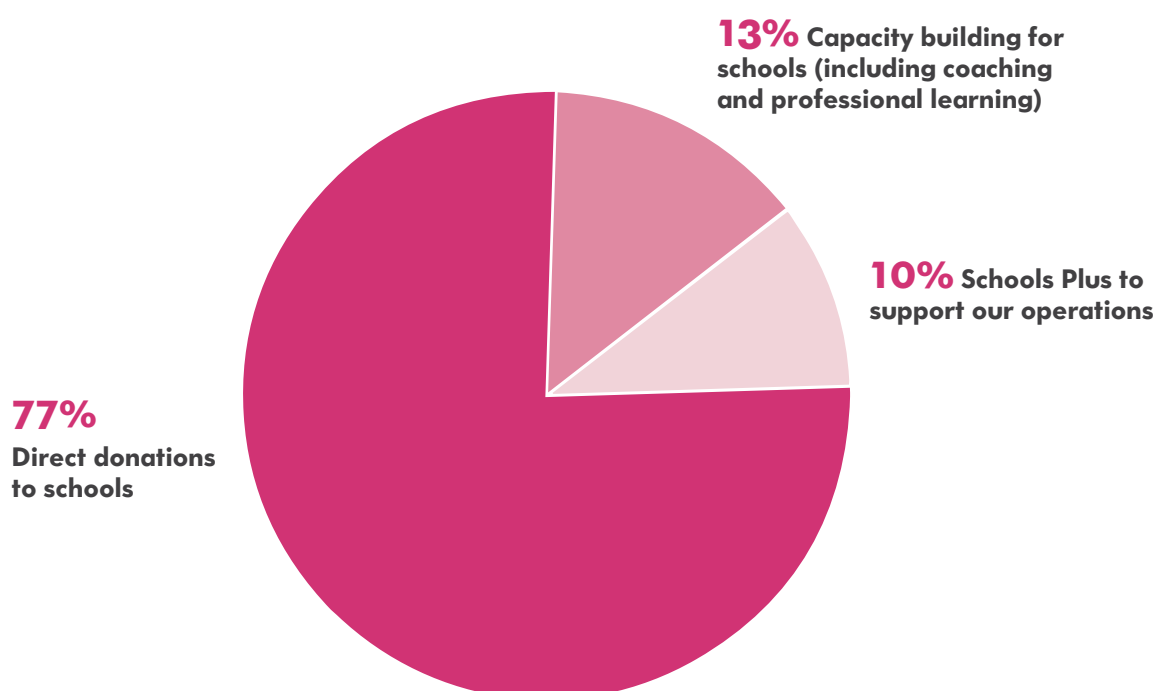


# Our financials for FY 2020

## Donations came from:



## This year, donors chose to donate to:



## Statement of Profit or Loss for the year ended 30 June 2020

Covid-19 has had an operational effect on the activities of the organisation. The Company has been able to raise funds through a successful one off Crisis Appeal campaign at the end of the financial year to support schools in need but major expenditure has been delayed as the capacity of schools to execute programs during the pandemic has been delayed. Accordingly, some project delivery activities have been postponed and the organisation has accumulated a sum of tied funding that was to be paid to schools this Financial Year but which is expected to be distributed to schools in future financial years, 2021 and 2022.

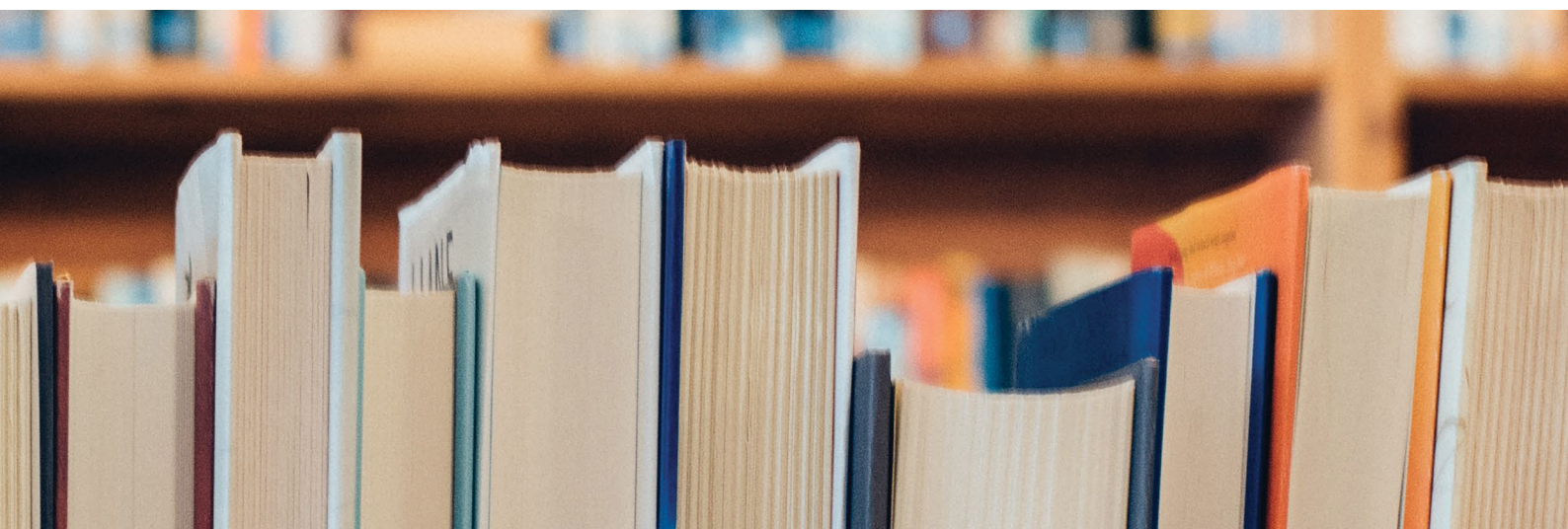
	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations received for schools	7,701,116	5,036,290
Donations received for Australian Schools Plus Ltd	1,865,750	1,652,199
Pro bono donations received		150,000
Administration fees received	419,139	468,262
Interest and dividends received	243,745	232,268
Sponsorship received	45,455	45,455
Government stimulus	152,000	-
Unrealised gains/losses on Investment	-228,947	85,052
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>10,198,258</b>	<b>7,669,526</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Funds distributed to schools</b>	<b>5,863,042</b>	<b>5,141,430</b>
<b>Operational expenses</b>		
Administration expenses	195,161	197,852
Consultancy and coaching fees	283,207	173,685
Audit fees	14,424	15,000
Computer expenses	29,459	19,911
Other expenses	10,716	30,586
Staffing costs	1,905,369	1,642,048
Professional fees	81,710	197,325
Rent	97,255	101,103
Technology expenses	14,410	238
Travel	61,534	79,556
<b>Total operational expenses</b>	<b>2,693,245</b>	<b>2,457,304</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,641,971</b>	<b>70,792</b>





## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,275,347	2,278,738
Trade and other receivables	77,830	70,694
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>5,353,177</b>	<b>2,349,432</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Intangible assets	29,400	-
Financial assets	4,395,343	5,655,623
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>4,424,743</b>	<b>5,655,623</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>9,777,920</b>	<b>8,005,055</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	198,156	132,673
Employee provisions	91,500	48,250
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>289,656</b>	<b>180,923</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>		
Employee provisions	39,161	17,000
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>	<b>39,161</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>328,817</b>	<b>197,923</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>9,449,103</b>	<b>7,807,132</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	9,449,103	7,807,132
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>9,449,103</b>	<b>7,807,132</b>



# Our supporters

We are pleased to partner with these organisations and individuals who have invested in schools across Australia.

## Strategic partners



**Pioneers in Philanthropy**

**Michael Ahrens**

**Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation**

**Phil Duncan**

## Our Pioneers in Philanthropy

The Pioneers in Philanthropy are a group of Australia's most distinguished business leaders and philanthropists who have come together to support disadvantaged schools and the teachers who work in them. Over five years, the Pioneers have directed more than \$5 million through Schools Plus to transformative projects in schools and supported the Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards.

David Gonski AC (Chair) and Orli Wargon OAM  
(representing the Gonski Foundation)

John B Fairfax AO and Nick Fairfax  
(representing JIBB Foundation)

John Grill AO and Rosie Williams

Angus and Sarah James

Roger Massy-Greene  
(representing Eureka Benevolent Foundation)

Kerry Stokes AC and Christine Simpson Stokes  
(representing Australian Capital Equity Group)

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia



## Major partners

Seventh Street Ventures



**Elizabeth Adams  
& Reid Meldrum**



**The Foundation of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies**



**MILNER<sup>RD</sup>  
foundation**



**Emalyn  
Foundation**

**Day Family  
Foundation**

**FWH Foundation**

## Key supporters

**Barr Family Foundation**

**Carter Family Foundation**

**Claringfeld**

**Delaney Endowment Fund**

**Drummond Foundation**

**Fred Woollard**

**Massey Charitable Foundation (Rallou Pty Ltd)**

**P&S Bassat Foundation**

**Rattigan Family Foundation**

**Richard Bomford**

**The Douglas Scott Foundation**

**The Dunnet Foundation**

**Vivi**

## Pro bono supporters

**Partners in Performance**

**PwC**

**Origin Energy**



This Annual Review was designed by Stephanie Foti

# Together, we can help close the education gap.



## Schools Plus

### **AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS PLUS**

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Australian Schools Plus is a registered charity with Deductible  
Gift Recipient (DGR1) status. ABN 65 164 622 459

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