



CEF National Office General Grant Information

Country Education Foundation of Australia Ltd.

ABN: 60 103 889 452
ACN: 103 889 452
Phone: (02) 6362 3162
1300 652 144
Street Address: 52 Hill Street, Orange NSW 2800
Postal Address: PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800
Bank Details: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Account name: Country Education Foundation of Australia
BSB: 062 629
Account number: 1009 0818

CEF national holds DGR 1 status. If applying for grants that require this status, the submission will need to use the above national office information to be eligible. This status is the same one that allows your local donations to be eligible for tax deductibility when processed through the national office account.

CEF is an endorsed Tax Concession Charity (TCC).

MISSION

CEF's mission is to promote and enable the further education, career and personal development opportunities for rural youth through community-based encouragement and financial assistance. To help close the education participation gap that exists between country and city students.

VISION

CEF has a vision of vibrant and thriving rural and regional communities where school-leavers of any background or ability can access the services and resources they need in order to fulfil their personal potential and contribute fully to the communities in which they live and broader Australian society.

BENEFITS OF THE WORK OF CEF

CEF provides immediate benefits to students from 44 rural and regional communities who intend to undertake post-compulsory school education. In 2019, CEF provided 596 students with more than \$1.5 million in financial assistance. This immediate relief of stress related to money enables students to pursue further education goals with some of the financial burden relieved.

Approximately 60% of rural and regional students need to relocate to undertake study which significantly increases costs for families and often leads to country students electing to defer higher education as the costs are simply too prohibitive. Importantly, research shows that once a country student has made the decision to defer studies, they are at a much higher risk of not undertaking any type of further education thereafter, particularly when these decisions are associated with issues such as drought and family circumstances.

WIDER COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF CEF

Indirectly, the work of CEF will impact rural regional communities and the general public over time. We want to make people aware of the barriers faced by country people when it comes to education. We want people in country areas to raise their aspirations. Current research indicates that almost 13% of parents don't expect their children to study past compulsory schooling, and students are 10% less likely to aspire to further education. It is important to realise that financial constraints significantly affect rural students, with 64% worried about money, and almost 20% reporting they go without food and other necessities when times are tough. At CEF, our stakeholders now more so than ever, are coming together to help those in need. With the effects of the current, prolonged drought hitting the back pockets of many families nationally these percentages are sure to increase unless we work together to make a difference.

The primary focus of CEF's work is promoting equal opportunity and better outcomes in higher education through community-based support for rural and regional students, helping to create prospects and increase aspirations. Individual grants and scholarships are awarded primarily at a 'grass-roots' level by our 44 local foundations, and more than 400 dedicated volunteers, to easing the financial pressures associated with transitioning to education after school. The CEF national office provides the local foundations with supports and resources assisting to increase capacity and sustainability. Additionally, we offer free online student resources, participate in advocacy and work toward implementing larger scale programs to help rural and regional communities and students both past and present, to increase education aspirations and attainment. Over the past 10 years, the average value of a local CEF grant has increased by 54%, and since 1993 the organisation has provided almost \$11 million in financial support to rural and regional students. In 2019, the overall total value of support provided to students was \$4215, including financial and social support, resources, advocacy and all other assistances.

CEF STATISTICS – VARIOUS

- 70% of CEF Alumni 'Reconnect Now' survey respondents said the assistance they received from CEF was 'very important'
- 20% of CEF Alumni 'Reconnect Now' survey respondents said the assistance they received from CEF was 'important'
- A majority (60%) of CF Alumni survey respondents had either found employment in their chosen field or were still studying on their way to employment in their field (34%)
- In response to a drought survey 2018, over 47% of student respondents identified the drought as impacting their families in moderate to severe ways
- 1/3 of student respondents to the drought survey said that if circumstances don't change, then this will affect their education and training goals
- Just over 40% of 2018 recipients who responded to a recent survey are the first in family to undertake further education



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And remember, for key statistics you can always refer to the annual Student Impact Report. And, if you require information specific to your local foundation, contact the team at national office – we have all this information at our fingertips.