

# PROPOSAL

**TO FUND TWO EDUCATION & TRAINING SUPPORT WORKERS FOR  
THE BURDEKIN ASSOCIATION LEARNING SPACE**



# EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION PAYS OFF

69% of the children and young people who come to us are unable to attend or participate effectively in learning provided through the education department due to their unique personal situation.

The Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies's 2017 Snapshot Report into the educational engagement of children and young people in care in NSW found that one in five NSW students in care were absent from school. The reasons provided for the high rate of absence by students in care included ill health, suspension, chronic disengagement and expulsion.

## WHY RAISE FUNDS?

Whilst we are funded to provide the core requirements of shelter, food, clothing, pocket money, phone credit and other essential items, we require additional funding to provide targeted educational support for the children and young people who are unable to engage in their local school but excel when provided customised support.



## THE SOLUTION

Research shows that equity in education pays off. Our pilot project has further confirmed this.

Education improves access to opportunities such as employment, healthcare, housing, family, community, travel, playing a full part in society with dignity.

With a relatively modest investment and your assistance, we can make a big difference.



# THE BURDEKIN ASSOCIATION LEARNING SPACE

We decided to be proactive and set up a client centred educational program to support young people within The Burdekin Association.

The aim of this program is to provide a positive and safe learning environment that caters to the individual's needs, abilities and preferences, whilst achieving academic outcomes.

## Education Specialist

The Education Specialist position supports children and young people in Out of Home Care as well as particularly disadvantaged, yet very engaged young people, in our other programs. Our vision is to ensure every child or young person who is keen to be educated will have that opportunity and our Education Specialist helps them realise their potential and reach their goals.

## Case Study - Estelle

Prior to attending the Learning Space Estelle Howard (not her real name) was not engaged in any education related activities. She attended 95% of scheduled engagement and did 5 days work experience at a Northern Beaches golf club. The superintendent there was so impressed that he has offered her an apprenticeship!

## Case Study- Benjamin

Benjamin Gooding's (not his real name) attendance at the Learning Space increased three fold from 2020 to 2021. It is incredibly rewarding to witness his re-engagement with education, especially considering Benjamin had only attended school a handful of times beforehand.

## Positive Developments

12 children/young people have been directly supported thus far by the Education Specialist with a further 6 young people being placed on a waiting list.

The Education Specialist provided:

- 31 hours each week of timetabled one-on-one teaching/assessment with children and young people (12-18) who previously were disengaged with school for extended periods of time.
- Development of a Homework Plan.
- Development of an At Home Learning Plan.
- Advocacy for the young person to get into local high school.
- Advocacy and support for the young person at TAFE.
- Engagement, advocacy, and support for 3 Individual Education Plans for school based meetings.
- One young person achieving their Year 10 Certificate and moved into Year 11. Prior to the Education Specialist coming on board this young person was not expected to finish Year 10.

# OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

To raise funds to employ two full time Educational Specialists for The Burdekin Association Learning Space.

After successfully piloting the employment of one Education Specialist we expanded to two last year with your support and raised enough funds to employ two Education Specialists for the year 2021/22. This funding is due to expire.

The total cost of employing our current Education Specialists in the Northern Sydney region and in the Inner West in full time roles is: \$180,000.\*

It costs \$7000 to re-engage one young person in education. The funds will pay for the support of at least 24 young people. Based on 31 hours a week, this amounts to \$50 per hour cost.

**Failing education penalises a young person for life. Help us ensure that our children and young people reach their full potential.**

## CHOOSE TO HELP US

### Case Study - Antionette

Prior to engaging in the Learning Space 'Antionette Zulah' (not her real name) had disengaged from education. She attended 100% of the time at the Learning Space and has been averaging 99% on all tasks she completes. For her HSC literacy and numeracy tests she achieved a Band 4, the highest band awarded.

*\*We pay our employees in accordance with The Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Awards (SCHADS).*





We greatly appreciate all donations – no matter how small or big.

**DONATE**

Please contribute what you can to our fundraising goal of \$180,000 per annum in any way you can.

\$180,000 pays for two workers who each have the capacity to support up to 12 young people each week based on the numbers achieved in the pilot project to a total of 24 young people. Each worker will spend an average of 31 hours per week in the Learning Space with the young people, one based in the Northern Sydney region plus one other to join our office in the Inner West.

By adding your donation to this fundraising drive, you will be making a huge difference in the lives of children and young people in need.

## To donate:

**Credit card:** The secure PayPal portal accepts all major credit cards on our behalf.

**Monthly deduction:** Review the information about regular giving via credit card deduction and chose the option that suits you best.

**\$50**

will pay for one hour of educational support for one young person.

*\* dollar figures are rounded up to the next highest amount, hence don't exactly add up to the total funding sought. If we raise more funds we will be able to employ more Education Support Workers.*

**\$1550**

will pay for one week at an average of 31 hours of educational support for 12 young people. (31 x \$50)

**\$7000**

will pay for re-engagement of one young person in education for one year.

*For example 140 donations of \$50 = \$7000 or 14 donations of \$500 = \$7000 or 7 donations of \$1000 = \$7000.*

**\$90,000**

will pay to employ one education worker full time for one year.

*.For example, 1800 donations of \$50 or 9 donations of \$10,000 = \$90,000.*

**Direct deposit:** Deposit directly into our bank account: Bank: Westpac:

A/c name: The Burdekin Association  
BSB: 032 094 Account No.: 14 6188.

*TBA is a registered charity - 10994 | All donations over \$2 are tax deductible*



# ABOUT US

We are a Housing, Support and Community Intervention service, providing support to children and young people aged between 9 and 24.

We currently deliver services through three key programs:

- **Out of Home Care** – a range of accommodation and support options for children and young people 9-24 who are or have been under the care of the Minister.
- **Youth Housing** – housing options for young people (17-24) at risk of homelessness or homeless.
- **Family and Community** – working proactively with individuals and community groups to prevent homelessness, family breakdown, out of home placements and supporting reconciliation of family relationships.

## CONTEXT

Many of the young people who come to us did not attend sufficient schooling in their formative years. As a result they have low literacy, low self esteem as well as the need to cope with the challenges that caused their situation in the first place, such as family conflict or mental health issues.

When these kids go to school the environment can become hostile or perceived to be hostile, they become ostracized and/or bullied partly because of their negative expectations and because they have fallen behind so much.

Sometimes the expectation is that they will be disruptive and they live up to it. Many times they have poor self-regulation and lash out.

For example, no school will take a young 14 year old girl due to the fact she assaulted the principal and teacher. She is actually a bright, caring girl who just needs the right support.

This is why we decided to bring learning to our young people.

## OUR NUMBERS

On any given day The Burdekin Association provides a HOME for 83\* children & young people across the Northern Sydney and Inner West regions.

We also directly supported 23 families in the prevention of homelessness and a further 27 young people in general early intervention and outreach support.

**A total of 131 individual children and young people were supported on one day in March 2021.**



## Contact us:

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### **Connect with us**

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**THE burdekin**  
ASSOCIATION

*Our youth. their future.*