



SINCE 1993

we have provided rural and regional students with;

\$8,185,631

in financial support

4387

individual grants

STUDENT IMPACT REPORT 2017



Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation helping rural and regional youth access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources.

2017

475

Individual students awarded grants



\$721,100

Value of grants given

+

\$309,700

Value of education partner funding

=

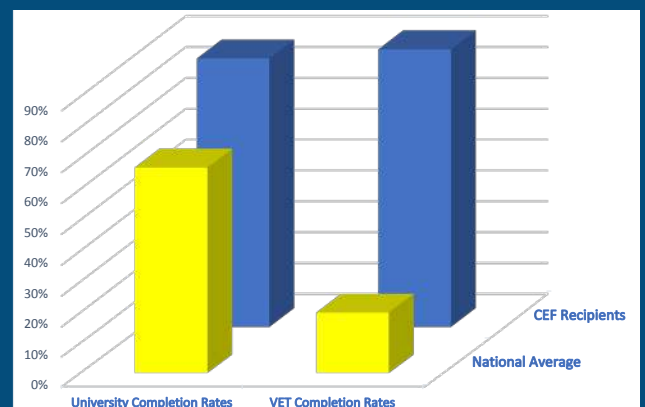
\$1,030,800

Value of support provided by CEF

WHAT WE DO WORKS



CEF conducted a survey of 1200 alumni in 2016 which determined our grant recipients have much higher course completion rates than the national average



The Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education (IRRRE) was announced by Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, in May 2017.

"We must drive and better set policy to encourage ambition among our country students.

*Regional and remote students made up just **18.8 PER CENT** of domestic undergraduate students at universities, compared to making up **26.4 PER CENT** of the population in 2016."*

That represents TENS OF THOUSANDS of young people in rural and regional areas potentially missing out.

A word from our patron

"By supporting CEF you are supporting this generation of rural and regional youth. Their education, training and careers will be founded by your generosity and their ties to the country. Your help will help the continuation of country communities across Australia."

The Honourable Tim Fischer, AC, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia



Help the Country Education Foundation continue to support rural and regional students by becoming a partner, sponsor or donor.

Contact us at 1300 652 144 for more information.

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

www.cef.org.au

Why we support the Country Education Foundation

Sean Barrett
Head, Origin Foundation

"The disparity in educational achievement between children in metropolitan, and rural and regional Australia is well documented. The further students are located from metropolitan centres the poorer they perform. According to some data, a 15-year-old in the city is likely to be a year-and-a-half more advanced than a young person in a remote area. The problem is not in far away communities of the Northern Territory, but begins in the towns an hour's drive from our capital cities."

"Addressing this unacceptable disparity is a focus for the Origin Foundation, which believes all Australian children deserve a good education to set them



up for future success. We have worked with CEF for five years because, in our experience, they are tackling these issues successfully at the local level."

Tom Keenan
Head, Audi Foundation

"The Audi Foundation and CEF have common goals in helping to provide access to vital education and training across rural and regional Australia to students looking to better themselves. The Audi Foundation is proud to be partnering with CEF and we believe the work of CEF will be extremely beneficial and bring long-lasting value for scholarship recipients and their respective communities."



Audi Foundation
Strengthening Communities



CHRIS MERCER has seen the world thanks to help from the CEF. The Cooma boy had dreams of studying theatre, and after years of building a career in Australia and overseas, is now the Head of Production at Sydney Theatre Company.

The CEF grant made him believe in himself and his dreams, no matter how unrealistic they felt as a young man leaving home for the first time.

"The grant gave me determination and confidence ... and also a sense of responsibility that I had to work hard and give myself the very best chance to succeed."

"It was a huge help, it covered all my books for the first year. The funds ease the pressure. It's a huge expense for regional students to leave home and study. Receiving a grant gives you confidence knowing someone else believes that you can achieve your goals."

Student stories

The Yass District Education Foundation, awarded **CERIDWEN BOEL** a one-off \$1000 community scholarship when she applied. She says it helped her find her feet and allowed her to find confidence.

"Receiving a CEF scholarship feels like a huge vote of confidence in you and your abilities. It says 'we believe in you' - and that really counts at one of the most daunting times in a young life."



When asked for advice she would give to country students, Ceridwen is adamant: "Be brave. Don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be too proud to ask for help."

"People will astound you if you give them the chance".