

**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN HELP  
CLOSE THE  
EDUCATION  
GAP**

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## ABOUT SCHOOLS PLUS

**Schools Plus exists to help close the education gap caused by disadvantage. We believe all children should have access to a great education regardless of their background.**

As a registered charity, we work with teachers and schools in disadvantaged areas to empower them with funding, coaching and resources to help their students succeed.

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

We aim to maximise the impact of every dollar donated to schools, by working closely with principals and teachers to amplify the benefit for students, staff and school communities.

\*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).

## CHAIRMAN'S AND CEO'S MESSAGE

After the disrupted learning of 2020, we had all been lulled into a sense of false security that our days of home learning were over. Sadly, as many of us can attest, that was not to be the case in some states. But, despite the ongoing uncertainty of the global pandemic, our faithful and unerring supporters remained committed to our shared mission to help close the education gap, and we were able to raise nearly \$11m to help children facing disadvantage succeed at school this financial year. We were also delighted to welcome some new household names to our growing network of generous donors, including St George Foundation, eBay and Morgans.

Once again, we were humbled to be working with hundreds of inspirational and committed teachers who swiftly adapted to the latest evolving COVID restrictions and challenges of keeping children motivated and learning from a variety of digital devices across the locked-down states. We opened our latest application round towards the end of the financial year, and unsurprisingly a couple of key themes emerged as a result of these circumstances. Amongst the 387 requests for support, there was a resounding focus on student re-engagement, programs to help children catch up on literacy and an emphasis on student mental health and wellbeing.

We were very fortunate to be able to host our fifth Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards event in March 2021, as a lull in COVID cases enabled a rare celebratory and in-person event. It was wonderful to hear the inspirational stories of these incredible teachers, and at the time of writing we wait to hear with bated breath the outcome of the Global Teaching Prize, for which one of our 2021 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Award recipients, Bec West, has made the top 10 shortlist. An incredible achievement from the 8,000 global nominations.



After the crises of 2019/2020, we have been focusing on the area of mental health and wellbeing as an organisation, hosting a plethora of knowledge sharing webinars which touched on trauma-informed practice, Positive Education, attendance and staff wellbeing, and producing our first [long-form article](#) exploring, in-depth, some of our work in this area.

We have also funded a number of projects, like Renmark Primary School's collaboration with a Wellbeing and Resilience Centre, Lucknow Primary School's introduction of a therapy dog to develop students' social and emotional skills and Yarrilee State School's new parent club that supports at-risk families.



Our knowledge sharing program continues to go from strength to strength, with the aim of building a Community of Practice with schools supported by Schools Plus and beyond. While face to face forums have not been possible due to the impact of COVID, online activities have been hosted, with which over 600 teachers, school leaders, policy makers, academics and education health workers have engaged.

There have been many highlights this year. We were delighted to welcome Eddie Woo, Australia's best-known maths teacher, as our ambassador for Schools Plus. Winner of a Commonwealth Bank Teaching Award, a top 10 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize, and recipient of the Local Hero award at the Australian of the Year Awards, Eddie has many accolades under his belt and we are truly delighted that he is so committed to supporting Schools Plus's mission to help close the education gap caused by disadvantage.

Our Fair Education program, which focuses on projects to support family and community engagement, is currently working with 175 schools across NSW, Queensland and Victoria. The ongoing and sustainable change we are seeing as a result of this program has been further reinforced with the exciting news that the Tasmanian Community Fund has agreed to support Fair Education in Tasmania, commencing late 2021. We have also secured funding to extend the Victorian cluster projects in the Lakes Entrance and Central Goldfields regions and to scale up and share the learnings from the current Queensland cohort as it enters its final year.

Our Smart Giving program has also supported over 130 schools with resources, evaluation tools and coaching over the course of the last financial year. Projects have encompassed a wide range of objectives, including improved teaching practice, literacy and numeracy advancement and student engagement initiatives.

Our thanks go to Lisa Paul AO PSM, who has finished her tenure on the board of directors. We welcome three new members, Tony Cook PSM who joined earlier this year and Myriam Boissbouvier-Wylie and Tim Crommelin, who will volunteer their time in 2022. An enormous thank you to all of our board members for their expertise and guidance in ensuring Schools Plus effectively delivers its mission.

As restrictions ease across Australia, we look forward to a less turbulent year, where we are excited to continue our work with teachers and school leaders to support students facing disadvantage to succeed. Since our inception in 2015, we have raised over \$31m for schools, supported more than 330,000 students and worked with over 23,000 teachers. None of this would be possible without the dedicated efforts of our staff, coaches, supporters, directors, Pioneers and members, who guide our organisation forward.

**Together, we can help close the education gap and give every child across Australia the opportunity to reach their potential.**



**Rosemary Conn**  
CEO, Schools Plus



**Angus James**  
Chairman, Schools Plus

## OUR MISSION

# HELP CLOSE THE EDUCATION GAP



### 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 GOALS

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



### OUR MISSION

- Teachers create sustainable change to help their students succeed

# OUR IMPACT

Since 2015, Schools Plus has



raised **\$31 million** for schools facing disadvantage

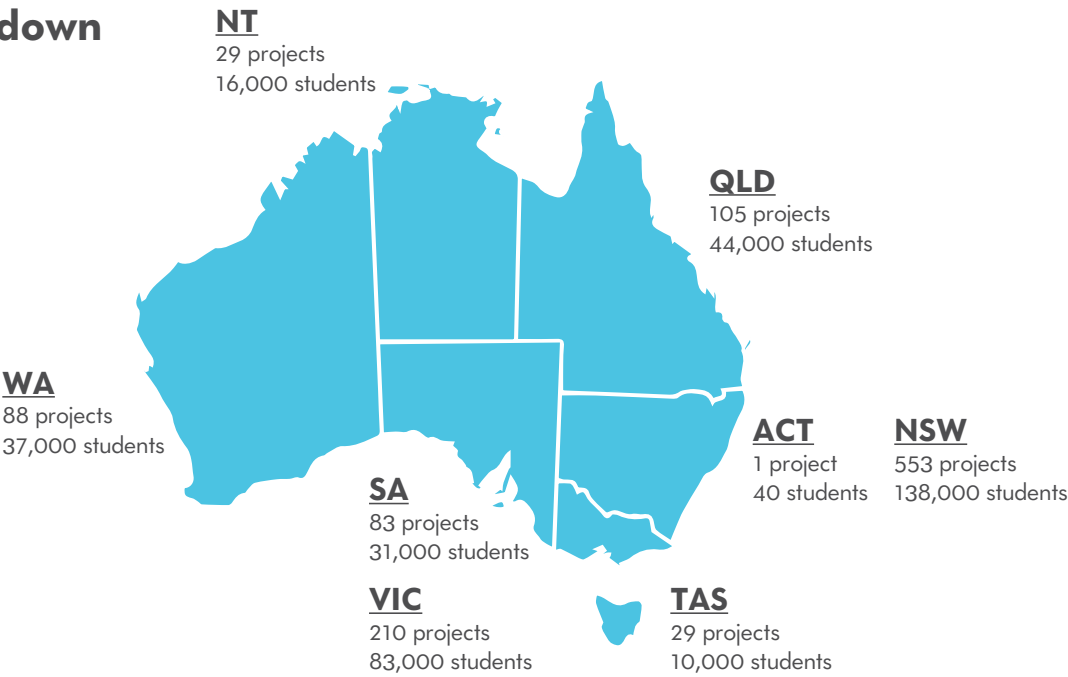


supported more than **1,000 schools**

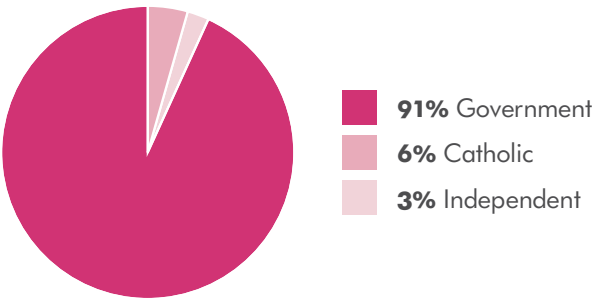


benefitted over **330,000 students**

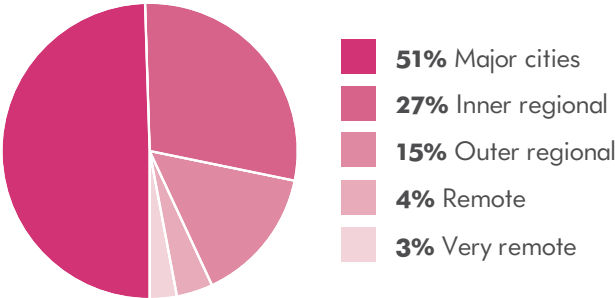
## State breakdown



## Project breakdown by sector



## Project breakdown by location



# OUR BOARD



**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, a board member of several other private enterprises and has held numerous positions as a chair and board member in public and private roles over the last 40 years.



**TONY COOK** PSM  
Tony Cook is the Deputy Secretary of the Higher Education, Research and International Group in the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. Tony's previous roles include Director General of the Queensland Department of Education and Associate Secretary for Schools and Youth in the former Australian Government Department of Education and Training.



**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.





#### **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.



#### **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, payments, healthcare, property and building materials sectors. She is the proud daughter, granddaughter and sister of educators.



#### **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. 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 has unrelenting focus on whole-school improvement and cultural change, to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes.



#### **BELINDA WALL**

Belinda is the Director, Educational Leadership for the Wollongong North 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 the former President, Secondary Principal Council, Illawarra South East Region.

## **MEMBERS' COMMITTEE**

Schools Plus' Members' Committee is made up of four key Australian education and philanthropy leaders who use their knowledge and expertise to review Schools Plus' strategic direction and ensure future initiatives align with our goal of helping students facing disadvantage succeed at school.

**ANTHONY MACKAY AM**

**DAVID GONSKI AC**

**JACINTA COLLINS**

**TIM FAIRFAX AC**

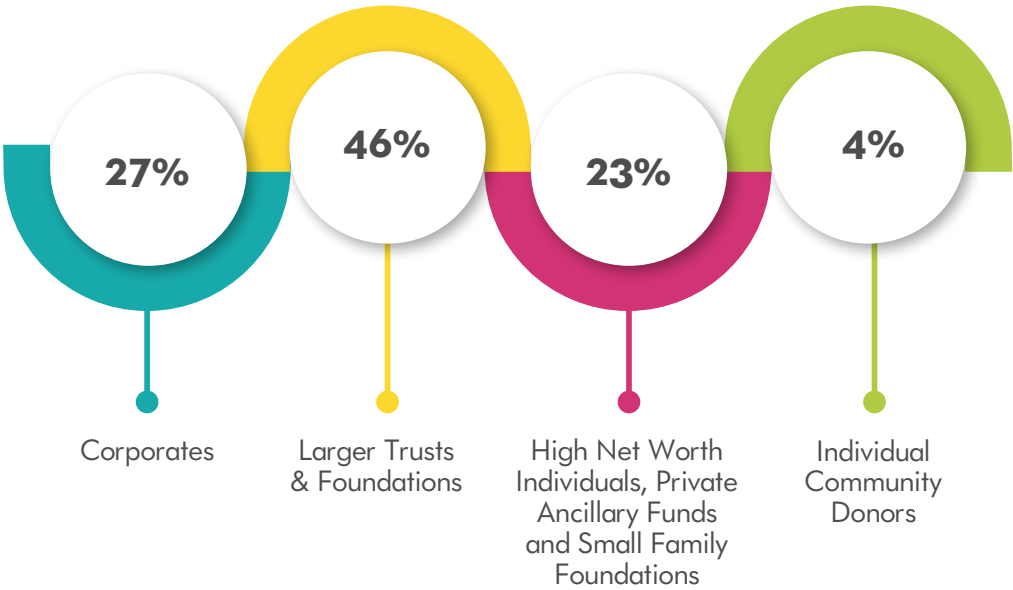




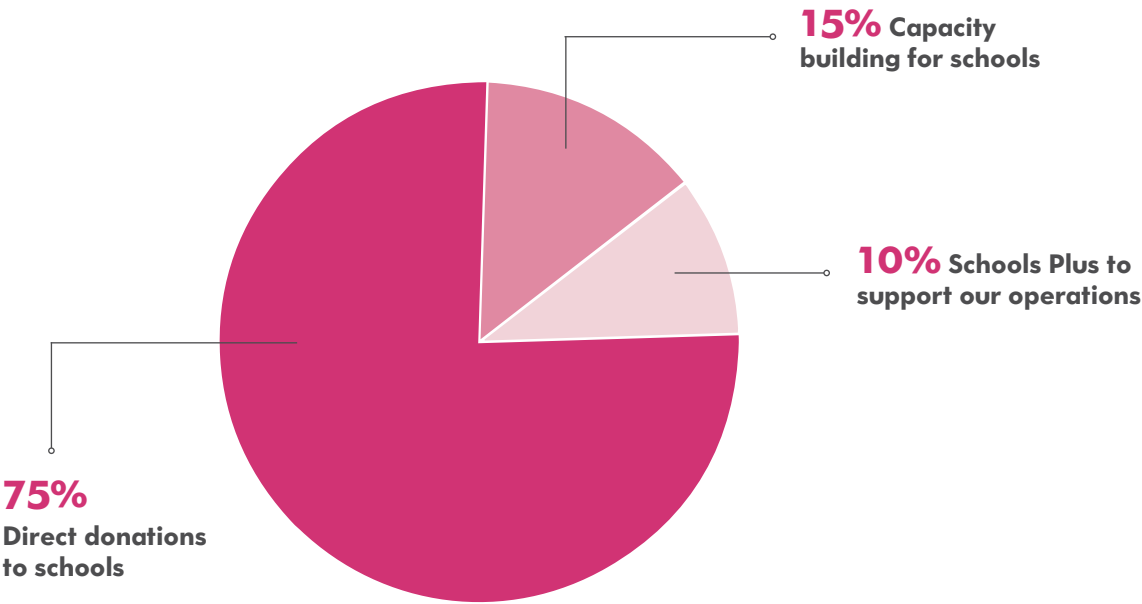


# FINANCIALS

## Donations came from:



## This year, donors chose to donate to:



## Statement of Profit or Loss for the year ended 30 June 2021

COVID-19 has had an operational effect on the activities of the organisation. The Company has been able to raise funds, including through a successful one-off Crisis Appeal campaign at the end of the previous 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 which is expected to be distributed to schools in future financial years.

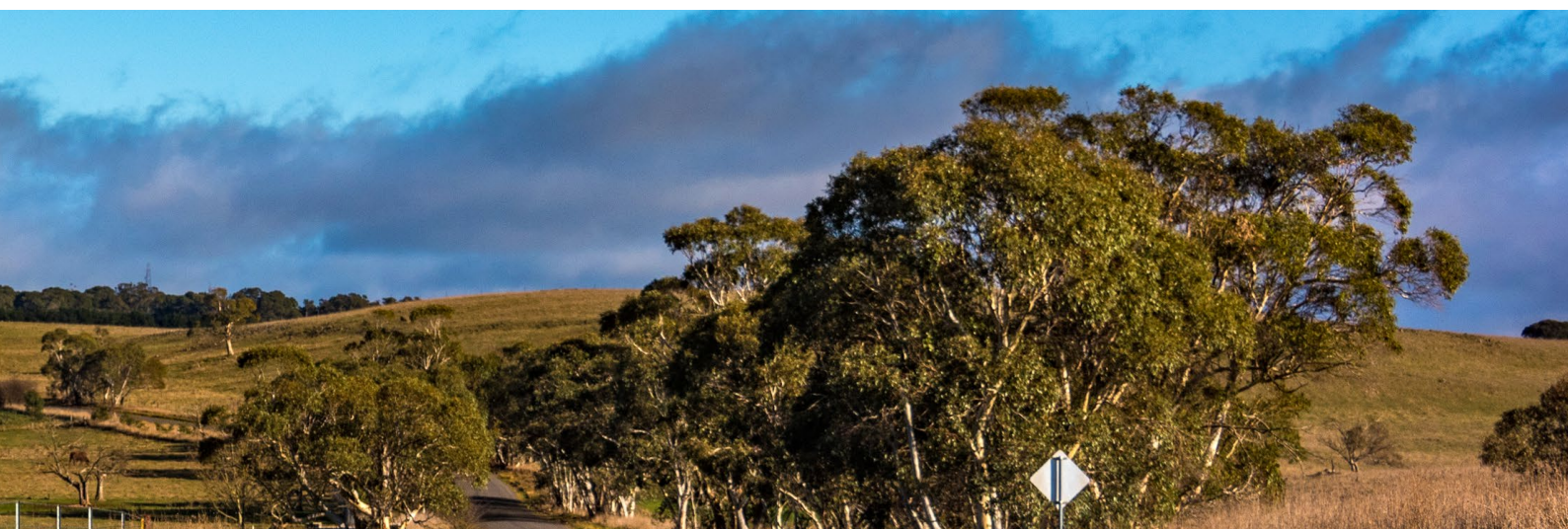
	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations received for schools	8,034,634	7,701,116
Donations received for Australian Schools Plus Ltd	1,993,701	1,865,750
Pro bono donations received	11,853	-
Administration fees received	588,633	419,139
Dividends received	161,402	191,757
Interest received	21,157	51,988
Sponsorship received	45,455	45,455
Jobkeeper Stimulus	428,000	152,000
Net realised and unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets	549,117	-228,947
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>11,833,952</b>	<b>10,198,258</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Funds distributed to schools</b>	<b>7,428,000</b>	<b>5,863,042</b>
<b>Operational expenses</b>		
Administration expenses	127,296	195,161
Consultancy and coaching fees	286,816	129,112
Audit fees	18,053	14,424
Computer expenses	28,734	29,459
Other expenses	4,501	10,716
Staffing costs	2,284,238	2,056,887
Professional fees	90,780	81,710
Rent	77,478	97,255
Technology expenses	73,839	14,410
Travel	53,518	64,111
<b>Total operational expenses</b>	<b>3,045,253</b>	<b>2,693,245</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,360,699</b>	<b>1,641,971</b>



## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,170,787	5,275,347
Trade and other receivables	172,749	77,830
Other assets	37,301	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>5,380,837</b>	<b>5,353,177</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Intangible assets	-	29,400
Financial assets	5,735,603	4,395,343
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>5,735,603</b>	<b>4,424,743</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>11,116,440</b>	<b>9,777,920</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	125,550	198,156
Employee provisions	126,564	91,500
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>252,114</b>	<b>289,656</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>		
Employee provisions	54,524	39,161
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>	<b>54,524</b>	<b>39,161</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>306,638</b>	<b>328,817</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>10,809,802</b>	<b>9,449,103</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	10,809,802	9,449,103
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>10,809,802</b>	<b>9,449,103</b>

A full copy of the financial report can be provided upon request.





# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Strategic partners



**Scott Farquhar  
& Kim Jackson**

**Allan & Gill Gray  
Philanthropies**

**Michael  
Ahrens**

**Phil  
Duncan**

**Pioneers in  
Philanthropy**

## 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 \$6 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 and Rosie Williams (representing the Serpentine Foundation)**
- **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



**Barr Family  
Foundation**

**Emalyn  
Foundation**

**Claringfeld**

**Massey Charitable  
Foundation**

**Rona  
Girdler**

**The Rali  
Foundation**

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

**Day Family  
Foundations**

## Key supporters

**Aptum Legal**

**Australian Communities Foundation**

**Aware Services**

**Bennelong Foundation**

**Carter Family Foundation**

**Delaney Endowment Fund**

**Geelong Community Foundation**

**James and Diana Ramsay Foundation**

**James N Kirby Foundation**

**Peninsula Kingswood Community Fund, a sub fund  
of Australian Communities Foundation**

**Rattigan Family Foundation**

**Richard Bomford**

**Sandy's Memorial Trust**

**The Blackwood Foundation**

**Theo Visser**

**Vivi**

## Pro bono supporters

**Partners in Performance**

**PwC**

**Origin Energy**



# Together, we can help close the education gap.



## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS PLUS

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T: 02 8880 0296

E: [info@schoolsplus.org.au](mailto:info@schoolsplus.org.au)

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

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