



Schools Plus 

**Let your
commitment to
education live on.**

Learn how your legacy can help build a fairer, more
compassionate Australia, starting in our schools.



Legacy in education that keeps giving.

At Milpera State High School in Brisbane, Principal Julie Peel is helping newly arrived students build a future. Many arrive as refugees, speaking little or no English, carrying the weight of disrupted schooling and feeling unsure of where they belong. But at Milpera, they are met with care, connection and opportunity.

Julie's passion in education was shaped by her own experience. As a child who moved through six different schools, she knows what it feels like to search for belonging. It's why she has created a school culture where belonging comes first, and every child is seen for who they are and who they can become.

Milpera welcomes students from more than 35 countries, with over 60 languages spoken across the school. But Julie knew that young people in regional areas faced even greater barriers. With support from Schools Plus, Julie led the development of Milpera Live, an online English program for students to access quality education.

"We were really lucky to connect with Schools Plus," Julie says. "Their support enabled us to trial the program, reach more schools and provide expert coaching. I attribute a lot of the success to Schools Plus. It wouldn't be where it is without them."

By 2024, Milpera Live was extended to benefit more than 70 students in 17 rural and regional schools. The program not only delivered academic progress, but helped students grow in confidence, with 80% showing measurable improvement in digital literacy.

This is the kind of long-term change your legacy can make possible.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Schools Plus, you can help build a fairer, more compassionate Australia, starting in our schools. Every child, no matter their background, deserves the chance to grow, belong and thrive.

**Some lessons last a lifetime.
Yours can shape generations to come.**

SADIA'S STORY

When Sadia arrived at Milpera, she didn't speak English. Like many classmates, she had experienced disrupted schooling and uncertainty about the future. But with the right support, she found a sense of belonging and a commitment in what education could make possible.

Sadia went on to study law and was admitted as a solicitor. Today, she works in a community legal centre, helping others refugees to find their voice and rebuild their lives. Her story is one of courage, care and community, and it began with people who believed in her.





“When our students leave Milpera, I want them to be fully confident in who they are. To grow stronger in their identity, and realise there is a future full of hope, freedom and opportunity.”

— Julie Peel,
Principal, Milpera State High School

Milpera State High School

A place of welcome and learning



35+

countries of origin



60+

languages spoken



55%

of students
are refugees



80%

of students increased
skills in digital literacy



Together, we can shape a fairer education future.

When I think about the future of education in Australia, I think about fairness.

Fairness means every child, no matter their background, postcode or personal circumstances, deserves the chance to learn, grow and thrive. That's what brings everyone at Schools Plus together. A shared commitment to education can change lives, and every child deserves that opportunity.

This guides everything we do. Through our national Opportunity to Thrive campaign, we have set a clear goal to help 150,000 children each year get the opportunities they need to succeed at school and in life.

And when someone chooses to leave a gift in their Will, they help bring that goal to life, not just for today's students, but for generations to come.

It is one of the most meaningful acts of generosity I have seen. A gift in your Will becomes a statement of commitment. A legacy that lives on in classrooms, in communities and in the confidence of every child who finally gets a fair go. At Schools Plus, we believe in giving every child, every opportunity.

Thank you for considering this extraordinary way to give. Create your legacy of lessons that last.



Sherrill Nixon
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Schools Plus

How educators create legacies every day

For our Teaching Awards Alumni, every lesson is a seed of possibility, helping young people grow with confidence, culture and care. Their stories remind us why some lessons last a lifetime.



Emma Davis

Parnngurr Community School, WA

In one of the most remote corners of Australia, Emma Davis is helping shape what school can be. At Parnngurr Community School, she co-delivers a Two-Way Learning program that brings Martu ecological knowledge together with Western science, while supporting students' wellbeing, identity and academic growth.

Through trauma-informed routines, targeted phonics and daily care practices, Emma helps students arrive ready to learn, and maintains high expectations. Many are now progressing beyond what was once thought possible. Emma also collaborates with fellow educators across the Aboriginal Independent Community Schools network, sharing her knowledge and supporting others working in remote contexts.



Kristie de Brenni

Queensland Pathways State College, QLD

Kristie de Brenni has reimaged what education can look like for young people who've been left behind. As the founding principal of a multi-campus school for students aged 15 to 18, she has created a flexible, inclusive environment where students can complete their education, build life skills and plan for the future.

Through her leadership, more than 1,300 students have already graduated, with strong outcomes in attendance, learning and post-school transitions. Her work is reshaping how education systems respond to complexity, with compassion, innovation and commitment in every young person's potential.

How Schools Plus is making a difference

Across Australia, children are finding confidence, belonging and joy in learning, thanks to people who are committed to fair access to education.



"This has been an outstanding reflection of Noongar science in action in our school. We are so proud this is now established on the school grounds."

Teacher

Clontarf Aboriginal College, WA



"The wellbeing hub provides immediate support for students who need not only medical attention but students who might be feeling anxious, hungry, angry, upset, tired or anyone who presents with poor wellbeing and doesn't know how to deal with those emotions."

Principal

Berri Regional Secondary College, SA

(Impact after the River Murray floods)

Some lessons last a lifetime. Yours can shape generations to come. Your legacy could help more young Australians find their place in the world.

"It has been wonderful to see the students engage in mathematical reasoning. They have learnt to give reasons in Pitjantjatjara for their mathematical classifications."

Teacher
Areyonga School, NT



"The school's demographic is lower socio-economic with a high percentage of students from trauma backgrounds, experiencing family violence in the home, living in out-of-home care or suffering poverty that impacts their basic living needs. Bundamba State School was negatively impacted by the recent floods and could really benefit from some financial assistance to restock our uniform supply and resources for our student community."

Principal
Bundamba State School, QLD

"We did not anticipate that some students' attendance would improve so quickly."

Teacher
Lavington East Public School, NSW
(Poor attendance after months of lockdown due to COVID)

"The Gateway students were given opportunities that could change the course of their lives. Some may think that's an exaggeration, but when you come from a low socio-economic area, and the world has not been very kind to you, a group of people who you don't even know believing in you is life changing."

Teacher
The Gateway School, VIC



"It has been fun. There is also lots of good teamwork. It has helped with my coding because before I didn't know much about it, but now my eyes have been opened to it. I can solve the coding problems with my friend together."

Student
Austins Ferry Primary School, TAS
(Student with a trauma history who participated in the LEGO STEM Discovery Program)



What your legacy makes possible

When you leave a gift in your Will to Schools Plus, you help build a fairer, more compassionate Australia, starting in our schools.





**“Our goal is to reach
150,000 children
every year by 2027.”**

Let your commitment to
education live on.

Our impact to date



Children reached

More than **550,000+**
students supported through
Schools Plus programs.



Schools supported

Over **1,800+** schools
were supported, from remote
communities to outer suburbs.



Partnering with every education sector across all states and territories


More than 150 tailored projects
each year, improving learning,
wellbeing and student engagement.



Educators empowered

138 Teaching Award recipients
are now leading change in
classrooms across Australia.

**Your commitment
to education can
live on, in every
child who gets the
chance to learn.**



A lasting gift of fairness and opportunity

“For me, it’s simple. Every child deserves a fair shot, no matter their postcode or circumstances. When you see the impact up close, you can’t help but want to be part of it.”

— David Friedlander,
Chair of Schools Plus and
King & Wood Mallesons



David

As Chairman of King & Wood Mallesons in Australia and a partner across the Melbourne and Sydney offices, David brings decades of experience advising on some of the country’s most significant mergers and acquisitions.

He is a member of the International Management Committee and plays a key role in the firm’s growth across Asia Pacific. David’s legal accolades are many, but he believes his greatest legacy lies in helping others reach their potential. That’s why he not only supports Schools Plus, he has also chosen to leave a gift in his Will.



Alena

Alena lived a life of purpose, compassion and curiosity. A veterinarian, public health advocate and world traveller, she believed in standing up for what mattered.

Born in Scotland and raised in Sydney, Alena experienced the power of education in shaping her own life. It became a value she carried through her work, her advocacy and her legacy. After completing a Master’s in Public Health, she became a strong voice for justice in human pharmaceuticals. Her generous gift in her Will to Schools Plus reflects her belief in fairness and opportunity for all children.

“Alena was very passionate about education and human rights.”

— Olga Gruzdeff,
Alena’s relative

By leaving a gift in their Wills to Schools Plus, both David and Alena’s commitment to fairness and opportunity lives on in every child their legacy supports.

How to leave a gift in your Will

Including a gift in your Will to Schools Plus is simple, flexible and powerful. Here's how you can get started.

STEP 1:

Look after your loved ones first

Your loved ones should always come first. After you've provided for them, you may choose to leave a gift to a cause you care about — such as fair access to education.

STEP 2:

Decide what type of gift you'd like to leave

There are many ways to include Schools Plus in your Will:

- A percentage of your estate
- A specific amount of money or asset
- The residue of your estate (what remains after other gifts and costs)
- A life insurance or superannuation policy
- Your whole estate

STEP 3:

Speak to a solicitor or advisor

We recommend seeking legal advice when preparing or updating your Will. Your advisor can guide you on the best way to include your gift, depending on your circumstances.

STEP 4:

Use the suggested wording below

You may wish to share this with your solicitor:

"I bequeath [the sum of \$.....] or [.....% of the balance of my estate] or [specified assets] to Australian Schools Plus (ABN 65 164 622 459) of Suite 402, Level 4, 117 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000 for its general purposes. I declare that the receipt of Australian Schools Plus will be sufficient discharge to my Executor/Trustee."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to be wealthy to leave a gift?

Not at all. Every gift makes a difference, even a small portion of your estate can help support more students and teachers.

Can I change my Will later?

Yes. You can update your Will at any time. A solicitor can help you make a simple addition called a Codicil, or draft a new Will if your circumstances change.

Do I need to tell you I've included a gift?

Yes, please let us know if you've included a gift in your Will. We'd love to thank you and welcome you to our legacy circle.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If you have any questions, please contact us at **info@schoolsplus.org.au** or **(02) 8880 0296**.

Let your commitment to education live on.



Create your legacy of lessons that last.

**Your commitment to education
can shape generations to come.**



Every legacy starts with a conversation.

If you are considering a gift in your Will,
we would love to talk with you.

J.P. Zwinkles

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