



# Student Impact Report 2016

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

**In 2016 we are helping over 450 rural and regional young people across Australia get started on their education, training and career goals.**

**454** 

Grants given in 2016



**3,912** Grants given since 1993

**\$7,445,931**



Value of financial support provided since 1993

**\$628,350**

Value of grants given in 2016

**+**

**\$387,800**

Value of funding provided from our education partners in 2016

**=**

**\$1,016,150**

Value of support provided in 2016 (includes grants, education partner co-funding, scholarships and support resources)

**An investment in education is an investment in the future of rural and regional Australia**

The CEF model of locally-based grants and support delivers a sound return on investment. Research by Social Ventures Australia (SROI Report 2011) indicates that for every dollar invested, a social return of \$3.10 is generated. Beneficiaries include students, apprentices, trainees, families, volunteers and the broader community.





## Making a difference

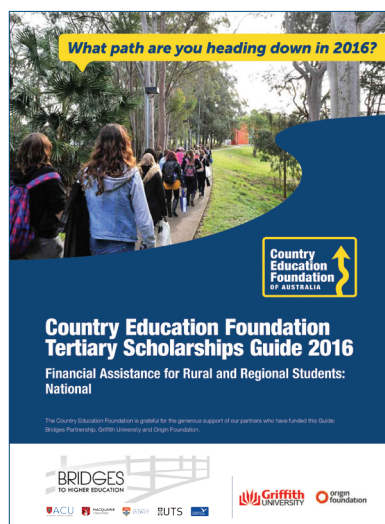
The Country Education Foundation's commitment to providing access to education, training and careers for disadvantaged rural and regional school-leavers has achieved more than **\$1 million in student support for 2016**. In addition to grants, scholarships and co-funding the CEF is providing essential support services to unlock education and training opportunities for country kids.

## University Survival Guide

Heading off to university is an exciting milestone in a young person's life. Like anything new it's also a bit daunting. Even more so when it involves moving from an outback town to a big city, or when a student is first in family to attend university. That's why we created The CEF *University Survival Guide*.

This guide is an essential support service helping students and their families successfully navigate the path to higher education. It includes health and support services, study tips, budget advice and answers to all those first year questions both students and parents/carers have.

The CEF *University Survival Guide* is produced as an online and printed resource, ensuring it reaches everyone who needs it.



## Scholarships Guide

The rising and associated costs of university and training is a serious barrier preventing many rural and regional students progressing to further education. Through our grants and support services, the Country Education Foundation is committed to removing this obstacle.

The CEF *Tertiary Scholarships Guide 2016* helps rural and regional families access hundreds of avenues for financial assistance, from \$500 grants through to \$50,000 accommodation and tuition scholarships.

This guide is delivered through the Country Education Foundation website and associated distribution services, ensuring rural and regional students have access to financial assistance.

## Help where it's needed most

Country Education Foundation grants are equity based. We support a range of dreams and aspirations, from students who want to be plumbers, teachers, scientists, mechanics, farmers and doctors.

Our dream is to see all disadvantaged rural and regional students get on their way, through supported access to further education and training.



# Student stories

## Jamin's trading up



He's only 16 but Jamin White has a clear plan for his future. And the Country Education Foundation, in partnership with the Kirby Foundation, is helping him get there.

Jamin, who lives on a property at Springdale, about half an hour from Cootamundra, NSW, was offered an apprenticeship by a local mechanic last year and jumped at the opportunity.

"I wasn't really big on school and just wanted to get on with getting some good skills," Jamin said.

With his post-school training sorted Jamin turned his focus to the cost of doing a TAFE course and buying tools. He said costs soon started to add up.

A family friend told Jamin's mum about a grant he might be eligible for and he applied. When news of his success came through he was excited and said it also made him feel proud of his choice.

"I think it's important to support kids who don't want to go on at school. I only get \$5 a week tool allowance from the Government and there's plenty of costs involved in TAFE."

To get Jamin on his way to becoming a skilled mechanic the Country Education Foundation awarded him a 2016 Kirby Scholarship.

## Nap's great big leap



When home is a 12 hour train trip away and you're the first in family to go to university, the big move can be pretty scary, not to mention costly.

For Nap Holmes the added financial burden was something she knew her family couldn't afford to fund.

"My dad got sick when I was a kid and hasn't been able to work since, so mum's the sole bread winner." Nap's physiotherapy degree is being supported through the local grants program. Nap is in her second year of study and was awarded a 2015 and 2016 grant by the CEF in Great Lakes.

***"Without the Country Education Foundation it would be very difficult for people like me to go to university. It's hard enough to get into uni but being able to afford living expenses, travel, textbooks and relocation costs is the really stressful stuff. My CEF grant relieves these pressures so I can concentrate on my studies and focus on getting a great job."***

## Anna's come full circle



It's over 1,000 kilometres from Clermont, in inland Queensland, to the University of Queensland in Brisbane.

"That feels like you're a long way from opportunity," explains former CEF grant recipient Anna Boyes. This tyranny of distance stops many young rural school-leavers from pursuing higher education dreams. It could have stopped Anna until she heard about a new grants program in her area.

"I was supported by the local CEF in Clermont all the way through my degree and it made such a difference. It helped me get set up for uni, buy textbooks and go on my practical placements."

Anna graduated at the end of 2014 and landed a teaching job at Dysart State High School, an hour from her hometown of Clermont.

"I feel really lucky to have grown up in the bush and then be supported to go away and gain my qualifications. And if I can pass that story on and show kids what's possible that would be really satisfying."



## A word from our patron

“By supporting CEF you will be helping to provide life-changing opportunities for disadvantaged rural students – and supporting rural communities across Australia.”

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

## CEF + Partners = Positive Student Outcomes

The Country Education Foundation is proud to support disadvantaged rural and regional school-leavers. Our impact is strengthened and expanded by the generous support of our partners. By joining forces with donors, sponsors and partners the CEF is delivering more than **\$1 million in 2016** to help rural and regional young people on their way to achieving their education, training and career goals.

## Why we support the Country Education Foundation:

“The Origin Foundation has been a supporter of the Country Education Foundation for the past five years. We renewed our funding after the first period because we were impressed with the results being achieved and their business model. We believe the CEF is doing an outstanding job in providing opportunities for young people in regional Australia to pursue their educational and career ambitions, and have found the CEF to be professional, diligent and innovative.”



**origin**  
foundation

**Sean Barrett**  
Head, Origin Foundation

“Our experience of partnering with the CEF on recurring initiatives has in every aspect been an extremely positive one. The expertise and professionalism of the CEF staff has ensured that the outcomes of our partnership have exceeded expectations.”



**MACQUARIE**  
University

**Ruth Tregale**  
Manager Widening Participation, Macquarie University

Help the Country Education Foundation continue  
to support disadvantaged rural and regional  
students by becoming a partner, sponsor or donor.  
Contact 1300 652 144 for more information.

[www.cef.org.au](http://www.cef.org.au)



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