

Helping Bush Kids With Educational Opportunities

Since 1965, BCEF has supported over 3,000 economically disadvantaged students living in remote and isolated areas of NSW gain access to educational opportunities and help them to achieve their career goals, crucial for retaining both talent and skills in the bush. Equating to \$3 million in funding for Scholarships, Rural Boarding & Hostel Bursaries.

SNAPSHOT



55

Secondary School
Students

Provided **\$100,357** Secondary Rural Boarding Bursary support at 13 schools & 41 families.

41

Families

75% of bursary students live 30km or greater from nearest government school.

98%

Secondary Education
Continuation Rate

All students receiving BCEF Boarding Bursary successfully completed their education year.

200%

Secondary Rural
Boarding Applications

Applications have increased over 200% in the past five years.

8

Tertiary University
Students

Provided \$22,247.00 CSU University Scholarships to 8 students for technology & study supplies.

88%

Tertiary Education
Continuation Rate

All students receiving BCEF Scholarships have continued to their next year of study

86%

Donations

Go directly to students via Secondary Boarding Bursaries or Tertiary Scholarships

OUR MOTIVATION

Challenges Faced by Rural Families

- 89% struggled with boarding school fees.
- 84% cited distance from schools as a major difficulty.
- 63% faced limited subject offerings in local schools.
- 47% found travel costs to be a significant challenge.
- Other concerns included availability of transport, lack of gifted programs, and small class sizes.

Reasons for Choosing a Rural Boarding School

- 48% cited broader **opportunities** (academic, social, extracurricular).
- 40% prioritized **education quality**.
- 25% valued **agricultural-focused subjects**.
- 25% noted **proximity to home** as a key factor.

Boarding School Highlights

- **Leadership achievements:** Several students earned leadership roles – prefect & school captain.
- **Academic successes:** Many students reported significant academic improvements and participation in gifted programs.
- **Extracurricular engagement:** Students excelled in sports, agriculture, and creative pursuits, including achievements in state competitions.
- **Personal growth:** Respondents observed increased independence, resilience, and responsibility.

Impact of the BCEF Bursary

- 100% of respondents agreed that the bursary made a **meaningful difference** to their family.
- It alleviated **financial stress**, allowing families to choose the **best educational options**.
- Some parents noted that without the bursary, they **would not have been able to afford boarding education**.

