

*Our youth, their future.*

# PROPOSAL

TO FUND TWO EDUCATION SPECIALISTS FOR  
THE BURDEKIN ASSOCIATION LEARNING SPACE



**THE BURDEKIN ASSOCIATION**

# 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 Children's Welfare Agencies' 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 Learning Space Program 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

100% of young people attending the learning space felt less than confident attending an educational setting.

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.

The number of young people supported by our Education Specialists varies week-by-week. The average number of students receiving assistance is five or six but that number can rise to nine or ten.

## Positive Developments

The Education Specialist provides:

- 30 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.
- An additional 8+ hours of time spent on planning, assessments, meetings and other admin.

The Education Specialist also:

- Implements the school-based actions in an education plan.
- Promotes communication between school and the student.
- Encourages young people where possible, to participate in and decisions relating to their education.
- Supports appropriate return to school strategies.
- Provides intervention.
- Support finding an alternate educational placement when required.
- TAFE support and advice.
- Careers advice.
- Resume, cover letter and interview skills.
- Support with goal setting, self-concepts and emotional well-being.

# CASE STUDIES

## Dan

\*Dan is a 16-year-old boy who had not attended school for several years. The school environment made him feel distressed and as a result, he displayed challenging behaviours. Our Education Specialist began supporting him by working on his numeracy and literacy, which were below standard. Since receiving support, he is now an engaged, enthusiastic learner who is looking forward to his future. Our Education Specialist supported him to enrol in a TAFE Certificate course, which he is currently completing. Dan, now feels like he can achieve his goals and as a result looks forward to enrolling in another course with the goal of commencing an apprenticeship at the end of this year.

## Olivia and Grace

\*Olivia and Grace are two girls, aged 13 and 15 years old. They both had reading levels 2-3 years below their peers. Since attending the learning space, receiving support and intervention with our Education Specialists, there has been a significant increase in both of their reading and comprehension levels.

*Research suggests that reading ability affects attainment in all subjects. Reading ability has a considerable impact on both educational attainment and wider life outcomes.*

*\*Names have all been changed to protect the privacy of our young people.*

## Christopher

17-year-old \*Christopher was rarely leaving the house, he has learning difficulties, social anxiety and mental health-related issues. Our Education Specialist supported Christopher to re-engage in his education and to enrol in distance learning. Christopher currently attends the Learning Space three days per week, his mental health has improved, he is engaged with learning and has started to socialise more with his peers again.

## Benjamin

\*Benjamin Gooding's 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.

## Estelle

Prior to attending the Learning Space \*Estelle Howard 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!

# OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

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

We employed two Education Specialists throughout the past two years thanks to support received. We need to raise funds each year so we are able to continue to offer this support to the young people in our care who need it.

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

It costs \$7,500 to re-engage one young person in education. Total funds will pay for the support of at least 24 young people. This is based on a 31 hour work week per worker.

**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.

**\$150**

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.*

**\$1500**

will pay for 10 hours of intensive, case by case tuition and support for one young person.

**\$7500**

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

*For example 150 donations of \$50 = \$7,500 or 14 donations of \$500 = \$7,500 or 5 donations of \$1,500 = \$7,500.*

**\$90,000**

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

*.For example, 1,800 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 ostracised 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 night, The Burdekin Association provides a HOME for 102\* children & young people.

In the financial year 221/22 we have supported 246 children, young people and/or family members supported.

**This is an increase of 20% on the previous financial year.**



## Contact us:

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St. Peters, NSW 2204

### **Connect with us**

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