

VICTORIAN PROUDLY PUBLIC! AWARDS 2025

Celebrating
Excellence
in Public Schools



**PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION** 

We Give Life-Changing Scholarships



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

WELCOME

We recognise the ongoing custodians of the lands and waterways where we work and live. We recognise the Wurundjeri people are the traditional owners of the land in Abbotsford, Victoria. We respect Elders past and present as ongoing teachers of knowledge and stories.

We strive to ensure every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learner achieves their potential through education.

This is the second time that the Public Education Foundation (PEF) has hosted this important event in Victoria. It is an occasion to celebrate and honour our scholarship recipients and acknowledge and thank our supporters for their commitment and contribution to our united cause and purpose.

We especially thank the Victorian Department of Education, the Australian Education Union Victorian Branch, Teachers Health, Teachers Mutual Bank, and Toyota Community Trust for supporting our work.

Our empowering scholarships for students focus on removing barriers to achievement created by social and economic disadvantage. We also support teachers, principals, and other education leaders by providing opportunities to access the very best professional development available in Australia and the world.

We support students with special educational needs and talents, students who without our help would struggle to reach their full potential. Our awards celebrate public education's enduring values of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness, democracy, sustainability and opportunity.

We also recognise and reward individual teachers and school leaders for their commitment to excellence. Creating a supportive, inspiring and positive learning environment is at the core of our teachers work as they deliver quality education for their students. These dedicated teachers and principals are knowledgeable, professional, effective and proudly engaged in teaching and learning within our diverse public education system, which is the foundation for a successful society.

Bob Kotic
CEO, Public Education Foundation (PEF)

You too can become a donor, a sponsor and supporter so please visit us at publiceducationfoundation.org.au.



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

MICHAEL BUTLER

HOSTS

**KERRY MILLIGAN AND
MICHAEL BUTLER**

WELCOME TO VICTORIAN PROUDLY PUBLIC! AWARDS

BOB KOTIC
CEO, Public Education
Foundation

OPENING ADDRESS

JUSTIN MULLALY
President, Australian Education
Union Victoria

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

ACACIA PROGRAM
SCHOLARSHIP

AEU VICTORIAN SECONDARY
REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP

FRIENDS OF ZAINAB SENIOR
SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

FRIENDS OF ZAINAB TERTIARY
SCHOLARSHIP

LILLY MURPHY MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

MARY VERNON FOUNDATION
REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP

MRIN AND PRAKASH NAYAGAM
VICTORIAN SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP

PEF NATIONAL SECONDARY
SCHOLARSHIP

PEF PRIMARY SCHOLARSHIP

PEF SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

WARATAH EDUCATION
FOUNDATION PRIMARY
SCHOLARSHIP

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CORRENA HAYTHORPE
Federal President, Australian
Education Union

EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

TEACHERS MUTUAL BANK
VICTORIAN MID-CAREER
SCHOLARSHIP

TEACHERS HEALTH EARLY
CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

EDUCATOR ADDRESS

RONAN DOUGLAS
Hellyer College

CLOSING REMARKS

BOB KOTIC



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



TOYOTA



OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Victoria

Acacia Program Scholarship

The Acacia Program scholarships provide financial assistance to high potential secondary school students attending public schools in specific regions across Australia.

LEANNE AFFLECK

Chaffey Secondary College

VEENZ CAPISANAN

Phoenix P-12 Community School

NHUNG NGUYEN

Keysborough Secondary College

ELAHA REZAEI

Dandenong High School

SERENA SHELBY

Phoenix P-12 Community School

AEU Federal Refugee Scholarship

Funded by the Australian Education Union (AEU) – Federal, this scholarship provides support for refugee students, in public secondary schools across Australia, for the final two years of their secondary education.

NAY SE PAR

Chaffey Secondary College

AEU Victorian Secondary Refugee Scholarship

Funded by the AEU Victorian Branch, these scholarships support refugee students in their senior years of education in public schools in Victoria.

MUZAMMEL ALI

Keysborough Secondary College

REM REM DUH TIN

Ringwood Secondary College

Campbell–Carter Scholarship

The Campbell–Carter Scholarship supports students from Regional, Rural and Remote Australia facing social and economic challenges. Honouring the donor's parents and grandmother, it reflects her 32-year teaching journey and hearing impairment experience. Open to primary, secondary, and tertiary students.

LEND BALALA

Hume Central Secondary College

LOUIS BALLA

Hume Central Secondary College

JACOB SALEM

Rushworth P-12 College

CLARE SAUNDERS

Red Cliffs Secondary College

Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship

Established in 1922 by Robert Campbell Edwards, the Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship supports tertiary students across Australia. Robert dedicated his wealth and efforts to helping those in need, creating a lasting philanthropic legacy through the Trust.

MUQTADA AL-SHAMMAY

Lalor Secondary College

Friends of Zainab Senior Secondary Scholarship

Provides support for Year 11 and 12 refugee students through the critical years of their VCE.

ZAHRA FAYAZI

Kambrya College

SANAM HUSSAINI

Dandenong High School

ZAHRA JAFARI

Dandenong High School

MOUSTAFA MOHAMMADE

Fountain Gate Secondary College

CING SAN LUN TAITHOU

Ringwood Secondary College

Friends of Zainab Tertiary Scholarship

Provides financial assistance for the first two years of full time university or TAFE study for refugee students.

SAMEER APPASA

Bankstown Senior College

ENAS ENAS

Hume Central Secondary College

ABOLFAZL MOHSENI

Newstead College

Lilly Murphy Memorial Scholarship

Established in honour of Lilly Murphy, a Year 12 student who passed away in November 2021. This scholarship supports public school students, passionate about equity and social justice, through the final two years of their senior studies.

MOHAMMAD HUSSEINI

Northern Bay College Goldsworthy

Macpherson Kelley Foundation Primary Scholarship

The Macpherson Kelley Foundation Primary Scholarship supports students in Victorian and NSW public primary schools. Established in 2016, the Foundation focuses on assisting disadvantaged children and communities through workplace giving and matching.

ETHAN KONNEH

Sydenham-Hillside Primary School

Mary Vernon Foundation Refugee Scholarship

Mary Vernon devoted herself to philanthropy in her later years. She remembered the hardships of her early life and she was passionate about helping others in similar circumstances. Her foundation has supported more than 24 charities to date; many of them focused on children and the disadvantaged. The Mary Vernon Foundation Refugee Scholarship

supports students with refugee background across Australia from Years 10 to 12.

SARAH HUSSAINI

Dandenong High School

JOSEPH LUBONGA

Manor Lakes P-12 College

SHAIMA RAHIMI

Chaffey Secondary College

Mrin and Prakash Nayagam Victorian Secondary Scholarship

These scholarships, funded by Drs Mrin and Prakash Nayagam, provide financial assistance to refugee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Victorian public high schools, who may otherwise not have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

RILEY KEPPLER

Manor Lakes P-12 College

HAYDEN PENDLEBURY

Mornington Park Primary School

PEF National Regional and Remote Tertiary Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial assistance to high potential students as they transition into and progress through post-school education at a public university or TAFE.

CHILLARA ACKRELL

The University of Melbourne

PEF National Secondary Scholarship

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, refugee students and students experiencing financial hardship in their senior years of education in a public school.

JOANNA ALQAS TOMA

Springside West Secondary College

LEON ROBERTS

Marsden State High School

ANDREW SKILLICORN

Irymple Secondary College

PEF Primary Scholarship

Provides scholarships to support primary school students in their early school years.

JAXSON CLIFFORD

Colac Primary School

DYLAN DALEY

Monmia Primary School

PEF Secondary Scholarship

Supports public high school students across Australia enabling them to participate in all aspects of their education.

BRITTNEY AH-SEE

Chaffey Secondary College

OLIVIA CIRILLO

Irymple Secondary College

CHELSEA COLLINS

Bandiana Primary School

JETT MCMAHON

Charles La Trobe College

– Olympic Village Primary School

ADA ROSE MITCHELL

Charles La Trobe College

– Olympic Village Primary School

CELESTE ROSE

Princes Hill Secondary College



Teachers Mutual Bank Victorian Mid-Career Scholarship

This Teachers Mutual Bank scholarship supports Victorian mid-career public school teachers to undertake professional development.

EMMIE KEUNG
Sunshine College

HUY LE
Sunshine College

VET in Schools Scholarship

Provides financial assistance to students pursuing vocational studies through their school, who otherwise may not be able to pursue their chosen career.

IMOGEN DUNN
Horsham College

Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Opportunity Scholarship

These scholarships provide support to assist students with a physical disability to transition from high school to tertiary education studies at a public university to commence study for a degree.

ARIYA HENG
Springside West Secondary College

AYAN OWAIS
Bayside P-12 College – Paisley Campus

Waratah Education Foundation Primary Scholarship

Supporting NSW primary school students for two years to allow them to be involved in all aspects of their education and improve education outcomes.

OLLIE BELL
Broken Hill School of the Air

South Australia

AEU Federal Refugee Scholarship

Funded by the Australian Education Union (AEU) – Federal, this scholarship provides support for refugee students, in public secondary schools across Australia, for the final two years of their secondary education.

SOPHIA CAMBARERI
Salisbury High School

AEU South Australia Rural and Remote Indigenous Scholarship

Provides support and encouragement to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in public high schools in rural or remote regions of Australia.

ELEANOR LENNELL
Port Elliot Primary School

Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship

Established in 1922 by Robert Campbell Edwards, the Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship supports tertiary students across Australia. Robert dedicated his wealth and efforts to helping those in need, creating a lasting philanthropic legacy through the Trust.

RITHISA DAHAL
Salisbury High School



Friends of Zainab Senior Secondary Scholarship

Provides support for Year 11 and 12 refugee students through the critical years of their SACE.

SIREEN ABDALATEEF
Salisbury High School

PARBATI ADHIKARI
Salisbury High School

MOHAMAD AL AMARY
Salisbury High School

DANIA AL ASAD
Salisbury High School

MAZEN AL JAHED
Salisbury High School

DIVYA GAUTAM
Salisbury High School

WAJIHA GULZARI
Roma Mitchell Secondary College

NASIMA MUHAMMADKARAM
Salisbury High School

AMIR ZAKI
Roma Mitchell Secondary College



Friends of Zainab Tertiary Scholarship

Provides financial assistance for the first two years of full time university or TAFE study for refugee students.

BAILASAN AL ABAS

Salisbury High School

BAYAN AL NASSAR

Salisbury High School

FAHARI RUHEKENYA

MATABARO

Salisbury East High School

PEF National Regional and Remote Tertiary Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial assistance to high potential students as they transition into and progress through post-school education at a public university or TAFE.

MADISON LEE RYAN

Minlaton District School

Teachers Health National Tertiary Nursing and Midwife Scholarship

Providing up to three years' support for motivated students studying nursing or midwifery at a public university or TAFE.

KALEA SIEGERT

Port Lincoln High School

Mary Vernon Foundation Refugee Scholarship

Mary Vernon devoted herself to philanthropy in her later years. She remembered the hardships of her early life and she was passionate about helping others in similar circumstances. Her foundation has supported more than 24 charities to date; many of them focused on children and the disadvantaged. The Mary Vernon Foundation Refugee Scholarship supports students with refugee background across Australia from Years 10 to 12.

VUNG SIAN NEM

Salisbury High School

PEF National Tertiary Scholarship

Provides financial assistance to high potential students as they transition into and progress through post-school education at a public university or TAFE.

SAKINA JAMALE

Northern Adelaide Senior College

PEF National Secondary Scholarship

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, refugee students and students experiencing financial hardship in their senior years of education in a public school.

CHAD LIEU

Salisbury High School

"I have nothing but gratitude and deep respect for what Public Education Foundation does for me and many other students. Being awarded the Friends of Zainab Tertiary Scholarship is truly a game-changer for me, it alleviates the socio-economic challenges my family and I face, bridging the resource gap for my university studies."

**FRIENDS OF ZAINAB
TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT**

Tasmania

Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship

Established in 1922 by Robert Campbell Edwards, the Campbell Edwards Trust Scholarship supports tertiary students across Australia. Robert dedicated his wealth and efforts to helping those in need, creating a lasting philanthropic legacy through the Trust.

NIKITHA RADHAKRISHNAN
Launceston College

Helen MacGregor National Teaching Scholarship

Provides support for a student undertaking a Bachelor of Education degree and intending to return to teach in public schools.

BO DOLLEY
Newstead College

PEF National Regional and Remote Tertiary Scholarship

This scholarship provides financial assistance to high potential students as they transition into and progress through post-school education at a public university or TAFE.

JOSHUA CHILCOTT
Don College

PEF Tertiary Teaching Scholarship

Provides financial assistance to high potential students as they transition into and progress through post-school education at a public university or TAFE.

DANIELLE SMITH
Newstead College

Teachers Health Early Career Scholarship

The Teachers Health Early Career scholarship supports school teachers in the first three years of their teaching careers to undertake professional development.

RONAN DOUGLAS
Hellyer College



OUR IMPACT: 2009-2024

395 NEW

Scholarships awarded in 2023-24
(includes educators)*



3613

2009-2024 cumulative



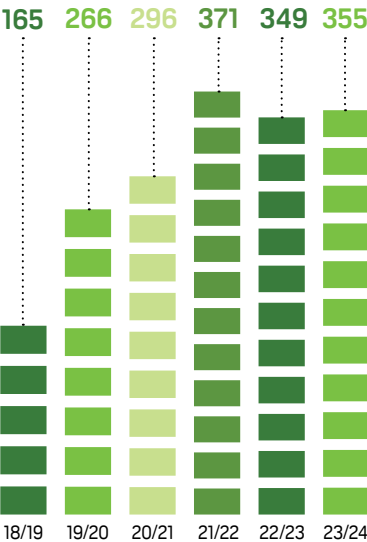
TOTAL NEW
STUDENTS*



3452
STUDENTS

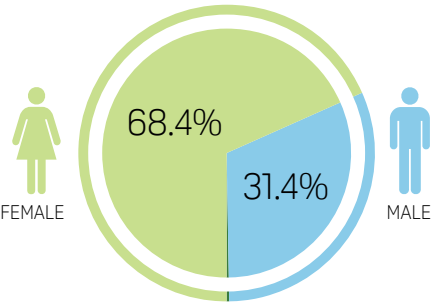


161
EDUCATORS



** excludes students directly funded
by GO Foundation*

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS





SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDING

\$ 1,351,333 2023-24

\$10,301,828 2009-2024 cumulative



APPLICATION NUMBERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA*

2024 **818**

2023 **532**

2022 **670**

2021 **651**

2020 **728**

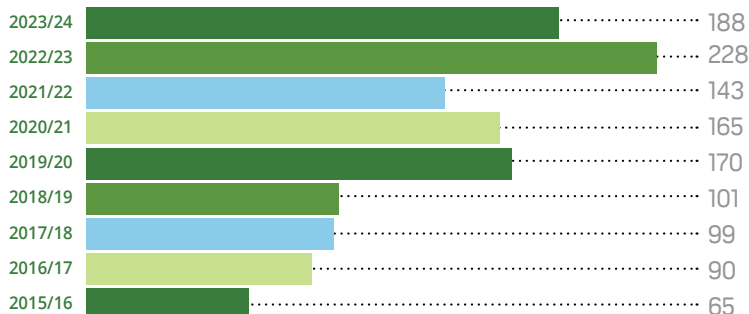
**excludes students directly funded by GO Foundation*

720

TOTAL SCHOOLS ENGAGED TO JUNE 2024



SCHOOLS ENGAGED EACH YEAR





WHAT WE DO

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

To support the vital role played by public education in ensuring fair, equitable and high-quality education for all, you can donate to the Public Education Foundation. Donations are tax deductible and can be made online at givenow.com.au/publiceducationfoundation.

The Public Education Foundation brings together governments, schools, parents, students, individuals and corporate and philanthropic organisations who share a commitment to improving equity and excellence in education in Australia.

Find out how you can help students reach their full potential:
publiceducationfoundation.org.au

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION.



Support students who face social and economic disadvantage to achieve their full potential through life-changing scholarships.

Provide professional development opportunities to educators and school leaders to enable them to extend their leadership and teaching skills.

Enhance the value and reputation of Australia's public schools, ensuring every Australian has access to a high-quality, inclusive education.

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