



Partnering for a
brighter future

Schools Plus 

Transforming the lives of students facing disadvantage

About Schools Plus



Right now, in Australia, many students do not get the education opportunities they need to fulfil their potential. Too often, their future is determined by their postcode or socio-economic background.

Children facing disadvantage consistently fall behind at school, and once behind, it's hard to catch up. By the age of 15, the gap is alarmingly wide – students in Australia's most disadvantaged schools are on average three years behind in their learning¹.

At Schools Plus, we believe all young Australians deserve the education opportunities that will enable them to reach their full potential.

Our mission is to help close the education gap caused by disadvantage, by connecting schools in need with supporters who know the value of a great education.

Schools Plus is a national charity that makes it simple, effective and tax-deductible to support schools in high-needs communities.

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, parent engagement with schools, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education.

We also help schools maximise the benefit of targeted funding by providing expert coaching for school leaders and tools to measure the impact of projects.

More than 4,600 government, Catholic and independent schools across Australia are eligible for support through Schools Plus².

Schools Plus was established following the 2011 'Gonski Review' to connect schools and donors. Our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) status makes donations to disadvantaged schools tax-deductible.

¹ PISA 2015: A first look at Australia's results (2016), ACER

² Eligible schools have a value below 1000 on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) or are special schools, as defined by ACARA.

Since 2015, Schools Plus has



added **\$15.5 million** into the Australian school system



supported more than **620 projects**



benefited over **183,000 students**.

Partnering with Schools Plus

Schools Plus has a strong track record of connecting businesses with schools, to create partnerships that transform students' lives. Each collaboration is unique, and considers the needs of both the school and the business to maximise the impact for the whole community. Partnerships are often long-term and provide both financial and, where possible, volunteer support.

- 7 We understand which initiatives have the greatest impact, having supported hundreds of school projects nationally since 2015.
- 7 To strengthen the impact of donations, we provide coaching that builds school leaders' skills in delivering and evaluating projects. We also connect schools working on similar projects to share learnings and best practice.
- 7 Where businesses would like to offer employees' valuable time and expertise, we can help broker rewarding engagement opportunities – for instance, speaking at career days, offering work experience, or supporting teachers.

Benefits to **your** organisation

- ✓ **Help close** the education gap and unlock students' potential
- ✓ **Invest** in your community through a genuine partnership with local schools
- ✓ **Develop** students' skills so they are equipped for future study and work
- ✓ **Tailor** a partnership that meets your organisation's values and interests
- ✓ **Maximise** your social impact through Schools Plus' strategic, established model
- ✓ **Provide** rewarding employee engagement opportunities
- ✓ **Receive** a tax deduction for your support

Our partnership opportunities



We can recommend a strategic, evidence-based school project, based on your interests (eg STEM, student wellbeing) or preferred location.



You can nominate a school to support. We can help you identify schools, or you can use the interactive 'Find a school' map on our website.



We can work with you to design a tailored, multi-year partnership, to make a sustainable impact in the communities you support, while meeting the unique needs and interests of your organisation.



Our partnerships in practice

Salesforce – Supporting STEM education

Since 2015, Schools Plus and Salesforce have partnered to support the creation of STEM education opportunities for more than 12,000 students across Australia.

The partnership began when Salesforce – the global leader in customer relationship management (CRM) – asked Schools Plus to match it with schools wanting to introduce coding and robotics programs to build students' digital skills. Its support has grown from two schools in Sydney and Melbourne to more than 40 schools across the country, enabling schools to provide professional development for teachers in STEM learning and purchase technology to embed STEM in the classroom.

As well as providing funding for STEM initiatives, Salesforce employees volunteer their time and expertise to support the schools by teaching coding to staff, offering students work experience and building teachers' STEM and strategic thinking skills. We also co-host an annual Collaboration Forum, bringing together teachers and principals from the Salesforce network of schools to share learnings and improve their teaching practice.



At Salesforce, we believe every person has the right to an education that properly prepares them for the jobs of the future. Schools Plus has been an incredible partner in helping us achieve this vision.



Davinder Mann,
Salesforce.org APAC Director

Toyota – Leaving a legacy

Following the closure of its manufacturing operations in Australia, Toyota wanted to leave a long-term legacy in the communities that had supported it.

Through its partnership with Schools Plus, Toyota is supporting five schools in the Sutherland Shire, NSW. Through project funding and coaching support over four years, it is enabling the schools to implement tailored projects to meet their community's individual needs.

Toyota is also investing in Melbourne's west, where it is seeking to encourage and enable more young Australians to pursue further study and careers in STEM.





AustralianSuper – Investing in Indigenous students

AustralianSuper is strongly committed to improving the ability of Indigenous students and families to understand and navigate the superannuation system, recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are well over-represented in the number of financially excluded people in Australia.

Through Schools Plus, AustralianSuper is supporting two remote schools in the Northern Territory, which are using business enterprise programs as a springboard to teach vital financial skills. These skills will enable students to make informed financial decisions throughout their working lives and to actively plan for retirement.



Scenic World – Creating community connections

Scenic World is a family-owned nature-based attraction that has been operating for over 70 years in the Blue Mountains. As part of its commitment to supporting its community, Scenic World turned to Schools Plus to help broker a partnership with a local school.

The business is providing funding for a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) at a local high school, to improve student wellbeing and lift parent and community engagement. The CLO builds positive connections with parents and carers, building their understanding of how to support their child through high school. In addition, Scenic World staff – many of whom are former students at the school – mentor current students while the company is exploring other ways to help students develop local career pathways.

SC Johnson – Building numeracy skills

Supporting equal education opportunities is at the heart of SC Johnson's global community program. As a leader in the FMCG market, where numeracy is fundamental, it was natural for a partnership with Schools Plus to focus on building the numeracy skills of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Over the past two years, we have matched SC Johnson with 11 schools seeking to introduce an online learning model called Maths Pathway, which tailors instruction to an individual student's knowledge level. More than 1700 students have benefited from the targeted intervention – some students have learned as much as 2.5 years of maths in just one year!

Together, we can help close the education gap.



Schools Plus

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Australian Schools Plus is a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1) status. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.
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