



**Education**  
Changes lives.  
And families.  
And communities.

From the CEO's desk...



We're excited to launch our local foundation Matched Giving campaign this year. Donations you make to a local CEF foundation between 1st September and 31st October will be matched, capped at \$5000 per foundation. This is a great opportunity to increase your impact and empower our local foundations to support more youth in their area.

Applications for the inaugural Sancta Sophia College - CEF bursary are now open, and we're pleased to announce we have extended our partnership with St Andrew's College. We thank these two Colleges for their critical support in helping subsidise accommodation for regional students.

It's a pleasure to announce our 2024 Audi Foundation and Findex scholarship recipients. These scholarships have made a significant impact for our students.

Thanks to our inaugural Boot Bash campaign in March, and a generous anonymous donor, more than \$170,000 has been paid in top-up funding to students to address the current cost-of-living crisis.

Finally, these opportunities could not happen without our committees of dedicated volunteers and we couldn't be more grateful for their work at the grassroots.

*Wendy Mason*

Wendy Mason, CEO



52 Hill Street, Orange NSW 2800  
PO Box 245, Orange NSW 2800  
1300 652 144 | info@cef.org.au



**DONATIONS TO YOUR LOCAL CEF FOUNDATION MATCHED DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER!**

**1 + 1 = 2**

**YOUR DOLLAR + MATCHED DOLLAR = DOUBLE THE IMPACT**

**EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES. AND FAMILIES. AND COMMUNITIES.**

\*\*Up to \$5000 per local CEF foundation.

CEF is excited to announce its Local Foundation Matched Giving Campaign for 2024, with donations made to any local foundation during September and October matched dollar for dollar, capped at \$5000 per foundation.

**Without the help of CEF, Robert would not be on his way to becoming a nurse in regional Australia.**

“ I'm extremely grateful for CEF's support over the last four years. It's made my studies in nursing possible and has especially helped me to afford my practical placements.

**Robert**  
Shoalhaven Education Fund

**HOW TO DONATE TODAY**

Scan the QR code and donate to your chosen local CEF foundation.

OR

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

**CONNECT**

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# SANCTA IS THE HOME AWAY FROM HOME REGIONAL YOUNG WOMEN NEED



2024 Sancta Sophia College resident, Bridget Ritter from CEF Walgett.

For Country Education Foundation of Australia student, Bridget Ritter, needing to relocate 700km from Collarenebri in western NSW, to Sydney for her studies, meant she needed to find a “home away from home”.

Being so far away from her family, she wanted to live somewhere that she could feel comfortable and develop a support network of other regional young women.

When she visited a friend at Sancta Sophia College (Sancta), she found a place that would provide the supportive environment she needed while studying a Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). She wasted no time putting in her application.

Sancta is an all-female undergraduate residential college located on the grounds of the University of Sydney that provides high-quality academic, social, sporting, cultural and leadership opportunities.

With UTS only a short 10-minute bus ride up Broadway, Bridget said this made it very convenient for her.

Bridget said this had made her move to Sydney much easier and that students planning to study at University of Sydney, UTS or University of Notre Dame next year shouldn't look past Sancta.

“Sancta has become a home away from home for me. It has meant that I have the space and time to adjust to university life with girls who are also from regional places, who also feel a little daunted but excited about moving to the city. Any young woman who is looking to pursue further education in Sydney should consider Sancta Sophia College,” she said.

Sancta Principal, Fiona Hastings, said its partnership with CEF would enable more regional women to pursue their university dreams in Sydney.

“At Sancta, we understand the challenges regional students face when moving away from home for their studies. The majority of our students come from regional NSW, so we have plenty of support in place especially for them,” she said.

Sancta is the latest residential college to partner with CEF to offer accommodation scholarships. Applications for the Sancta Sophia College–CEF Bursary are now open.

First year female students who receive a grant from a local CEF foundation and have an offer of place at Sancta in undergraduate accommodation in 2025 are eligible for selection.

To apply for the Sancta Sophia College–CEF Bursary you will need to apply to both Sancta and your local CEF foundation. Applications for the Sancta Sophia–CEF Bursary close on 1st October 2024 while closing dates for applications to local foundations vary.

## BOOT BASH CAMPAIGN PROVIDES MORE THAN \$170,000 IN TOP-UPS FOR CEF STUDENTS



CEF alumna Heather Walker, from CEF Grenfell, got behind the Boot Bash campaign in March.



Current CEF students, and sisters, Millie and Imogen Taylor, from CEF Namoi.



Current CEF student Chelsea Stevenson from CEF Gwydir.

Students supported by CEF this year have been given a boost, with a total of \$173,775 paid to them to help tackle the cost-of-living crisis thanks to the inaugural Boot Bash campaign and a significant philanthropic contribution from an anonymous donor.

A 15% top-up was paid to students based on the grants they received from their local CEF foundations using funds raised from the Boot Bash in March.

CEF CEO Wendy Mason said the additional funds would help students cover their educational expenses in the face of rising costs and help them continue their studies, traineeships and apprenticeships.



# AUDI FOUNDATION AND CEF CONTINUE TO DRIVE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



CEF Head of Engagement, Media and Impact, Hilary Matchett, and CEF CEO Wendy Mason, back left, with 2024 Audi Foundation scholars Eliza Dampney, Mille Taylor, Emily Weeks and Jeffrey Keena, centre, and Audi Foundation representatives at its scholarship morning tea in Sydney in May.

Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) and longstanding partner, Audi Foundation are excited to announce its 11 scholarship recipients for 2024; students who are all driving for progress in their chosen STEM fields.

## 2024 Audi Foundation–CEF Scholarship Recipients

**Max Brenner**, CEF Grenfell, Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours), University of Newcastle.

**Emily Weeks**, CEF Yass Valley, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Mechanical and Mechatronic, University of Technology, Sydney.

**Jeffrey Keena**, Hastings Education Fund, Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours), University of Newcastle.

**Fergus Tooth**, Braidwood Education Foundation, Bachelor of Engineering, University of Wollongong.

**Jessica Trengove**, CEF Cowra, Bachelor of Medical Science/Bachelor of Business, University of Technology, Sydney.

**Charlotte Robinson**, Temora Education Fund, Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours), Australian National University.

**Jorja Schofield**, Hastings Education Fund, Bachelor of Biomedical Science, University of Newcastle.

**Millie Taylor**, CEF Namoi, Bachelor of Exercise Science/Master of Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiology, University of New South Wales.

**Tully McCahon**, CEF Grenfell, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery, Monash University.

**Ryan Ellis**, CEF Canowindra, Bachelor of Engineering, University of Wollongong.

**Eliza Dampney**, CEF Namoi, Bachelor of Data Science and Decisions, University of New South Wales.

## Emily Weeks is in the driver's seat

CEF Yass Valley student, Emily Weeks, has always had big dreams of one day working on the Formula 1 circuit.

Growing up, she always had an interest in motorsport and says she is fascinated by the feats of engineering in F1 cars, especially their speed around corners and aerodynamic downforce.

She planned to study mechanical engineering to continue chasing her F1 dreams but the cost of relocating away from home proved a challenge. When she was introduced to CEF Yass Valley, she soon started to believe that her dream could become reality.

As one of this year's Audi Foundation scholars, she is excelling in her first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Mechanical and Mechatronic, with the Audi Foundation scholarship helping her cover rent in Sydney.

Emily thanked Audi Foundation for believing in her goal of being a powerful female working in international motorsport.

"The scholarship has made a huge difference and allowed me to spend less time working in my part-time job and endure less stress," she said.

"I'm also grateful for the networking and experience opportunities Audi Foundation has given me."

For this previously devout Ferrari supporter, Emily is confident she will now support Audi when it enters the competition in 2026!



Emily Weeks checks out an Audi car at the 2024 Audi Foundation scholarship morning tea.

# FINDEX SCHOLARSHIPS HELP CEF STUDENTS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS



## Caitlyn is on a Mission to Empower Women in Ag

Findex Community Fund–CEF scholarship recipient, Caitlyn Coutts-Smith, believes it's time to encourage more women to study and work in agriculture and believes the scholarship will help her do that.

Caitlyn, who received a grant from her local CEF foundation, CEF Namoi, is a first-year student studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.

Growing up on a family farm in Wee Waa in northern NSW, she hopes to one day work in agricultural management and lead the charge to empower other females to work in the industry.

"Gender doesn't mean that you can harvest a grain crop any better than the other, as long as you have a passion for your work," she said.

"The opportunities for employment or further education in this field are indescribable, from livestock handling to marketing and sales, there is truly something for everyone. You just need to take that first step and ask those important questions."

She said her Findex Community Fund–CEF scholarship would help her access practical learning and work experience opportunities that were critical for her succeeding in her studies, particularly livestock handling.

"The Findex scholarship funds will play a pivotal role in my academic and professional development. Work placements not only enhance my theoretical learning but will also provide me invaluable hands-on skills that are essential for my future career," she said.

"I am grateful for this support, as it will undoubtedly contribute to my growth and preparation for future endeavours within the agricultural industry."

2024 Findex Community Fund–CEF Scholarship recipient, Caitlyn Coutts-Smith, from CEF Namoi.

Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) and Findex Community Fund are excited to announce its 2024 CEF–Findex Community Fund scholarship recipients, a highly sought after scholarship that will support six students studying in business and finance related fields.

## 2024 Findex Community Fund–CEF Scholarship Recipients:

**Sophie Yabsley**, CEF Nyngan, Bachelor of Business Management, University of Technology, Sydney.

**Isabella Webster**, CEF Orange & Districts, Bachelor of Event Management, International College of Management, Sydney.

**Logan Haslam**, CEF Cowra, Bachelor of Professional Accounting, University of Wollongong.

**Caitlyn Coutts-Smith**, CEF Namoi, Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management, Charles Sturt University.

**Venice Dionela**, CEF West Wyalong, Bachelor of Business, University of Wollongong.

**Jazmyne Sumalinog**, CEF Far West, Bachelor of Business, University of Wollongong.

With an aligned vision of supporting rural and regional youth, Findex offers the scholarship to CEF supported students to help address some of the barriers to further education and set them up for professional success.

Findex Community Fund Head of Philanthropy and Sustainability, Danielle Maxwell, said by supporting these students financially, it also hoped to support their career progression.

"We've connected the scholars to people from our offices to assist with coaching and mentoring. We provide these scholarships in the hope that we can help further support the scholars in other ways," she said.

She said she hoped the funding for this year's scholars would enable them to thrive in their studies, especially with the current cost-of-living crisis.



# ST ANDREW'S SCHOLARSHIPS UNLOCK A STRONG COMMUNITY FOR REGIONAL YOUTH



CEF student Anna Hunt, top row, third from the left, who is living at St Andrew's and is also the Cultural Secretary on its House Committee. Photo credit: St Andrew's College.

The Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF), alongside longtime partner, St Andrew's College, are thrilled to announce the extension of their partnership, with an increased financial commitment until 2027.

St Andrew's College, a residential college located on the grounds of the University of Sydney, has partnered with CEF since 2016, supporting 59 students with accommodation scholarships to the value of almost \$500,000 and providing a supportive environment for regional students to live, study and thrive in Sydney.

St Andrew's College Principal, Rob Leach, said the College had a core focus of supporting students from regional areas and enabling them to access tertiary education in Sydney.

"We are deeply committed to supporting students from rural and regional backgrounds," he said.

"We understand the unique challenges these students face in accessing higher education. Beyond the typical academic demands, they must contend with the substantial costs associated with relocating and living away from home, which can often be overwhelming."

For Isaac Barrett, the scholarship was the reason he was able to begin his studies in Sydney this year.

Inspired by his older brother, Lachie, he dreamed of studying at the University of Sydney and living at St Andrew's College.

But with the cost of relocating over 500km away from his hometown of Coonamble, NSW, plus leaving behind a close-knit community and support network, he was hesitant about how he could make it all work.

He said the scholarship unlocked the opportunity to build connections and form friendships in the thriving community at St Andrew's.

"The scholarship has reduced the stress of moving from a small rural town to Sydney to pursue my studies. I love living in such a positive community environment at St Andrew's and have made friends that will be for life," he said.

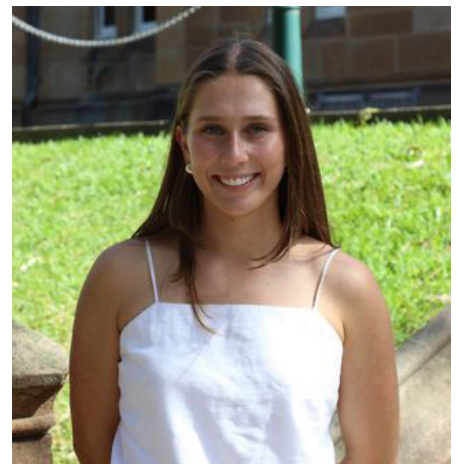


2024 St Andrew's College - CEF scholarship recipient Isaac Barrett.

For Anna Hunt, hailing from Grenfell in Central West NSW, population 2,500, the support of CEF and St Andrew's College has helped her excel in her Nursing studies at the University of Sydney. Anna now holds the Cultural Secretary role on the College's 2024 House Committee.

As a previous recipient of the scholarship, she has continued living at St Andrew's College this year, saying its environment and network of like-minded students make it a great option for regional students studying in Sydney.

"Transitioning from a small rural school to Sydney was a challenging adjustment, but the community and support provided by CEF has significantly eased this transition, making the past three years a comfortable and enriching experience," she said.



2023 St Andrew's College - CEF scholarship recipient Anna Hunt.

**Students who are interested in living at St Andrew's College, are encouraged to apply for a place as soon as possible. Interested in this scholarship? You will need to have an offer of place at St Andrew's and be supported by your local CEF foundation to be considered for the scholarship.**

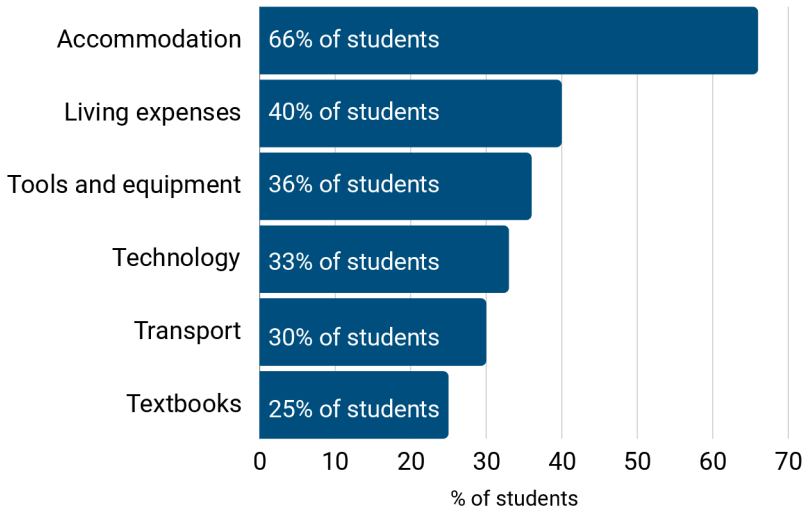


# MID-YEAR STUDENT SNAPSHOT 2024

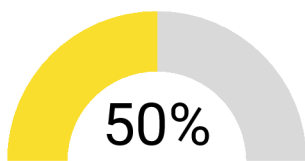
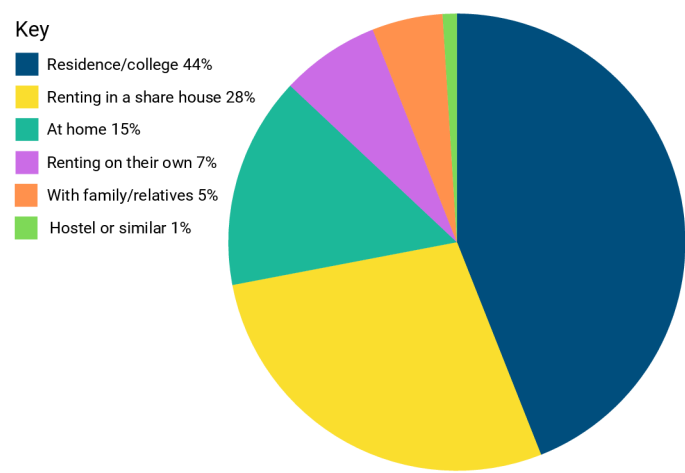
Georgia Bennetts, CEF Coolah

Below is a snapshot of what our cohort of 701 students had to say in their mid-year reports.

### What our students direct their funds to



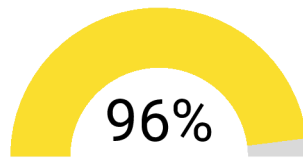
### Where our students live while studying



Of students undertake employment.



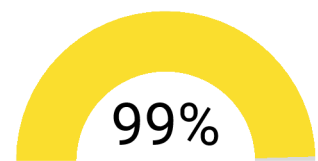
1 in 2 students are required to undertake **unpaid placements** as part of their course.



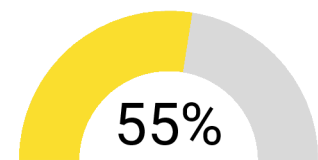
Of students consider the support they have received from CEF as very important or important.



2 out of 5 students receive government support.



Of students are on track to complete their studies.



Of students are in their second year of study or above.

Based on a response rate of 80%.