



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice

ABN 20 671 392 558

Activity Report 2018/2019

A Challenging Year at Opening The Doors Foundation

2019 has been a year of incredible growth in supporting Aboriginal education and worrying financial concerns for Opening The Doors Foundation. We have assisted the families of 815 students - an increase of 40 students since 2018.

The need for the Foundation continues to grow as more Aboriginal students enter independent schools and are staying to complete year 12. I am so happy to follow the journeys of so many young ones who are a constant reminder of why the Foundation is so important in the Victorian Aboriginal community. You can read some of their stories later in this activity report.

This year the Foundation has lost three significant philanthropic supporters whose multi-year partnerships have recently ended. This has amounted to a reduction of over \$300,000, making up almost 50% of expenses directly

assisting Aboriginal families. As a result of this immense financial reduction, the Foundation's future is unknown. Without further funding the Foundation is set to close in four years.

This year The Foundation has been thinking creatively about how we can sustainably continue to support hundreds of families.

One way to reduce costs has been reviewing our administration processes. This step is vital as more students apply for grants each year. In the last year we have successfully cut admin costs by almost half!

Our creative thinking has extended to the grant model. In the upcoming grant round our processes will be even more cost efficient AND empower the families we support to have more choice over the educational support which is right for their child.

Trustees and staff are exploring various ways to replace the loss of income, including other philanthropic supporters. Fresh campaign ideas will be rolled out in the next year. Our particular focus will be on schools as we love to see students supporting students.

In our latest appeal, we attempted to expand our reach to include schools we support as well new parishes. The results were disappointing. While we covered costs, we made no income.

I would like to take this chance to acknowledge those who have supported the Foundation. Your donations have been especially supportive through this rocky time.

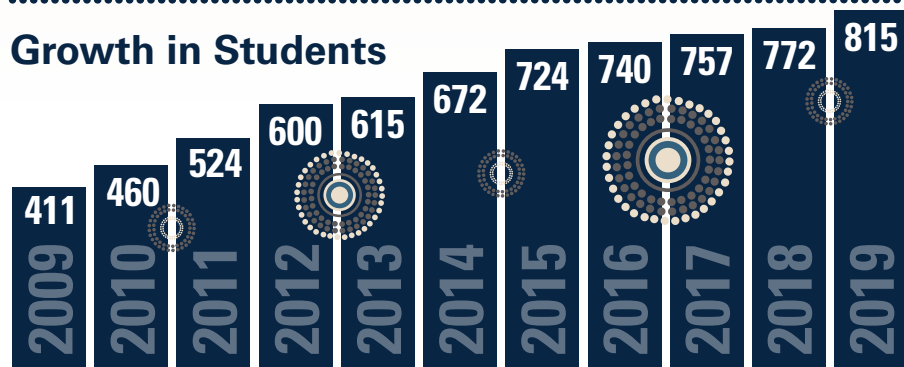
I would also like to thank volunteers who dedicate their time to helping us support Aboriginal education.

While the future is uncertain, I remain hopeful that some generous donations and fundraising drives will help us to support our community and empower the next generation of Aboriginal kids.

Vicki Clark OAM, Chairperson

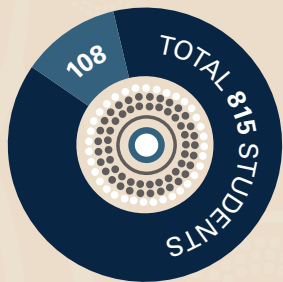
on behalf of the Trustees of
Opening The Doors Foundation

Growth in Students



The Opening The Doors Foundation acknowledges the traditional owners of ancestral lands across Australia. We respect Elders past and present and local Aboriginal custodians.

This material may contain images of members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities who have entered the Dreaming. They are used with the greatest respect and appreciation.



Empowering the Families we Serve

This year we launched the **Family Partnership Program** to support further our dedicated families who have been with us for five or more years. The program saw the money go directly to the families to be spent on educational supplies for their children.

Opening The Doors Foundation knows that these families can make the best educational choices for their children. In total 108 of the students we supported were a part of the Program.

2020

In the upcoming grant period Opening The Doors Foundation will increase our support for Aboriginal families by expanding this approach to self determination.

This year, **ALL** families who are eligible for funding will receive a debit card which can be used at schooling-related stores.

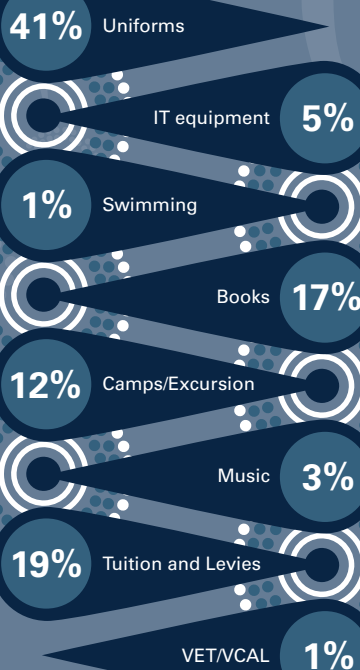
Harry and Agnes Bugden Grants Finishing

The Harry and Agnes Bugden Music Grants have supported the musical pursuits of Aboriginal students since 2014. In that time the Foundation has disbursed over 200 grants worth almost \$100,000 for music lessons and instruments.

Before his death in 2011, Harry had discussed his desire to increase his support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly those interested in studies in music. After five years of honouring the wishes of Harry and Agnes Bugden, the funds have been dispersed and the Foundation will discontinue this grant. Though it is sad to close this door, we are immensely proud of all the students who have pursued music and their families who we have supported them along this path. The Foundation acknowledges the immense generosity, passion and solidarity of the Bugden family.

\$670,832

Grant Expenditure



Shanika was fortunate enough to meet Miriam-Rose last year when she visited Geelong. Shanika loved learning from her and so she applied to go to Daly River in the hope of meeting her again. Shanika's application was successful and she is looking forward to learning more.

As an Aboriginal girl Shanika is extremely passionate about her culture and, given the opportunity, she plans to learn and grow her cultural knowledge and develop as an Aboriginal person.

Shanika recently completed the Mighty Murray Paddle with the Department of Justice and Victoria Police. During this time she was featured in the ABC news.

Kyran went on an excursion with his culture club to Geelong to a keeping place. He enjoyed learning how to throw a boomerang and learning about the different weapons used for hunting by Aboriginal People.

Messages from our Families

We have received hundreds of messages from our families in the past year. It is always a pleasure to hear about our students throughout the year.

Here are a few special messages which our families have agreed to let us show you.



Bree did very well last year and was fully involved in all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities including AIME, Reconciliation and attended the long walk and Dreamtime at the G with her friends. Bree has danced numerous times at school assembly and events held at school and has delivered the Welcome to Country.

CEP

This trip is a great chance to see art, dance, food, family traditions, how elders are respected and there are rules for everyone. Then all of us come back with knowledge to teach everyone back at school and then our families, our community, wherever we study or work the truth about MY PEOPLE. The purpose for me is so much more. As an Aboriginal woman this will be my first chance to live on country and learn about who I know I am inside.

I attended a tour to the USA for school basketball. We went from the south end of the east coast up to New York playing 4 games of basketball in the freshman division. Our team had been the most successful freshman team from our school in America, only losing 1 of our games including practice matches. I got the real New York experience having gone to Times Square, Madison Square Gardens, Central Park, Wall Street, Brooklyn Bridge and so many more activities. It was amazing to see real places in real life as I could have only dreamt to see. I am so lucky and grateful to have had this experience which will be remembered for life.



I have had a successful football season, making the under 16 GWV Rebels Squad. Following 3 games I played in the Laguntas team. As for my local season, I played well enough to win the Robert Allen Medal, it is proposed as the Most Valuable Player in Ballarat Football League. I also won 2 Best on Ground awards. One

was in an interleague game while the other was in Cairns for Goldfields which is a regional team. I am currently refereeing to help fund my trip to Ireland.

I want to study social justice and criminology at University. I want to prove that Aboriginal people shouldn't have such high numbers in jail, and if they are, they need different care. My wish is for jobs for people to help Aboriginal people in cities avoid getting into so much trouble.

Thank you to all our wonderful supporters for helping to Open the Doors for Koori Kids in 2019. We recognise the generous contributions from schools including our devoted FIRE Carriers, parishes, regular donors, community groups and philanthropic partners. The generosity of each donation has allowed us to continue to support Aboriginal education for almost two decades. Below we acknowledge some of our wonderful donors.

Major Partners

Arnold Bloch Liebler

Dubsky Lang Foundation

Eric and Elizabeth Gross Foundation

L. Arthur Pty. Ltd

Merrin Grenet Foundation

Portland House Foundation

RMIT

The St Vincent de Paul Society

School Partners

Thank you to the students, teachers and parents who have supported other students through the act of fundraising.

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy

Aquinas College, Ringwood

Avila College, Mount Waverley

Beaconhills College, Pakenham

Brigidine College, St Ives

Carey Baptist Grammar School, Kew

Catholic Ladies College, Eltham

De La Salle College, Malvern

Genazzano FCJ College, Kew

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Eltham

Marcellin College, Bulleen

Marymede Catholic College, South Morang

Mount Lilydale Mercy College

Our Lady of Good Counsel Primary School, Deepdene

Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

Our Lady of the Assumption, Cheltenham

Parade College, Bundoora

Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows

Sacred Heart Girls' College, Oakleigh

Sacred Heart Primary School, Tatura

St Bernard's College, Essendon

St Clement of Rome Primary School, Bulleen

St Columba's College, Essendon

St Damian's Primary School, Bundoora

St Francis Primary School, Nathalia

St Kevin's Catholic Primary School, Templestowe

St Mary's Primary School, Rushworth

St Pius X Primary School, Heidelberg West

Thomas Carr College, Tarneit

Queen of Peace Primary School, Altona Meadows

Parishes and Religious Partners

Blessed Sacrament Congregation, Kew East

Brigidine Sisters, Albert Park

F C J Sisters, Richmond

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Summerhill

Holy Saviour Parish, Vermont South

Loreto Sisters Province Centre

Sisters of Charity, Sydney

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford

Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny, Australia/Papua New Guinea

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Hawthorn

St Francis Xavier Parish, Montmorency

St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

St Leonard's Parish, Glen Waverley

St Martin de Porres Parish, Avondale Heights

St Martin of Tours Parish, Rosanna

St Mary's Catholic Church, Ararat

St Mary's Anglican Parish, Bendigo

St Michael's Parish, Ashburton

St Michael's Parish, Berwick

St Patrick's Church, Pyramid Hill

St Therese's Parish, Essendon

Donate Today

To find out how you can fundraise or make a donation to Opening the Doors Foundation visit our website. Contact us to request brochures or donation envelopes. Every dollar helps support the education of Aboriginal kids in Victoria.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

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OUR VOLUNTEERS

Opening the Doors Foundation would not be able to support the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students that it does without the work of some very committed volunteers. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers of 2019.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Foundation on 9443 9070 or enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au