

# SUPPORTER INFORMATION KIT



LITTLE STARS  
FOUNDATION

*Fun. Laughter. Hope.*



**Brighter futures for children living in foster, kinship and residential care in Queensland**

# About us



The Little Stars Foundation emerged from a profound desire to empower and uplift children and young people living in foster, kinship, and residential (out-of-home) care throughout Queensland.

The foundation has a solid history of developing and running early intervention programs for children and young people living in out-of-home care. Starting with Little Stars Camps, we supported children in out-of-home care and provided a unique opportunity to cultivate optimism and resilience through the pillars of community, education, and fun. We provided camp experiences to hundreds of children. Through the camps, we recognised a crucial gap in learning support for children and young people living in out-of-home care, which often begins at a young age and persists throughout their lives, which moved us to act. We believe that learning support is the key to changing outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Through extensive research, the Little Stars Learners Program was born, and the foundation has provided over \$1 million worth of learning support scholarships to children living in foster, kinship and residential care in South-East Queensland.

*Lisa Honeychurch Van Riel*  
**CEO, Little Stars Foundation**





# Help us provide trauma-informed learning support to foster children in QLD

Scan QR code to make a donation



**LITTLE STARS FOUNDATION**  
*Fun. Laughter. Hope.*

## Sponsor a child



**\$60**

### Learning Support pack for 1 child

The cost to purchase learning support packs and games, notebooks, books and items for the children who are involved in our Little Stars Learners Program.



**\$600**

### Learning Support packs for 10 children

The cost to purchase learning support packs and games, notebooks, books and items for the children who are involved in our Little Stars Learners Program.



**\$1,500**

### For 1 x term of our Little Stars Learners program

The cost of providing a scholarship for a single term for a child or young person who has fallen behind the curriculum and is struggling every day.



**\$4,000**

### Community engagement experiences for 10 children

The average cost of holding community engagement including theatre, AFL and other fun day out experiences for 10 children.



**\$6,000**

### For a full Little Stars Learners scholarship

The cost of providing a full scholarship for our Little Stars Learners Program to a child or young person for a full 4 x term schooling year. We can provide you with naming rights.

“The skills and knowledge she's learnt and continues to learn during her sessions will spread across all other aspects of her life moving forward and **will teach her not to give up!**”



## Become a corporate star

By investing in these young lives, we are breaking the cycle of disadvantage, giving children in care the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.



Sponsor a child



Workplace giving



Fundraising events



Inkind support



Connect & engage



Cause related marketing

**Without funding and support our programs would not exist**



**Tailored support and mutually beneficial partnerships**



Together we build an authentic connection that at its core aims to help QLD children and young people in out-of-home-care.

# Why support us

In Queensland, the plight of children who have experienced complex childhood trauma is a stark reality.

This number continues to swell, and as the cost of living rises, Queensland's children and young people are at an increasing risk of family violence, homelessness, and deteriorating mental health.

Over 11,500 children and young people are living in foster, kinship and residential care in Queensland. Many of these kids have suffered from years of horrifying abuse and neglect. Once placed in foster or residential care, their journey has only just begun. Issues such as placement instability, cognitive, social and emotional impacts of trauma, school moves and inherent issues with the child protection legislation and systems mean that children often suffer significant secondary trauma once they are in the child protection system as a result of systemic failures and legislation which is not child focused.

These impacts of the primary and secondary trauma of being a child in the 'system' often present as 'behavioural issues' leading to a higher incidence of suspension, exclusions or reduced hours at school, all of which compound the child's ability to engage, learn and have a positive educational experience, increasing the risk for disengagement. This educational gap increases as the child gets older and leads to adverse life outcomes including engagement with the youth justice system, poor mental and physical health, joblessness and a perpetuation of the cycle of abuse for offspring.

It does not have to be like this. Early intervention and support are critical and improving our child protection systems and how we support our youth is without question one of the most important things we can do as a society, not only for these children and young people but for the community as a whole.



“Brilliant concept. It is almost expected that kids in care will have poorer educational outcomes. **Little Stars Learners ensures kids in care are not left behind.**”



# Little Stars Learners<sup>®</sup>

Connect. Learn. Thrive.

## Trauma-informed and trauma-responsive learning support program for children and young people living in foster, kinship and residential care

### Connect

By establishing a deep connection first, we ensure that our learners feel seen, heard, and valued—laying the groundwork for transformative educational experiences.

### Link

Every activity, game, and lesson is linked to the QLD School Curriculum. While our learners are having fun, they're also making progress towards key educational milestones.

### Collaborate

We engage with carers, teachers, CSO's and others supporting the student to achieve optimal outcomes.

### Engage

Through a blend of fun, games, and flexibility, we're able to foster a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

### Excite

Every young person holds the potential for greatness. By tapping into their hopes, dreams, goals, and desires, our program helps them achieve their personal best.

### Support

We support the young person and their carer, so that they don't feel alone in the educational journey.



## The program

- In-home learning support
- Collaboratively supports teachers and schools
- Addresses curriculum gaps as a result of challenges of being a child in care
- Minimises behaviour-based exclusions from school
- Improves positive involvement in the classroom
- Supports the placement and improves placement stability
- One-on-one tailored support
- Creates a love of learning
- One-year commitment weekly to create real change
- Relationship-based
- Trauma-informed and trauma-responsive
- Collaborative approach involving all stakeholders involved
- Builds confidence and self-esteem
- Focus on maths and English as key components to success
- Community engagement including theatre, AFL and other fun day out experiences which provides holistic support



# Our impact so far...



**\$1,275,228**

Worth of education scholarship support provided by us to children in out-of-home care

**25,000+**

Education support hours provided to children in out-of-home care

**6,972+**

Scholarship education support hours completed

**\$181,700**

Cuddle cases to children entering emergency care

**\$409,140**

Camps, theatre trips, AFL games & fun days out



# Our stars and impact

“She now actively asks questions in class...”

Prior to getting the individualised learning support, the children were struggling to keep up with their peers in the classroom and socially in the playground. J has been diagnosed with a receptive language disorder which means she often doesn't understand information that is delivered verbally, and because of her low self-confidence, she never asked for clarification and so sat in class feeling overwhelmed.

Since Little Stars has provided this support, her teacher told me at the last parent-teacher interview that J is now actively asking questions and seeking clarification in class. This means she is not only understanding more of the classroom content but also gaining confidence.

*Message from foster carer Katrina*



# Our stars and impact



“ I am so happy for him  
I am literally crying...

Oh, my goodness! I am so happy for him I am literally crying! Getting this learning support scholarship again this year is the best news our little family has had in the last month.

Even though my husband and I have worked hard with P with homework and extra activities to strengthen his new skills, his support mentor Megan has formed such a lovely relationship with him. She supports and challenges his learning by using his interests and strengths and will often bring personalised activities for P to complete with her. We always look forward to her session summaries to see his progress through their sessions together.

I feel without this program, P would not have been as advanced as his schoolteacher has reported to us in the last few weeks. Thank you kindly. We are looking forward to next year and hopefully, Megan can continue her hard work with P.

*Message from foster carer Karen*



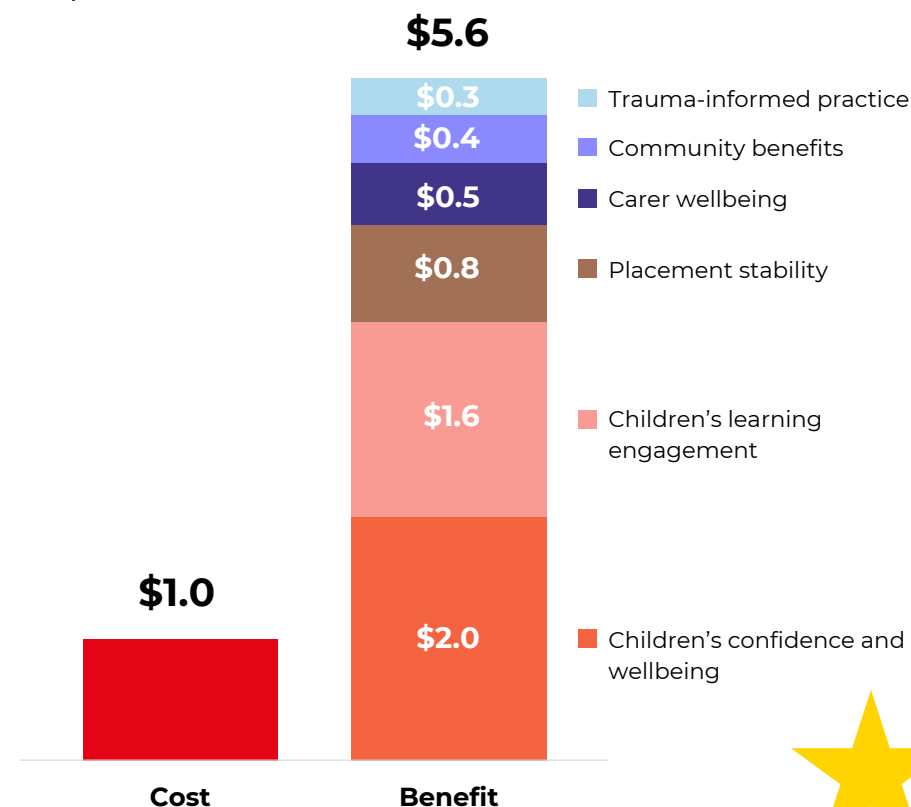
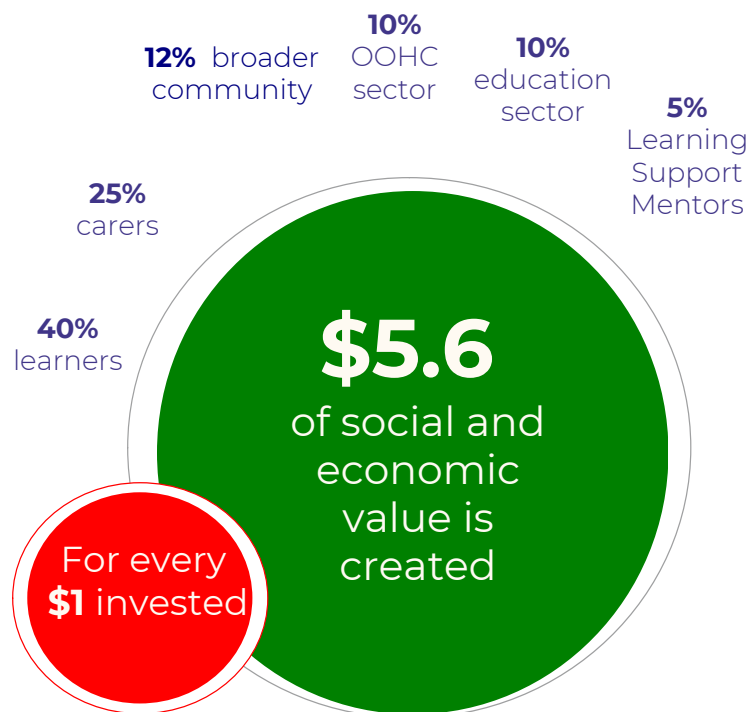


# Social Return on Investment Evaluation



Our Little Stars Learners program is not only transforming lives but are also delivering a high return on investment. For every \$1 invested in our Little Stars Learners Program, \$5.60 of social and economic value is created, benefiting children, carers, the education system, and the community at large.

- This powerful return highlights the significant impact of the program in addressing the educational challenges faced by children in care, creating lasting benefits for individuals and society.
- By investing in these young lives, we are breaking the cycle of disadvantage, giving children in care the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.



Source: Social Return on Investment Analysis completed by Lumenia in September 2024 ([www.lumenia.com.au](http://www.lumenia.com.au))



“

“Education is the  
most powerful  
weapon we can  
use to change  
the world”

*Nelson Mandela*



# How you can help...

Little Stars Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals and corporate and community supporters to ensure we advocate for and support children and young people who are living in foster, kinship and residential care.

From individuals donating \$1 a day to corporate partners selecting Little Stars Foundation as their Charity of Choice, there are many ways to join us to help support children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect who are living in foster, kinship and residential children throughout Queensland. Giving kids a brighter future through your fundraising initiative is one of the most rewarding things you can do.

As we are a DGR1 status charity, all donations are fully tax deductible.

Scan QR  
code to  
make a  
donation



# Get involved

## Sponsor a child

By partnering with us you can help to deliver our Little Stars Learners program and create brighter futures and tailored to the needs of children and young people living in foster, kinship and residential care in QLD.

## Fundraise

There are lots of ways to raise funds that help to make the Little Stars Programs possible. Run for us at an event like The Bridge to Brisbane, hold a fundraising event or donate in celebration.

## Legacy gifts

By making a gift in your will, you can have a lasting impact on children and young people in Queensland who have experienced some truly traumatic situations. Give an enduring gift of kindness.

## Champions

One of the best ways you can support us is to share our programs and our story with your family, friends, community and networks. Champions help us to make our Little Stars shine!

Scan QR  
code to  
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donation





# How to donate

## DIRECT DEPOSIT



Donations can be made directly to our bank account:

Little Stars Foundation P/L  
BSB 114879, A/C 432 901 523

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE



To make a donation through our website visit  
[www.littlestarsfoundation.org.au](http://www.littlestarsfoundation.org.au)  
or scan the QR code below.

## CREDIT CARD DONATIONS



We can set up regular donations via credit card if required.

Invoice and receipts will be issued.  
As we are a DGR1 status charity, all donations are fully tax-deductible.

Scan QR  
code to  
make a  
donation



# Contact us



LITTLE STARS  
FOUNDATION

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