

A close-up portrait of a young man with brown hair and a mustache, smiling warmly. He is wearing a teal-colored button-down shirt with a small white pattern. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a blurred crowd of people.

2025

Country Education Foundation of Australia | Student Impact Report

“Empowering young people from across rural and regional Australia through education and career support”

Country
Education
Foundation
AUSTRALIA



Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) is a national charity that promotes and enables equal access to further **education and career opportunities for rural and regional youth**, irrespective of background, circumstances or location **through community-based encouragement and financial assistance.**

Since 1993

9,971

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

\$23,816,913

IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

“The grants I received this year meant a lot to me, as it took loads of pressure off me having to find the money to get the tools I needed for my course. I think the work CEF does for young people is incredible. They are great at assisting students to achieve their goals.”

Liam | CEF Cootamundra

**CERTIFICATE III IN ELECTROTECHNOLOGY,
RIVERINA INSTITUTE OF TAFE
2025 AUDI FOUNDATION-CEF RISING STAR**



Growing up in the small town of Illabo, population 114, Liam left school in Year 10 to pursue training in electrotechnology.

He applied to his local foundation, CEF Cootamundra, when he was about to start the first year of his apprenticeship.

Bonny grew up on farms near the NSW towns of Cassilis and Coolah, approximately 360km from Sydney. She knew that to further her passion for social justice and rural equity through law and forensic science, she would need to obtain a university qualification - a first for her family.

In 2022 she commenced a double degree studying a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Forensic Science at the University of Technology, Sydney.

To reduce the costs associated with the 4 and a half hour move away from home, Bonny applied and received a series of grants from CEF Merriwa.



“Cost of living in Sydney is high and I was worried I'd need to work extra hours to afford everything, including textbooks and uni supplies. This could have meant choosing between lower grades or switching to part-time study. Support from CEF meant I didn't have to make that choice, allowing me to maintain a healthy balance between university, work and a social life.”

Bonny | CEF Merriwa

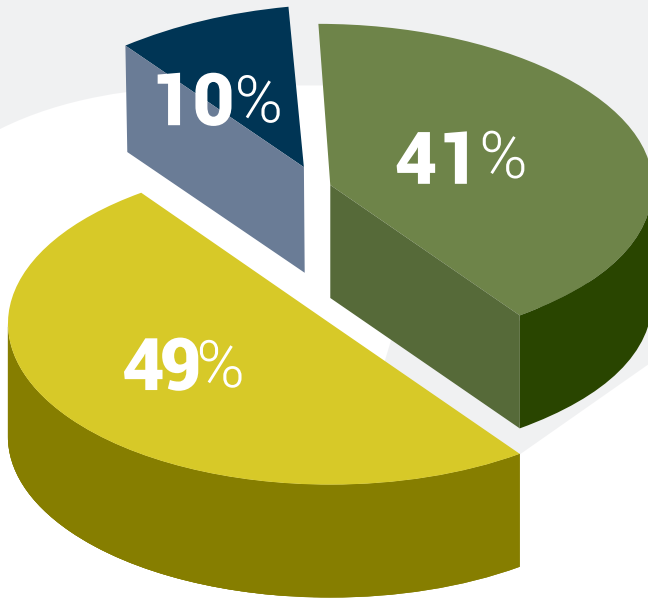
**BACHELOR OF LAWS/BACHELOR OF FORENSIC
SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
2025 AUDI FOUNDATION-CEF LAUNCHING STAR**

Our 2025 impact

Thanks to **the generosity of our volunteers, partners, donors and supporters**, we have provided **greater opportunities for rural and regional youth** to achieve their education goals.

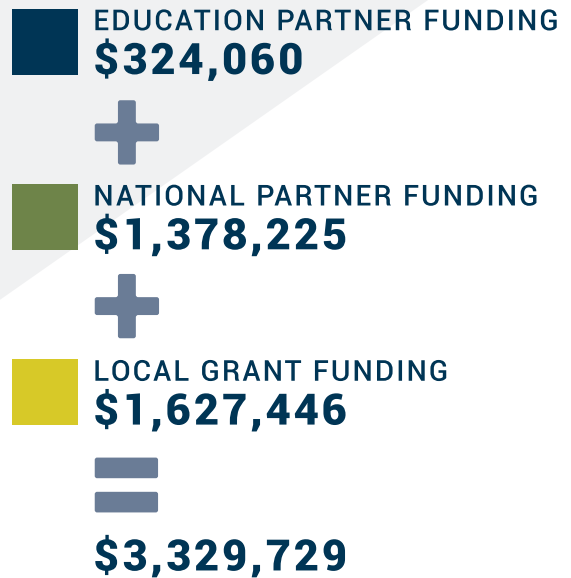
826

STUDENTS SUPPORTED



\$3,329,729

DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



1 in 5

students receive **financial assistance** from family



2 in 5

students are **eligible or receive government assistance**



94%

of students reported having a **good or great relationship** with their local foundation



92%

of students reported having **reduced financial pressure** thanks to CEF support



94%

of students reported an **increase in their confidence** in their abilities and potential



98%

of students are **on track to complete their year successfully**



“CEF has been with me from the start of my vocational journey. The first grant helped me buy my dance shoes, which felt like a big step towards chasing my dream. It's taken a lot of financial pressure off, especially living so far away from home, and has given me the chance to keep pushing forward and take on new opportunities.”

Lilly | CEF Cowra

**ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF PROFESSIONAL DANCE
(ELITE PERFORMANCE), DYNAMITE STUDIOS, GOLD COAST
2025 JAMES N. KIRBY FOUNDATION-CEF VET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Lilly has always had a passion for dancing. Throughout her time at her local high school in Cowra, Central West NSW, she was involved in dance, Schools Spectacular and represented her school in dance at state level.

However, to pursue her passion as a performer and dance educator, meant needing to relocate over 1,000km away to the Gold Coast.

Her CEF support meant she could purchase the dance footwear needed to start her course, as well as helping pay for relocation expenses.

Lilly plans to become a high school dance teacher, to inspire the next generation of students.



Harry grew up in Grenfell, population of 2,500. While he was completing his HSC at the local high school, Harry also completed vocational subjects in automotives, sparking an interest in mechanics and machinery.

Thanks to support from CEF, Harry has been able to move 140km away from home to undertake an apprenticeship in Mobile Plant Technology.

His CEF funds help pay for the all important tools he needs for his training and his travel to TAFE classes in Dubbo; a 280km round trip.



“Thanks to this support, I've been able to get the essential tools I need for my trade. Having the right gear means I can do my job well and keep learning new skills. This support has made a real difference to my training and will continue to help me as I move forward in my career.”

Harry | CEF Grenfell

**CERTIFICATE III IN MOBILE PLANT TECHNOLOGY, TAFE WESTERN
2025 JAMES N. KIRBY FOUNDATION-CEF VET SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

The impact of our community-based model for student success



Find out more at **cef.org.au**