



Volunteers Helping Students Thrive

IMPACT STATEMENT 2019

EdConnect Australia continually evaluates and monitors the quality of program delivery and performance to ensure a measurable difference is made to the communities we support.

OUR VISION

Every community helping young people to succeed

OUR MISSION

To prepare and connect volunteers with disadvantaged or at-risk young people for educational success and personal wellbeing

ABOUT US

We recruit, train and support volunteers to provide life-changing mentoring and learning support to students in the school community. We aspire to change lives and reconnect generations, making communities stronger and more resilient. Ultimately, we connect volunteers who want to make a difference within the school community with students who need extra support and guidance.

Since 2015, an annual Social Impact report has informed stakeholders and funders of the program outcomes.

A range of tools are utilised to measure our impact including school and volunteer surveys, consultations and quarterly data collection.

As we offer a unique mentoring program, rigorous and comprehensive survey tools are externally analyzed to facilitate stronger matches, demonstrate outcomes and inform future development of the mentor program.

For every
\$1.00
invested,
we returned
\$3.43



in value back to the
Australian community.¹

I haven't just had one favourite moment as an EdConnect volunteer, but many amazing small moments - such as noticing how the children I work with come more and more out of their shell the more time we spend together.

EdConnect Volunteer, Bull Creek Primary School

Supported by

The
Kimberley
Foundation

OUR OVERALL IMPACT

Students



898

Mentored
Students

+

15,341

Students receiving
classroom support

=

16,239

Supported
Students

Volunteers



1,393

Skilled
Volunteers

+

2,353

Hours
per week

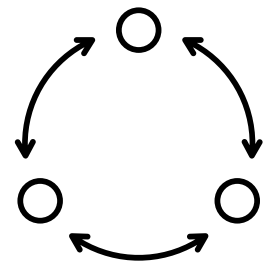
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\$4,095,161²

Value returned to the
Australian community

THE NEED

EdConnect Australia brings together three important groups in the local community - Schools, Students and Volunteers - in a model that is mutually beneficial and that positively impacts on the unmet need of each group.



Students

Education is one of the clearest indicators of positive life outcomes. It is increasingly reported that students are experiencing learning challenges due to changing family circumstances, cultural differences, socioeconomic disadvantage and the constant presence of social media. Almost one in seven (13.9%) children aged 4 to 17 were assessed as having mental health disorders in 2015, which is equivalent to 560,000 Australian children and adolescents.³

Volunteers

Australia's fastest growing age group is 65 years and older.⁴ Volunteering provides countless benefits for this age group - from fostering a sense of belonging and community connectivity to maintaining mental and physical wellbeing. For all generations, volunteering offers the opportunity to acquire new skills, interests, networks, a renewed sense of purpose and potential pathways for employment.

Schools

School life is complex and challenging, with limited additional resources to recruit, screen, train and support volunteers. Australian teachers work longer hours, have bigger classes than the global average and our school systems have some of the most inequitable funding levels in the OECD.⁵ These factors contribute to an increase in workload in our most disadvantaged schools.

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Member schools are surveyed annually to gain insight into our program's impact on the students and school community. 33% of member schools responded to the survey via their allocated school program coordinator using the survey rating scale⁶



98%

Reduction in disruptive behaviour.



99%

Improved social skills



96.5%

Increase in participation in school activities

100%

Improvement in self-esteem



89.5%

Improvement in concentration



99%

Improvement in relationships with students and the school



90.5%

Improved literacy



89.5%

Improved numeracy



We have had EdConnect supporting our students for two years. The volunteers are very dedicated and keen to make a big difference in our school community. This is greatly appreciated!

Dalmain Primary School



We really love our volunteers and what they give to our students is amazing and cannot be measured.

Kensington Primary School

IMPACT ON SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS SAY THAT THE TOP BENEFITS TO USING EDCONNECT PROGRAMS IS:

- Being able to offer one-to-one assistance to those who need it most
- Having a positive, older role model for children to interact with

100%

of schools agree that EdConnect provides useful guidance and support throughout the school year.

98%

of teachers support the volunteering program in their school.



EdConnect has made a big difference to our children who struggle with their own special challenges. With the positive influence in their life, they strive to be more optimistic and focus on their school work the best they can.

Coolbinia Primary School



The best part of volunteering was that I was able to help the student assigned to me to gain more self-confidence, especially when he was in tears due to some personal issues.

EdConnect Volunteer, John Tonkin College

IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are surveyed annually to gain insight into their experience with students, schools and how volunteering impact on their lives. Over 50% of active volunteers responded to the survey using the devised rating scale⁶

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE WITH EDCONNECT



93%

say EdConnect's assistance connecting to the schools was vital



95.5%

rate their overall experience volunteering with EdConnect as positive

IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS' LIVES

97.5%

volunteering improves their mental health & wellbeing



96.5%

of volunteers felt more connected to their community



85.5%

volunteering helps to develop new skills



86.5%

volunteering enhances physical health and wellbeing



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REFERENCES

1. Return for every \$1 invested: Calculated by dividing the value returned to the community by the average expenditure of the last two financial years (2018/19 and 2019/20) which totals \$1,193,405.
2. Determining the value we returned to the Australian community was calculated using Volunteering WA's Volunteer Benefits Calculator <https://www.volunteeringwa.org.au/resources/volunteer-benefits-calculator> The figure of \$43.51 is used as the replacement cost of volunteers' labour in WA and is averaged out across all given age groups. Calculated using a weekly volunteer figure of 2,353 volunteer hours' x 40 weeks (4 school terms minus school holidays) to give a total of 94,120 hours per year. The total hours per year (94,120) is then multiplied by the hourly rate of \$43.51
3. Lawrence D, Johnson S, Hafekost J, Boterhoven De Haan K, Sawyer M, Ainley J, Zubrick SR (2015) The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents. Report on the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing. Department of Health, Canberra. [https://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/9DA8CA21306FE6EDCA257E2700016945/\\$File/child2.pdf](https://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/9DA8CA21306FE6EDCA257E2700016945/$File/child2.pdf)
4. Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) (2015): Social Isolation and Loneliness among older Australians, Issues Paper No. 1, October 2015, available at: <http://www.agedcare.org.au/publications/social-isolation-and-loneliness>.
5. Australian Education Union 2016, Research snapshot 2016 : teachers and workloads. Briefing Paper [NP] <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/application/files/1414/7754/3543/AEU-BP-RS2016-Teachers.pdf>
6. Survey Rating scale: Survey methodology uses a six scale response to each question. The results of the three ratings completely agree, strongly agree and tend to agree are combined to represent a positive percentage response.