

Literacy Buddies & Numeracy Buddies was delivered in 4 states in 2025, bringing EdConnect to Queensland for the first time. The pen-pal initiative connects workplace volunteers with children. Little Buddies in primary or early secondary schools are matched with Big Buddies from a workplace. Throughout the year the Buddies engage in meaningful letter exchanges and participate in two face-to-face visits – one at the school and one at the workplace. Both programs are letter exchanges, but Numeracy Buddies also includes a short numeracy question for the Little Buddies to solve.

391 **LITTLE BUDDIES**301 **BIG BUDDIES**3612 **VOLUNTEER HOURS**15 **PROGRAMS**

“Growing up in a similar area to my little buddy, I wish I had this opportunity, it was so deeply inspiring for both of us and everyone involved and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity. It allowed these kids to dream big and see the city and opportunities that are out there for them.”

2025 Numeracy Big Buddy

“Seeing some of our reluctant talkers talking with their buddies and growing with confidence was a highlight for me.”

*School Teacher,
2025 Literacy Buddies Program*



TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE
BUDDIES REPORTED:INCREASED CONFIDENCE TO ENGAGE WITH
WRITINGGREATER OVERALL CONFIDENCE IN
THEMSELVESSTRONGER SKILLS IN
CONNECTING, COMMUNICATING AND
INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE
THEIR SOCIAL CIRCLESINCREASED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN
LITERACY ACTIVITIES

“One student who got up to speak in front of the audience on our visit to our Big Buddies and was a highlight. This student is a very reluctant learner and to see them up the front to share his work was amazing.”

*Little Buddies School Teacher,
2025 Literacy Buddies Program*



“Many of our students who usually require 1:1 support to complete writing tasks were able to plan and publish their letters completely independently, and this confidence has transferred to other areas of their learning.”

*Little Buddies School Teacher,
2025 Literacy Buddies Program*

LITTLE BUDDIES REPORTED:

INCREASED MY CONFIDENCE WITH WRITING



INCREASED MY OVERALL CONFIDENCE

HELPED ME TO KNOW HOW TO TALK TO
NEW ADULTSINCREASED MY WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN
READING AND WRITING ACTIVITIES

*(the Buddies program)
"made me more confident when
talking to adults"
Little Buddy*

*"First I kinda knew how to write
letters but now its easy!"
Little Buddy*



LITERACY BIG BUDDIES REPORTED:

**BUDDIES VOLUNTEERS MAKE A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE TO STUDENTS**



**VOLUNTEERING WITH THIS PROGRAM WAS
REWARDING FOR ME PERSONALLY**



**STUDENTS HAVING INCREASED IDEAS OF WHAT
IS POSSIBLE FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE**



**STUDENTS HAVING STRONGER SKILLS IN
CONNECTING, COMMUNICATING, AND
INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THEIR
SOCIAL CIRCLES**



**I WAS ABLE TO FIT THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR
THE PROGRAM INTO MY WORK/LIFE SCHEDULE**



**I LOOKED FORWARD TO SENDING AND
RECEIVING LETTERS, AND THE SCHOOL AND
WORKPLACE VISITS**



**I FEEL THAT MY WORKPLACE/ORGANISATION
IS MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
THROUGH THE LITERACY BUDDIES
PROGRAM**



TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE BUDDIES REPORTED:

**INCREASED CONFIDENCE TO ENGAGE WITH
NUMERACY**



**GREATER OVERALL CONFIDENCE IN
THEMSELVES**



**STRONGER SKILLS IN
CONNECTING, COMMUNICATING AND
INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE
THEIR SOCIAL CIRCLES**



**INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN
NUMERACY ACTIVITIES**



“For our students whose parents are usually both working and often shift workers, having an adult pay 1:1 attention to their day-to-day lives and interests was an absolute highlight. The assistance with numeracy and influence in their aspirations for the future was also a standout.”



Numeracy Buddies Teacher



“The students gained confidence in their ability to problem-solve knowing that they had the assistance of the Big Buddies”



*Primary School Teacher,
2025 Numeracy Buddies Program*



LITTLE BUDDIES REPORTED:

INCREASED MY CONFIDENCE WITH
NUMERACY/MATHS



INCREASED MY OVERALL CONFIDENCE



HELPED ME TO KNOW HOW TO TALK TO
NEW ADULTS



INCREASED MY WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN
NUMERACY / MATHS ACTIVITIES



*(the Buddies program)
"let me know more about
engineering and learning."
Little Buddy, Numeracy
2025*

*"(the Buddies program) encouraged
me to do challenging maths."
Little Buddy Numeracy
2025*



NUMERACY BIG BUDDIES REPORTED:

**BUDDIES VOLUNTEERS MAKE A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE TO STUDENTS**



**VOLUNTEERING WITH THIS PROGRAM WAS
REWARDING FOR ME PERSONALLY**



**STUDENTS HAVING INCREASED IDEAS OF WHAT
IS POSSIBLE FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE**



**STUDENTS HAVING STRONGER SKILLS IN
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**I FEEL THAT MY WORKPLACE/ORGANISATION
IS MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
THROUGH THE NUMERACY BUDDIES
PROGRAM**



2025

CLAYTON UTZ

CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTHWealth
ManagementView
Schools ResourceView
Buddies Coordinator
Resource

Calling 2027 Big Buddies

Volunteers:	25 (approx. tied to class size)
Letter exchanges:	6
Visits:	2 (one school visit, one workplace visit)
Volunteering:	8-12hrs per volunteer, April – November each year
Investment:	\$12,000 + GST

Buddies Partners are required to appoint a workplace coordinator who will work with the EdConnect Buddies Manager.

Full training, support and resources provided.

More Information click [HERE](#): or enquire today: edconnect@edconnect.org.au

