

# Reach for the stars with BCEF support

EVERY country has an obligation to invest in its youth - and the Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW believes that should not be constrained by regional isolation.

In 2022, the BCEF awarded 75 secondary rural boarding bursaries to young people from 53 families from isolated areas.

The students attended 13 boarding schools throughout country NSW.

It's not just about broadening education and academic opportunities.

It's also about joining a team, widening friendships and social interaction, particularly within the boarding house.

Aside from the pressure of learning how to stand on your own two feet, you can take solace from the fact that you're sharing the journey with fellow members of the boarding house, sharing a laugh, sharing the odd tear, and feeling your way as part of a wider world.

The opportunities at boarding school, should you



Bush Children's Education Foundation of NSW supports young people whose educational opportunities are limited due to isolation and economic circumstances.

wish to embrace them, go far beyond academia.

There's all the extracurricular activities, from loads of sporting activities, including group sport, to music and joining clubs.

It's about standing back from and overcoming the strictures of the isolation of our bush, be it drought, flood, pests and sometimes loneliness.

The BCEF believe that the greatest gift that any country can give is to free young students from the bonds of isolation and sometimes lack of camaraderie - and to unlock their natural gifts that have been fostered by their family

and locale.

Apart from the scholastic widening of options, there is a social broadening of horizons.

As a result, there can be a development of an ongoing appreciation of new goals and challenges and, in most cases, an understanding of the effect of a friendly and supportive hand-up and a desire to ultimately help others similarly constrained by isolation.

Applications for BCEF secondary school rural bursaries close Friday February 24.

For more information or to apply for a bursary visit the website at [bcef.org.au](http://bcef.org.au).