



**YOUTH
OPPORTUNITIES**

2020

Annual Impact Report



Our vision

A world where all young people have opportunities to be their best.

48%

reduction in the number of students at high risk of developing a mental health disorder after completing the Personal Leadership Program

2,344

young people were supported in 2020 through our personal leadership programs, graduate engagement, Thrive Online and other services.*

*During 2020, COVID-19 impacted our ability to deliver our face-to-face program in schools during term 2. This resulted in a reduction in the number of young people accessing our services if the school was unable to transition to an online program.



Our mission

Create opportunities for young people to develop lifelong skills, habits & confidence to thrive.

We value young people, we believe in them, we educate them, and we motivate and inspire them to do the same for themselves.

Each year, through the delivery of our evidence-based personal leadership programs, we equip more than 2,000 young people across South Australia with the skills to overcome adversity, build resilience and optimism, and prepare for their future, while also providing access to opportunities which reduce barriers to achieving their potential.

Youth Opportunities has been delivering personal leadership programs and services for over 23 years, and has since supported more than 14,000 students - positively impacting their schools, families and communities.



In 2020,



686 young people participated



in 46 personal leadership programs



across 29 schools and delivery partners

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Chairman's message

Last year was one like no other we have experienced. 2020 saw young people some of the hardest hit by the impact of the pandemic and, as such, Youth Opportunities responded promptly to serve those in need.

As we reflect on the year, we are pleased to share that even in a time full of disruption, 686 young people, from across 46 programs, participated in our personal leadership programs. During term 2, 16% of these young people completed their Personal Leadership Program online as we rapidly adapted our delivery in response to COVID-19. Although this resulted in a small decrease in program numbers for the year, it was an exceptional achievement in these difficult circumstances.

There is no doubt young people's wellbeing was tremendously challenged, however, we are proud that we continued providing outstanding outcomes for our graduates, supporting a 48% reduction in the number of young people at high risk of developing a mental health disorder, while also improving wellbeing, optimism and resilience. Our thanks to our development partners, the Marshman Foundation, and the many schools we partner with, who worked so diligently with our training team throughout the year to make this possible.

In 2020, our 23rd year of operation, we also:

- Increased support in our two year graduate engagement through PROSPER;
- Delivered new online parent and teacher workshops in Project 360;
- Awarded 59 scholarships and one full university scholarship; and
- Implemented our apprenticeship program in partnership with schools and industry.

While COVID-19 significantly impacted our organisation, years of investing in our program development, both online and face-to-face, redefining our strategy and goals, and building a great team has ensured our place of strength during these past 12 months, and will see us continue to do well into the future.

We were also humbled by the incredible community support we received, despite the economic climate. We postponed our annual Golf Day to September where, due to the hard work of the committee, we raised over \$90,000.

Sadly, our major fundraiser, Stars in the Garden, hosted by Robert and Melanie Champion de Crespigny, was cancelled. However, we were overwhelmed by the support of the committee and generosity from this community, who continued to donate in lieu of attendance.

As a result of the uncertainty of how COVID-19 would impact our 2021 programs and our fundraising, we have taken prudent financial actions to not only manage costs but to ensure our ongoing financial stability and sustainability.

During the year, we farewelled longstanding Board member Conrad Guerra and welcomed new members Tamsin Simounds and Nick Chigwidden. Heading into 2021, we have a committed Board with the skills, knowledge, and experience to effectively steer Youth Opportunities and deliver on the high expectations we have for the organisation both now, and in the future. We thank them all for their valued contribution.

On behalf of the Board, my sincere thanks to everyone involved, our impact on a young person's life is powered by each of you. Erin, our CE, who has led the organisation with drive and adeptness, our management team, staff and volunteers, whose professionalism and commitment to young people really makes what we do possible, our Ambassador Peter Carey OAM, and to our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, for his unstinting support of our organisation, we thank you.

Program graduates, we commend you on your achievements during 2020. Partner schools, our committees, supporters and government, your role is appreciated as you continue to help make us the great organisation we are today.

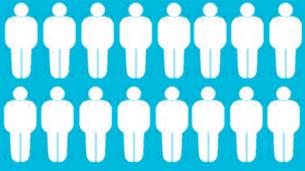
Youth Opportunities plays a vital role in our community, and you have our assurance that we will continue to invest significant time and effort into doing the very best for all our stakeholders, especially the young people we serve.

We look forward to working together as we make a lasting difference to the lives of more young people in 2021 and beyond.



Dennis Laundy
CHAIR





14,000+

young people have been supported by Youth Opportunities over the past **23 years**



29 schools

across regional and metropolitan South Australia were engaged in our programs and services



71 PROSPER

co-design sessions were held with program graduates in 2020



99%

of young people are taking responsibility for making things happen in their life after **completing Thrive Online+ in 2020**



48%

reduction in the number of **young people** at high risk of developing a mental health disorder



100%

of parents and carers were confident that their child will take control of their life and be **more accountable for their actions** after completing our programs



16

apprentices **graduated** from the Enterprise Skills & Workplace Resilience Pilot Program, in partnership with schools and industry



59 scholarships

were awarded to 56 young people across SA in 2020, **plus 1 full university scholarship**



250+

philanthropic donors invested in helping young people, along with 1200+ volunteer hours in 2020

Chief Executive's Message

At Youth Opportunities our mission is to create opportunities for young people to develop the lifelong skills, habits, and confidence to thrive. In 2020, with all its challenges, I am incredibly proud to report we continued to achieve that mission thanks to rapid innovation, strong partnerships and the phenomenal passion of our staff, schools, and supporters.

For the first time in our history, all of our personal leadership programs were delivered online for a whole school term, during term 2 in the height of the pandemic. And it stood up to the test – the outcomes achieved for and by the young people who completed the program online were comparable to our traditional face-to-face delivery. We look forward to building on this exciting platform in 2021 to reach more young people both in schools and beyond the school gates.

The efforts of our people and partners who rallied to ensure our operations could continue without disruption to young people cannot be understated. It was an epic and exhausting undertaking. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all our people and partners for rising to the many challenges and opportunities that 2020 cast our way. The dedication of our Board was particularly appreciated, from their fortnightly meetings during the pandemic, to their offer of hands-on support, encouragement, and mentorship. I'd also like to acknowledge the Day Family Foundation for their financial and moral support in 2020 that enabled me to successfully complete the prestigious and intensive Governor's Leadership Foundation program in a very challenging year.

One of our core values at Youth Opportunities is to demonstrate gratitude. I hope that as you read through the pages in this report our gratitude for your support shines through, and you feel proud of your association with us and the role you play in making what we do possible.

We are expecting 2021 to be just as challenging a year as 2020. The research is telling us that the fallout of COVID-19 on young Australians is going to be sustained and far-reaching. There are continued high levels of unemployment and underemployment, and young people's mental health and wellbeing is being further affected as they face a less than certain future.

Our evidence-based personal leadership programs and wraparound services consistently deliver world-class outcomes in the areas of wellbeing and enterprise skill development. At Youth Opportunities we continue to rise to the challenge, ensuring young people can take on personal leadership, and create the future they desire.

In 2021, we will continue to deliver on our ambitious five-year strategic plan to increase our program reach. We will ensure even more young people can access our programs, with the rollout of several significant projects as outlined in the following page.

It is a privilege for me to be at the helm of an organisation as accomplished and exceptional as Youth Opportunities. I am grateful that you continue to choose to be part of this exciting future with us as, together, we create a world where all young people have opportunities to be their best.



Erin Faehrmann
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



2020 to 2024 Strategic Plan - 2021 Major Projects

Build our Reach

Expand our reach within South Australia by offering online public and group personal leadership programs in the sectors with young people in most need.

Build the foundations to deliver our programs nationally.

Pilot personal leadership workshops for secondary school students.

Transform Graduate Engagement

Rollout learnings from year 1 of PROSPER to transform our graduate engagement program.

Trial new activities in the second year of PROSPER including co-design and delivery with young people.

Create Philanthropic Partnerships & Sustainable Funding Solutions

Introduce new fundraising and philanthropic activities that appeal and align with the goals of our supporters.

Build our Brand

Develop and implement an integrated marketing and communications plan using an evidence based and digital-first approach to raise the profile of Youth Opportunities in the wider community.

Get the Basics Right

Strengthen our relationship with the South Australian secondary education sector.

Continue our digital transformation journey, including adoption of a new Customer Relationship Management system to support our fundraising and philanthropic activities.

Continue to pulse-check workplace cultural health through Teamgage.

Our Values

With young people at the heart we:

Do the right thing and do it well

Empower others

Choose a growth mindset

Inspire with passion

Demonstrate gratitude

Engage partners to get the best outcomes



Our Programs

Personal Leadership Program

Using 40 practical tools that develop skills and strategies of students in areas of enterprise, wellbeing, resilience and leadership, our 10-week Personal Leadership Program helps participants improve their confidence, relationships with teachers and peers, motivation and more. There are multiple delivery options available for schools and group training which includes direct facilitation, partial and full licenses. The program is aligned with the SACE curriculum and provides students with 20 SACE points upon successful completion.

Thrive Online Personal Leadership Program

Thrive Online is the digital version of our Personal Leadership Program. It not only raises young people's aspirations, providing them with goal planning, motivation and communication strategies, but assists in building enterprise skills such as digital literacy and critical and creative thinking. Through flexible delivery models, built to suit the needs of young people at school, work or home, Thrive Online can also be supported by peer mentoring and 1:1 coaching over Zoom.

In a school environment, Thrive Online provides an adaptive approach to complement the curriculum, meeting the SACE Personal Learning Plan (PLP) subject and providing 10 SACE points, whilst giving the opportunity for tailored personal development in the classroom

Enterprise Skills & Workplace Resilience Program

The Enterprise Skills and Workplace Resilience Program, which ran for the first time in 2020, is an adaptation of our long-standing Personal Leadership Program. It helps apprentices to increase rates of retention, and builds apprentices' lifelong skills and habits to increase workplace success in the future. Participants explore obstacles they may encounter during their first year of employment, and then identify how to successfully navigate through them as critical thinkers.

Community Delivery & Workshops

Youth Opportunities offers bespoke services to the community, available on either a fee-for-service basis, or subsidised for young people facing adversity. These services draw on our expertise in the areas of personal leadership, wellbeing, enterprise skill development and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

We partner with organisations working with young people, including councils and sporting clubs, to provide them with a range of tools, strategies and ideas to help young people become personal leaders and contribute positively to their community.

Our evidence-based personal leadership programs are drawn from a range of theories including social learning theory, cognitive behaviour theory, motivation theory and positive psychology. We develop the social, emotional and employability capabilities that drive the habit change required for lifelong success through application of the framework of the 4 Big Decisions:



decide to be happy



decide to goal plan



decide to send stars



decide to grow

Our Wraparound Services

Project 360

Project 360 provides a wraparound service to our graduates by educating and engaging parents, caregivers, and teachers on our Personal Leadership Program concepts. This service offers workshops, resources and improved channels of communication to enable teachers and parents to support their young person during, and after, the Personal Leadership Program.

Graduate Engagement

For two years after completing their Personal Leadership Program, we remain in contact with graduates to reinforce program content and provide coaching and support to ensure students continue to achieve their goals. Engagement includes a needs-based follow up program and referral service, along with text messages, digital communications, work experience, workshops, scholarships and the opportunity to participate in leadership forums and excursions.

-PROSPER

Introduced in 2020, PROSPER is a pilot program focused on working with graduates of the Personal Leadership Program to bring their lived experience into our programs through workshop co-design and creation. The project addresses our aim to improve engagement, and better support our graduates to sustain the positive changes they make after completing our program.

Scholarships

To ensure that the young people who participate in our programs can prepare for their future, we award scholarships which reduce barriers to achieving their potential.

Thanks to the support of donors, we provide financial aid, career guidance, academic tutoring, and tertiary education scholarships. Graduates must demonstrate a continued effort to school and academic pursuits, financial need, and display strong personal leadership skills to be eligible.

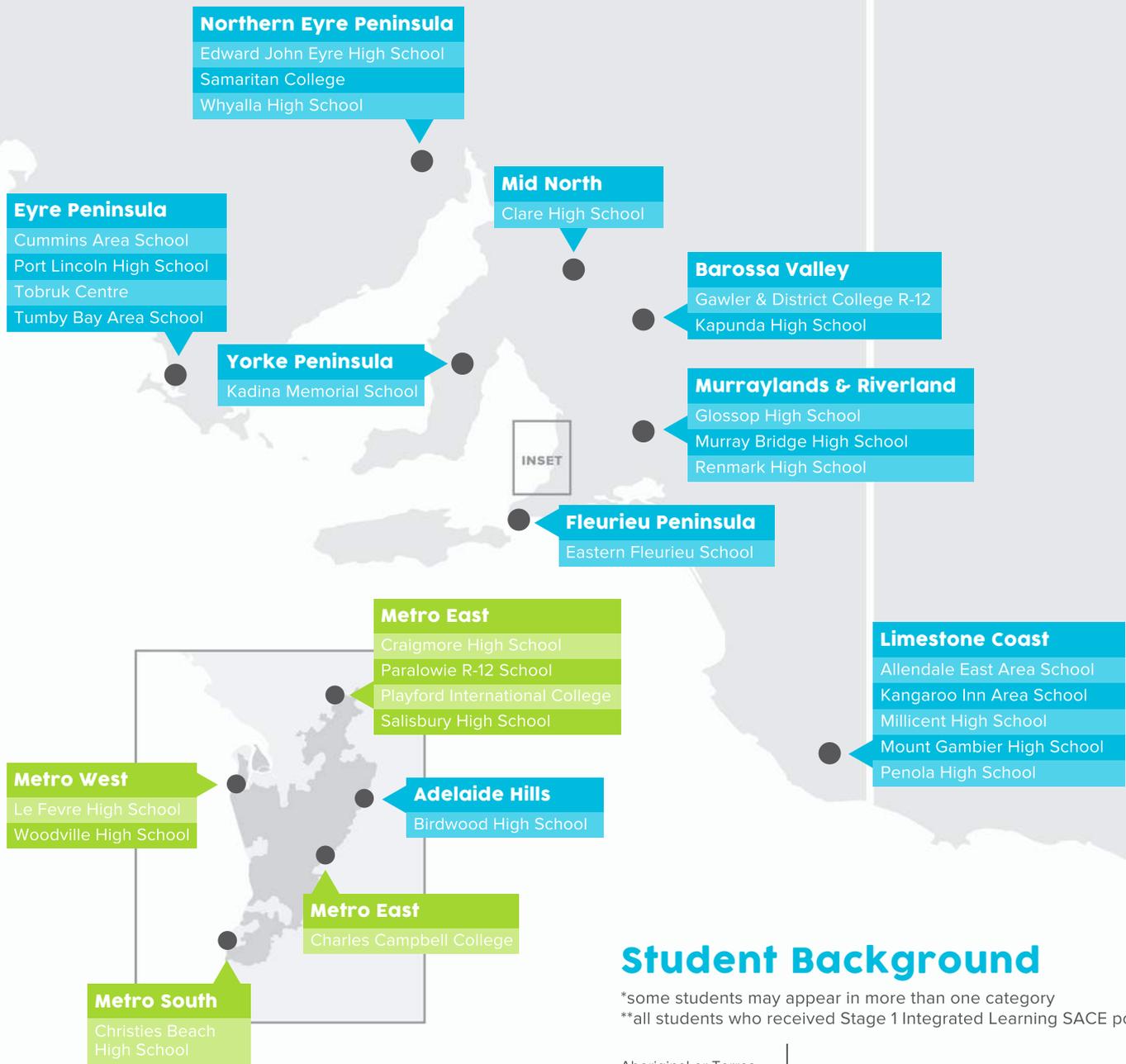


**Marshman
Foundation**
live • learn • thrive

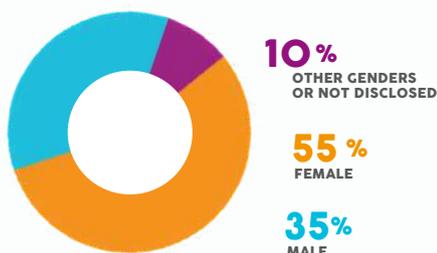
The Marshman Foundation is the independent research, design, development, and evaluation arm of our organisation. Providing thought leadership and support to protect the integrity and fidelity of our existing programs and services, the Foundation also oversees new programs and services for Youth Opportunities by testing and evaluating their viability in meeting the needs of the young people we serve.

Our Reach

In 2020, our personal leadership programs were delivered in partnership with 29 schools across South Australia.



Gender Identity



Student Background

*some students may appear in more than one category
**all students who received Stage 1 Integrated Learning SACE points



*all students who received Stage 1 Integrated Learning SACE points

Michelle's Story*

“ Because of the program, I am more motivated in school and finish my assignments on time because I challenge myself to stay on task.

I talk to my teachers and ask more questions and follow a weekly planner to stay productive. Strategies I will take from the program include sending stars, goal planning, and choosing to be happy.

Setting goals for the next 1-10 years has also helped me be more confident in what I need to do to pursue my dream career. I know what I want to do in my future and

I believe in myself so much more.”



Personal Leadership Program

“ Personal leadership to me means taking control of your life and choosing happiness. It also means having self-confidence and finding solutions to obstacles that you’re being faced with.”

– Graduate of Personal Leadership Program

Delivery

With the support of two trained facilitators, in 2020 our 60-hour Personal Leadership Program was delivered to 619 year 10 students, one day a week, for 10 weeks over a school term. Students engage through group discussions, video, self-reflection, goal planning and personalised coaching that allows the program to be tailored to meet the needs and goals of the individual.

Outcomes

Our commitment to “do the right thing and do it well”, inspired by our values, means we must be accountable for the funds we receive and ensure the best possible outcome for young people. In addition to the powerful stories of change from the young people we support, we robustly demonstrate the impact of our Personal Leadership Program using internationally-recognised measures, such as K10 and EPOCH. We consistently use statistical analysis to assess the effectiveness and impact of our programs with the support of the Marshman Foundation, our research and development arm.

During a year of immense challenges for young people as they dealt with the disruption of COVID-19, not only on their education but also on their family environment, we are incredibly proud of the improvements they made as they engaged in our programs.

Graduates of our Personal Leadership Program Reported*

*only terms 1, 3 & 4



90% have better relationships



95% have higher confidence



90% improved their self-esteem



87% are more motivated towards school



93% have the skills to achieve their goals



92% know what to do to achieve their goals



91% have a clearer understanding of their future



38% increase in aspiring to undertake an apprenticeship



17% increase in aspiring to attend university



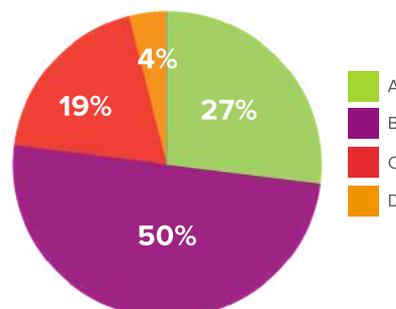
36% increase in aspiring to attend TAFE



71% of students reported that the program assisted them when applying for part-time work during the program.

100% of Personal Leadership Program graduates received 20 SACE points based on their fulfilment of key criteria

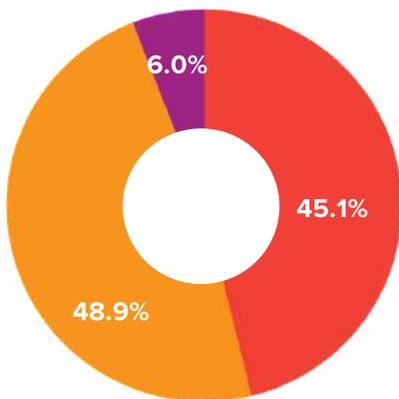
Percentage of students who received SACE grade



Measure of Psychological Distress

The Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10) measures general levels of distress, anxiety and depression. The questions are asked of Personal Leadership Program students in week 1 and week 9 of the program. In 2020, despite the negative impacts of COVID-19 on young people globally, after completing our Personal Leadership Program, we saw a **48% reduction in the number of young people at high risk of developing a mental health disorder.**

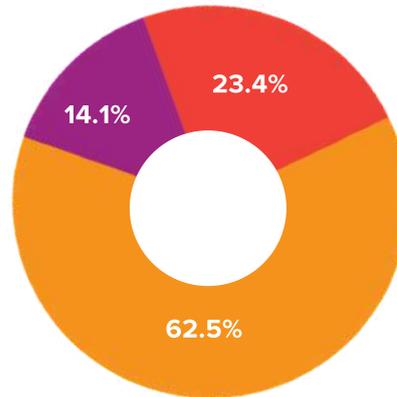
Week 1



HIGH RISK

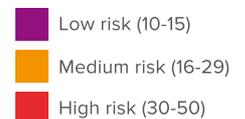
Students in this category are more likely to demonstrate anti-social behaviour, have decreased motivation, reduced self-confidence, affected sleep and experience some form of depression or anxiety.

Week 9



LOW RISK

Students in this category are more likely to demonstrate positive behaviours, display high levels of self-esteem and present with an optimistic outlook.



Measure of Wellbeing

Positive wellbeing in adolescents is identified and measured using five constructs known as EPOCH: Engagement, Perseverance, Optimism, Connectedness and Happiness.

Our graduates' EPOCH results are not only statistically significant, but they also demonstrate the immense impact of the program.

EPOCH Percentage (%) Increase at the End of Program

Graduates significantly increased in areas of Engagement, Perseverance, Optimism, Connectedness and Happiness.



Personal Leadership Program - Term 2

Youth Opportunities was significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions when in term 2, South Australian schools closed to external visitors. As a result, our Personal Leadership Program, traditionally delivered face-to-face, had to pivot and instead was delivered via our interactive online learning platform Thrive, combined with collaboration over Mural, group and 1:1 coaching over Zoom, enabling trainers to stay connected with students. This blended model, Thrive Online+ provided them with valuable support during a time of great uncertainty.

Thrive Online+ ended up delivering exceptional outcomes for the 111 students who completed the program. This was especially seen in the areas of digital literacy and collaboration which are reflected in our 2020 Thrive Online outcomes on the following page.

Thrive Online Personal Leadership Program

Thrive Online is a hybrid Personal Leadership Program where students engage with program content via an interactive online learning platform.

Thrive Online can be delivered in multiple settings, which provides an adaptive approach to support young people as they focus on key strategies to help them thrive in school, work and life.

The program was built to complement the school curriculum, meeting the SACE Personal Learning Plan (PLP) subject, whilst also providing the opportunity for tailored personal development in the classroom.

In 2020, Thrive Online programs were delivered across Australia to



162 students



in 11 schools

“ I am using the tools like the weekly planner and short-term goals to become more motivated which I really needed to work on in my life. Now, these tools will help me through life when I am struggling or need some guidance, and will help me achieve my future goals. ” – Graduate of Thrive Online

Thrive Online+ Outcomes

When COVID-19 restrictions significantly affected the face-to-face delivery of our Personal Leadership Programs in term 2 of 2020, we delivered Thrive Online+ to stay connected with the students. This blended model delivered amazing outcomes, especially during a pandemic where young people were particularly vulnerable.

- ⚡ 61% reduction in the number of young people at high risk of developing a mental health disorder
- 😊 19% increase in optimism
- 💬 99% were communicating better with others
- 💪 100% of young people improved their self-image
- 👥 89% felt safe to share and became closer to group members

Improvements in goal planning

(1=completely disagree, 10=completely agree) ■ Start ■ End

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



I have specific, clear goals to aim for



I have an action plan to achieve my goals



I am confident I can achieve most of my goals

Digital Literacy & Enterprise Skills



were able to take a leadership role during the sessions



have been able to express themselves more creatively using technology



are able to critically examine online information and make better judgements about it

Our New Program Innovations in Action

2020 was the year for innovation at Youth Opportunities.
Here is a snapshot of just some of these innovations in action...

Enterprise Skills & Workplace Resilience Program

This pilot was designed to embed the fundamentals of our Personal Leadership Program within a flexible apprenticeship. Youth Opportunities collaborated with GFG Alliance and two local high schools in Whyalla, giving 16 young apprentices the opportunity to improve their enterprise skills and resilience in this pilot program.

"By having apprentices that are open, team orientated and confident, we will see changes as the business moves towards a newer and sustainable future. It will open many doors for them if they continue on the path set out. There is a lot of change happening within the business and being able to have the tools to overcome these is important." GFG Alliance staff member

Participants were 2.5x MORE confident they have all of the skills, habits and attitudes to be an effective employee after doing the program.

Using pre and post test measures, participants reported that since doing the program they are significantly:

- Less likely to use avoidant behaviour when experiencing conflict.
- More likely to ask for help when they need it.
- Finding it easier to challenge situations where they feel the right thing is not being done.
- More comfortable to work with different types of people (varied ages, race, gender etc.).

100%

of participants felt more confident & motivated towards work as a result of the program.

Community Delivery & Workshops

In 2020, Youth Opportunities partnered with the Council of Tea Tree Gully to deliver 12 hours of bespoke personal leadership workshops to their youth leaders over five weeks. The aim was to develop a range of skills in the young people, with the workshops covering topics such as: understanding communication and developing effective communication skills, creating a positive self-image, and using the 4 Big Decisions that underpin all of Youth Opportunities' program content.

“ One young person I worked with came to the Council to develop his leadership skills. He had great potential but lacked self-confidence and communication skills, struggling to communicate effectively with those around him. Throughout the program, I saw him challenge himself to talk to more people he wasn't friends with, use friendly greetings and overall improve his confidence. Each week I saw his head held higher, his shoulders back confidently while interacting with others. When he presented at the end of the workshops, he spoke of his increased confidence and how he had been successful in applying for a part-time job. ”

-Youth Opportunities trainer

Youth Mental Health First Aid

We now have in-house accreditation to deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid training. In 2020, we delivered accreditation training to 15 of our Youth Opportunities staff and provided mental health literacy to more than 30 school-based educators.

Personal Leadership changes lives & communities

“ Youth Opportunities has helped Faraja identify her emotions more correctly and given her drive to pursue her passion which is art. She has gained confidence in who she truly is and continues to educate those around her. **Faraja has taught me to look on the brighter side, and to always choose growth.** ” - Faraja's mother

“ Through my time teaching Faraja I have seen her gain confidence and her sense of identity. I have not only seen her gain self-worth, but also social justice, supporting those younger than her to ensure their safety and belonging in the Paralowie community.

Her strength and passion for justice has been inspiring others to be the best versions of themselves. She has spoken up about issues that affect the school community and with that we have seen change. I know her path will be full of light and she will **change the world.** ”

- Faraja's former teacher,
Paralowie R-12 School

“ The Personal Leadership Program made me want to really focus on my mental health and how to achieve my goals. It made me want to be a better person overall, and my drive to help people and work harder really skyrocketed. Currently, my plan for the next few years is to finish university, start my small business and hopefully start working in IT.

I also see myself volunteering a large portion of time in my community, educating women on STEM, mental health, and opportunities that are open to them. ”

- Faraja

Project 360

Program Overview

Thanks to the support of an anonymous benefactor, Project 360 is in its third year of a pilot which looks to educate and support parents, caregivers, educators and mentors on the Personal Leadership Program concepts. Utilising key strategies and principles, Project 360 addresses connectedness, accelerates positive impact for students, and provides ongoing support to sustain the positive changes made during the program, through workshops and seminars.

In 2020, Project 360 workshops were delivered in person to selected groups of parents, caregivers or teachers. Online webinars were also available to all caregivers of the young people completing our Personal Leadership Program.

Student feedback from the Personal Leadership Program



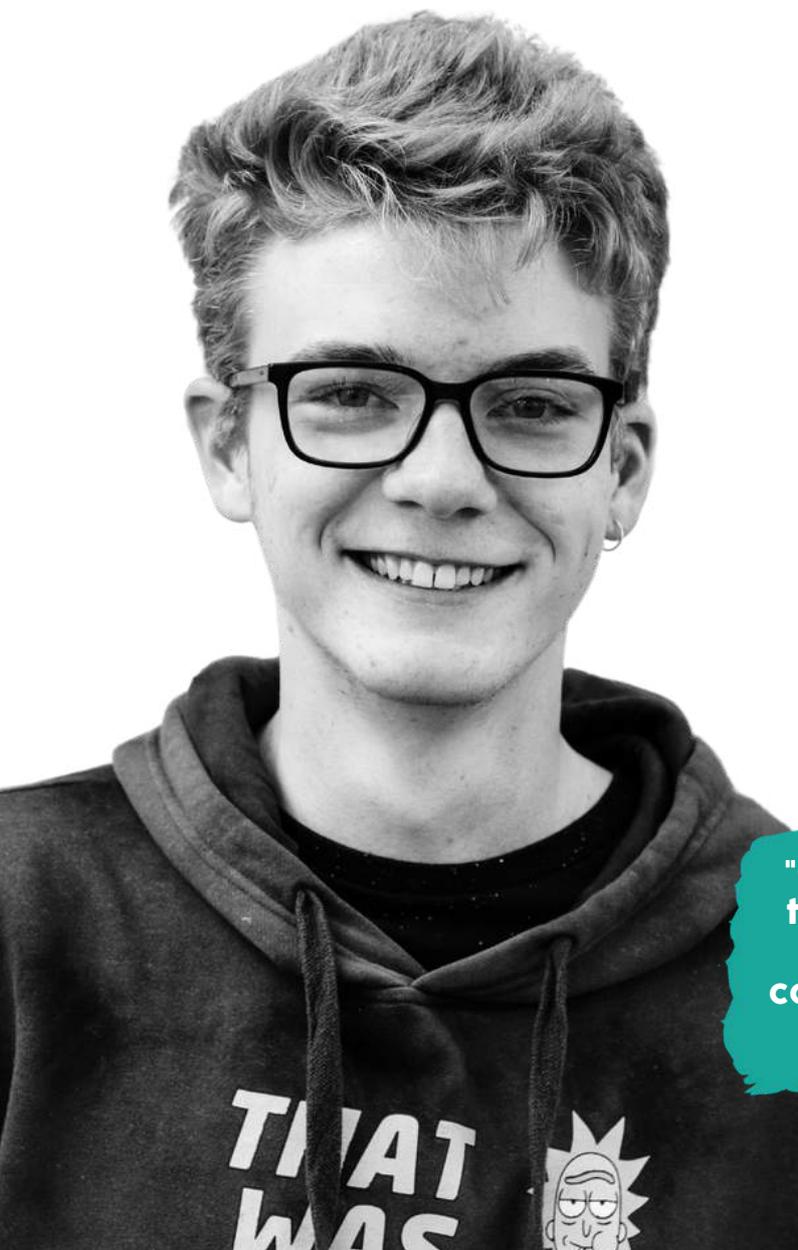
83%
have better
relationships with
their teachers



91%
have better
relationships with
their families



95%
have better
relationships with
their friends / peers



Parent Workshops

92%
of parents thought the training was enjoyable

92%
learned new things they value

4.8/5 average overall satisfaction rating

90%
of parents are confident they can support their child with the tools and concepts being taught in the program

"Our relationship hasn't been this good since he was about ten years old. Happy, confident and asking for help."

- Parent of graduate



"Before I started the Personal Leadership Program, I had very poor self-esteem. I constantly thought negatively towards my self-image, and I always used to limit my capabilities. But now, because of this program and my efforts, I'm able to speak in front of people, think positively about my future, take that leap to try new things, & just be me."

- Graduate

Graduate Engagement

For two years after completing the Personal Leadership Program, graduates are able to stay connected with Youth Opportunities for additional coaching and support. In 2020, in addition to our existing follow-up program, we also implemented Project PROSPER, where 52 workshops were held with graduates to reinforce program content and ensure they were still using the skills and tools to live their best life.

One of our newest graduate engagement initiatives...

A young person-centered approach

Young people are at the heart of everything that we do, and PROSPER enables graduates of the Personal Leadership Program to bring their lived experience into our program designs. We identified and invited innovative leaders from amongst our graduates to take on an elevated leadership role, working with trainers and their peers to identify key issues young people are facing today and bringing their lived experience into co-designs of workshops to support graduate engagement. This has resulted in the creation of a number of workshops including Habit Maintenance, Decide to Speak, Self-Care, Relationships, and Exam Stress. In 2020, we worked with PROSPER Leaders from seven schools across regional and metropolitan South Australia to deliver more than 1,100 hours of graduate engagement.

Project PROSPER

PROSPER has a strong focus on co-design, and youth consultation, to ensure our programs are relevant and able to meet young people's needs. This has meant empowering young people and listening to their input to help improve our services.

The past year has also led to some wonderful opportunities for our graduates through participation in a variety of state and national events. This included the Youth Futures Summit, where our graduates presented alongside speakers including Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

During the height of the pandemic, PROSPER was delivered online, to continue to serve and upskill our graduates. By developing skills around collaborating online, and using cloud platforms, trainers and graduates created a safe space for young people to interact and share.

As we move forward, PROSPER engagement is taking place both face-to-face and via video conferencing, which has allowed us to roll out workshops on a wider scale into regional areas of the community, and reaffirmed our commitment to flexible delivery models.

Of the PROSPER Leaders we engaged with in 2020...

100% felt the co-design sessions were enjoyable & engaging

100% felt they had improved skills

90% felt they had learned new digital skills & skills around collaboration



Scholarships

Program Overview

For many young people who complete our programs, our scholarships provide an invaluable resource as they address the financial conditions that are a barrier to achieving their future success. Our scholarships provide financial aid, career guidance and academic tutoring, and are funded by donors in the community. To be eligible for a scholarship, graduates must demonstrate continued effort to school and academic pursuits, financial need and display strong personal leadership skills.

Since its inception in 2017, we have distributed



\$452,892 worth of scholarships



Across 25 regional & metropolitan schools



awarded to 186 young people

In 2020...



59 school-based scholarships



were awarded to 56 young people



11 received career guidance or academic tutoring



52 received financial aid in the form of laptops, digital programs, course fees and school supplies

“ Before completing the Youth Opportunities Personal Leadership Program I was really shy, I never put my hand up for anything and would never have seen myself as a leader. However, by Year 12, I was School Captain, head girl prefect and house leader, something I would never have thought possible for myself.

I hope by winning this scholarship I can show that through determination and a positive mindset to overcome

any challenges you face in life, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. ”

- Chloe, Adam Scott Foundation scholarship recipient



Scan this QR code to watch Chloe's scholarship speech or click [here!](#)

Degree for free

Thanks to The Adam Scott Foundation, graduate Chloe was awarded a university scholarship worth up to \$75k to cover her tertiary education degree, and help her towards achieving her goal of working as a doctor in her regional community.

Since partnering with The Adam Scott Foundation, in the last 2 years, we have awarded two university degrees up to the value of \$75k each, along with two study scholarships worth \$5K each.



Celebrating Youth

Achieving our vision of a world where all young people have opportunities to be their best is only possible through partnerships, which is why we sure are grateful for the support of the community who make our work possible!

Because of our partners in 2020



2,344 young people were supported across our programs and services



59 school-based scholarships were awarded to students experiencing disadvantage or adversity

In a year where young people were impacted significantly due to COVID-19, we continued to make a big difference with a **48% reduction in the number of young people at high risk of developing a mental health disorder after completing our Personal Leadership Program.**



Partnerships

Corporate Partners

During 2020, our corporate partners rallied to create opportunities for young people through their financial and in-kind support, encouraging staff to get behind our cause through community fundraising, workplace giving programs, event attendance and volunteering!

Service Clubs

Even though it was a tough year for many service clubs, they continued to show their commitment to young people by investing in students' participation in our personal leadership programs and by partnering with us at our events.

South East Community Development Board

Comprised of community members who volunteer their time and networks to support our fundraising and promotion in the community, this board raised an outstanding \$124,000, plus additional in-kind support during 2020. This group are tireless advocates of our programs and value the impact they have on young people, actively working with us to improve the future of youth in the region.



Team YO 2020

Volunteers

Each week we have volunteers and interns joining us in the office, providing crucial support on every level of our business, including administration, marketing, project management, event support, expert consultation and governance - provided by our board.

Ambassadors

During 2020, Youth Opportunities Ambassador Peter Carey OAM represented us at several fundraising events, sat on our Golf Day committee, and continued to advocate passionately for our cause within the South Australian community.

Charity of Choice

Despite COVID-19 limiting the number of community fundraising events in 2020, we were fortunate enough to be chosen as charity partners for a variety of occasions, including luncheons, charity golf days and birthday fundraisers.

With young people at the **heart**, our supporters went above and beyond for YO in 2020 and we want to say

THANK YOU



Philanthropy

Scholarships

Our dedicated scholarship donors ensure the conditions a young person experiences do not hold them back from achieving their education or future career goals. During 2020, we offered 59 scholarships to 56 young people, as well as providing our second ever tertiary education scholarship in partnership with the Adam Scott Foundation. We thank our Scholarship and Sponsorship Committee for all of their efforts in supporting young people during the year.

Trusts and Foundations

The support of our trust and foundation partners was overwhelming during 2020. Recognising the needs of our organisation to adapt program delivery, or invest in new areas of technology, our partners rose to the challenge and backed us to ensure young people were not disproportionately affected as a result of COVID-19.

Gifts in Wills

Encouraging our wonderful supporters to consider leaving a gift in their Will to Youth Opportunities is an important part of creating a sustainable organisation that will be here to support young people for years to come. We are very grateful to the inspiring donors who have notified us that they will include a gift in their Will to Youth Opportunities. Their belief in the potential of young people in SA is truly inspiring and we honour the legacy they create for the future.

Private Giving

We are so grateful that our supporters were able to give generously through our appeals, regular giving program, and online campaigns, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.



Event fundraisers

Festive Fundraisers

While our traditional Stars in the Garden event was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, our incredible Stars in the Garden community continued to support us by donating in lieu of attendance or by holding their own private functions. We look forward to bringing everyone back together in 2021 and thank our committee for their enduring support throughout the year!

SA Greats Online Auction

In lieu of physical fundraising events, we held an online auction showcasing the amazing businesses, products and services created right here in South Australia. We were overwhelmed with support from the South Australian community and raised nearly \$40,000!

**To support
Youth Opportunities
please visit
www.youthopportunities.com.au**



Scan this QR code to find out how you can partner with us or click [here](#).

New Partnership Backs Program Co-Design with Young People

Thanks to a collective generosity and investment of incredible funding partners, including The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, alongside Australian Executor Trustees, Kennards Hire Foundation, EDP Hotels, The Rali Foundation and The Lang Foundation, Project PROSPER was introduced in 2020.

The three-year pilot of PROSPER – Program; Refreshers; Opportunities; Sustained Support; Participation; Engagement; Retainment – has not only provided Youth Opportunities with the support and resources to significantly increase the impact of our follow up engagement by building the capacity and capability of the young people we serve, but has improved the skills within our entire organisation.

“ The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation is pleased to continue investing in young people through Youth Opportunities and their PROSPER program. For young people already experiencing high levels of adversity, the pandemic brought huge strain. Youth Opportunities promptly took an adaptive approach to continue their vital work, teaching young people to use their own personal strengths, learn new coping strategies and be provided with the tools and knowledge to ease stresses and thrive. **We know that the Youth Opportunities team live and breathe the values that they teach, and we applaud their commitment.**”

- Kerry de Lorme, Executive Director, The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation

A Legacy of Hope

In the early days of Youth Opportunities, our founder Peter Marshman OAM would advertise in the Sunday Mail to raise awareness of our cause. Joy Kelly was one of the readers who connected with Youth Opportunities then, and continues to support us today.

Joy has now been supporting us for almost 20 years and, after being an annual student sponsor for many years, she decided to leave a gift to Youth Opportunities in her Will, creating a legacy of hope for young people in South Australia.

“ Giving young people the opportunity to be their best, no matter their circumstances, is really important to me. I like that through Youth Opportunities, I can see the impact of my gift each time a young person graduates from their program.

The gift I made reflects my belief in the importance of Youth Opportunities, which I hope will continue through my legacy.”

-Joy





Golf Day 2020 a Sellout Success

Our 13th Annual Golf Day, presented by Tanti Constructions, was a successful day both on and off the green! While being rescheduled to September, 42 teams enjoyed a hot breakfast, followed by a fun but competitive game of golf, before heading inside to enjoy dinner and drinks, all while raising money to support more young people in need.

We managed to raise over \$90,000, thanks to the support of our incredible sponsors: Tanti Constructions, Living Choice Australia, Serafino Wines, NAB, Magain Real Estate, Adelaide BMW, Holdfast Insurance Brokers, Perks, RJE Global Pty Ltd, WRP Legal & Advisory, One Solution Group, Patrick Hosking Psychologist, Vili's Bakery and Workspace Commercial Furniture.

We were also greatly assisted by the many organisations who chose to donate to our major auction and provide in-kind support on the day: Glenelg Golf Club, PPI Funds Management, EDP Hotels, NOVA Entertainment, Serafino Wines, SACARE, SeaLink Travel Group, Rodney Fox Shark Expeditions and Asher Milgate from Considered Image.

Thank you also to our Golf Day Committee who, each year, go above and beyond in their support of Youth Opportunities to ensure all of our guests have a fantastic day.



Scan this QR code to view pictures from the day or [click here!](#)

“As an independently owned South Australian firm, we are really keen to make sure we support local. After surveying our staff on what matters to them, the resounding answer was to support South Australian youth, making our decision to support Youth Opportunities, an easy one.”

- Eddie Bell, Director of Insurance at Perks Accountants & Wealth Advisers, and Chair of Youth Opportunities' Golf Day Committee

Financials

We are pleased to report that Youth Opportunities was able to achieve total revenue for the year ended 31 December 2020 of \$3,290,232. The net result was a surplus of \$925,093.

Along with many other charities in early 2020, we saw a significant decline in our income due to the impact of bushfires and COVID-19. As an organisation without a corpus or an operating reserve to fund future operational needs, this presented us with an unexpected level of uncertainty for much of the year.

The decline in donations did, however, make us eligible for the Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme, which enabled Youth Opportunities to avoid down-sizing our reach to young people. Combined with a range of prudent efficiency measures implemented during the year, reduced training expenses, and our generous supporters digging deep in the last quarter of 2020, this has enabled a higher level of retained funds than recent years.

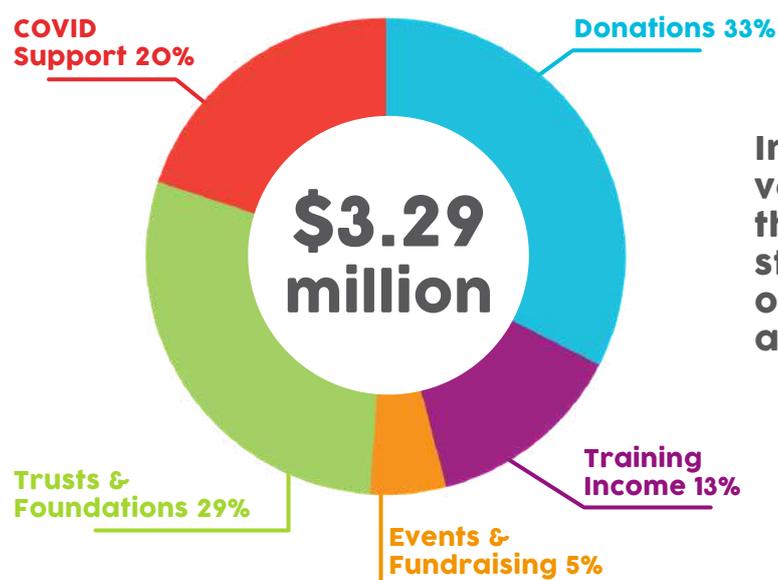
These retained funds will be invested to deliver on our growth strategy of supporting more young people than ever, and has increased our resilience for the future.

A very special group of Youth Opportunities supporters contribute to our management and administration costs, and overheads (as indicated in purple below). Their donations mean that we are able to support even more young people in South Australia to live their best lives.

2020 Profit & Loss Statement

	2020 Actual
Donations	1,069,954
Training Income	441,393
Events & Fundraising	168,066
Trusts & Foundation	955,279
Total Income	3,290,232
Training Expenses	1,240,253
Fundraising (excl. Events) Expenses	376,144
Events Expenses	49,126
Management & Administration Expenses	443,392
Scholarships	70,283
Overheads	185,942
Total Expenses	2,365,140
Operating Profit / (Loss)	269,553
Other Income	
COVID Federal Support	655,540
TOTAL PROFIT / (LOSS)	925,093

2020 Income



In 2020 we were grateful to have volunteers who contributed more than **1,200 hours** to support strategic direction, governance, office administration, fundraising and events.

Balance Sheet

	2020	2019
Cash	2,556,922	974,739
Receivables	25,827	312,210
Other Current Assets	39,869	19,265
Total Current Assets	2,622,618	1,306,214
Plant & Equipment	21,518	38,604
Total Non-Current Assets	21,518	38,604
Total Assets	2,644,136	1,344,818
Creditors	63,074	35,776
Income In Advance	779,625	484,940
Payroll Liabilities	3,041	27,293
Tax Payable	6,946	2,439
Annual Leave Provision	88,179	68,797
Long Service Leave Provision	38,145	60,103
Other Creditors	80,170	21,031
Total Current Liabilities	1,059,180	700,379
Long Service Leave Provision	28,911	13,487
Total Non-Current Liabilities	28,911	13,487
Total Liabilities	1,088,091	713,866
NET ASSETS	1,556,045	630,952
Retained Earnings	630,952	432,582
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	925,093	198,370
TOTAL CHARITABLE FUNDS HELD	1,556,045	630,952

We are grateful for all of our donors who invest in young people and acknowledge the following supporters

Principal

Future Generation Investment
James & Diana Ramsay
Foundation
Living Choice
R & M Champion de Crespigny
Foundation

Platinum

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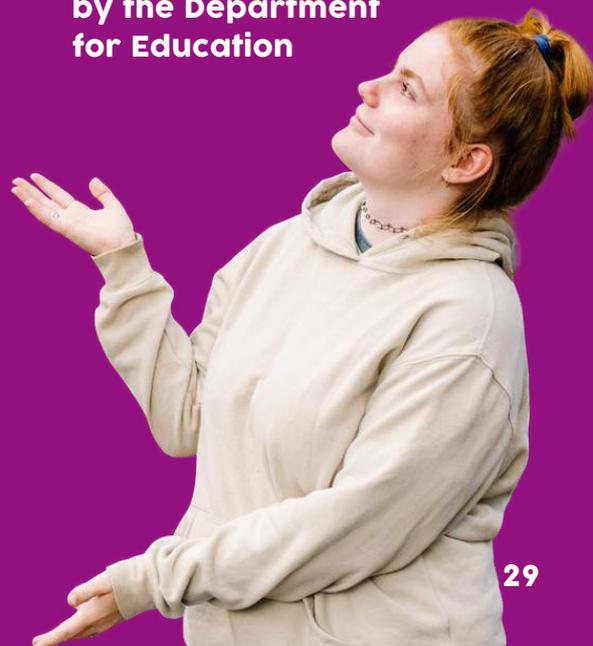
THANK YOU

Vince & Sandra Ciccarello
Ben Robinson & Sue Cocks
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Henry Michell & Mandy Cooper
Josephine Cooper
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Special thanks for the support received by the Department for Education



“ I now have motivation
& a higher self-esteem. I now believe in
myself and have the skills and ability to
graduate school and become a
physiotherapist. ”

- Graduate



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Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia

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