

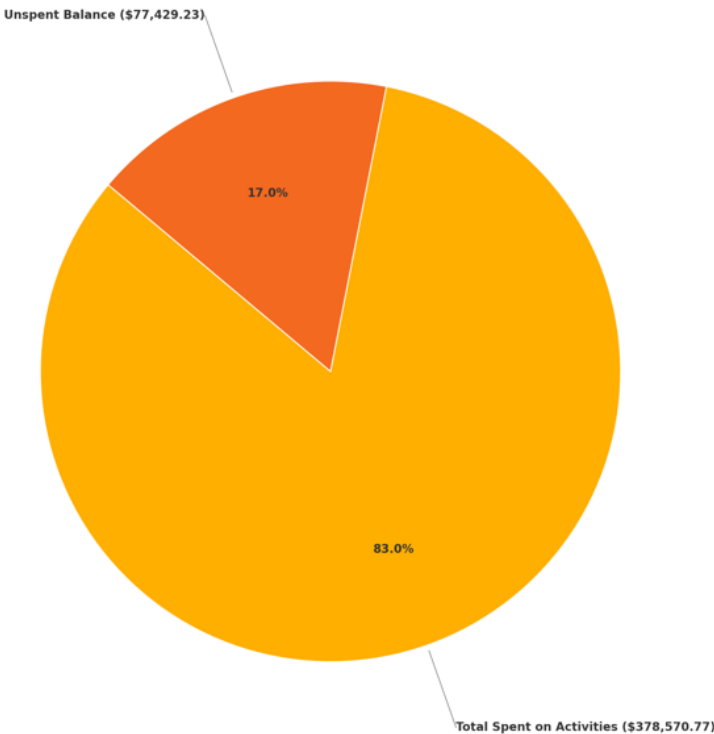
THE BATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

Equity of Access and Opportunity in Education

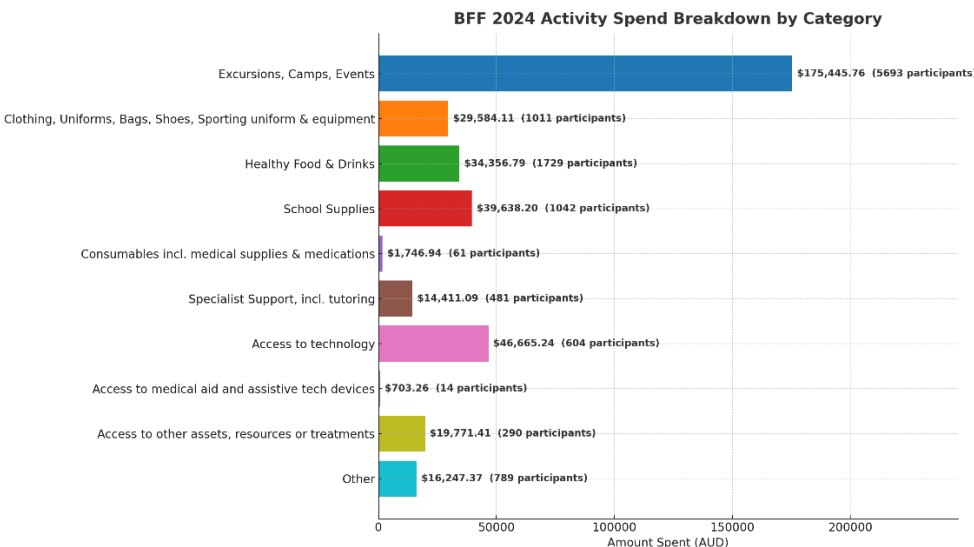
2024 Donations Snapshot

BFF 2024 Use of Total Donations (\$456,000.00)

Total number of Students who participated in Activities 11,714



12 schools have yet to report on their donation spending. Unspent balance includes **\$60,000 in donations** of those schools. The total of **unspent funds** from schools that have **partially spent** their donations is **\$17,429,23**.



Summary of Key Themes (Across All Schools)

**92 Victorian Government
Schools**
1 Queensland State School

1. Support for Essentials

Almost every school used part (or all) of their donation on:

- Excursions
- Camps
- Uniforms
- Stationery
- School packs

This helps students feel included, reduces stigma, and removes financial pressure from families.

2. Technology Access

Many schools invested in:

- iPads
- laptops
- Tech accessories

Used for classroom engagement and improving digital learning access. Beneficial especially in remote or lower-income areas.

3. Student Wellbeing

A few reports noted spending on:

- Food programs (e.g. Free Food Fridays)
- Mental health/wellbeing kits
- Subsidised camps and excursions

4. Impact is Broad and Immediate

Schools reported:

Immediate boost in confidence and pride (e.g. wearing a new uniform).

Better classroom participation and higher engagement, especially from students previously lacking resources.

5. Whole-school Benefits

Funds were not just for individual students:

Many schools stretched their donations to benefit **entire classes** or **entire student populations**.

Best Practice for Use of Funds:

- Excursions, Camps & Events
- Uniforms
- School supplies, stationery packs, books, etc
- Access to technology, laptops, headphones, etc
- Supply of healthy food, including growing and cooking
- Specialist support including various therapies and tutoring
- Other assistive devices such as slant boards for students with physical disabilities, and Hugga chairs to regulate emotions.

Highlights on Funding Use

Small Regional Primary School with <50 Students

Funding was used to support twenty-four (24) students, where many families cannot afford school uniform shirts and instead buy shirts the same colour but without the school emblem, meaning they look different. While the school has no issue with that, no child wants to look different to their peers. Even though the school hands out second-hand uniforms at no cost, they are usually not in pristine condition. The school reported that they could not express how excited some students were to actually get brand new uniforms for the first time, or for the first time in a long time!

Medium sized Regional Primary School with >200 Students

Four (4) students were supported with one-on-one tutoring with the donation from The Bates Family Foundation. These students made progression in their literacy and numeracy skills resulting in at least 18 months growth. What a great achievement!

Large Regional Secondary College with > 500 Students

Funding was used for an inclusive Year 7 Activity Day for one hundred and seven (107) students. This allowed all Year 7 students to be able to attend a day of social bonding activities to help them adjust to secondary college. Activities included a day out at Kings Billabong, including a Lion Clubs BBQ.

Large Metropolitan Secondary College with > 1000 Students

Ten (10) students were supported as part of the New Arrivals Program with scholarships for academic endeavour and achievement. These awards provided aspiration for all newly arrived students into their school as they learn the English language and settle into the community. Much needed resources were provided for these ten students during their transition process, particularly around resources and opportunity for experiences that are offered across the school.

Large Metropolitan Primary School with > 500 Students

Occupational Therapy was provided to eight (8) students who saw improvement in a number of areas including, gross motor skills, visual perception skills, fine motor skills, emotional and core regulation.

Small Regional Primary School with < 100 Students

Seventy (70) students participated in a whole school, end of year zoo excursion. This was important as in previous years the end of year excursions have not been financially accessible for all families due to excessive costs. The main demographic of the school is low socio-economic status families and families in crisis accommodation, so it is important to ensure all students feel equal and their education accessible.

Large Metropolitan Secondary College with >1000 Students

BFF Funding was used towards activities for the Year 8 & 9 Health & Wellbeing Day. Two hundred and eight (208) Year 8 students participated along with two hundred and nine (209) Year 9 students. Students took part in three main activities: Virtual Reality Wellness Sessions, Physical Activity Circuit, and Cultural Dance. The day aimed to promote physical, mental, and social health to provide students with knowledge and tools they need to make positive life choices. The event aligned with the college's commitment to holistic education and the development of students into healthy, well-rounded individuals. Absence data proved that the day was well-attended, with the college providing participation without any direct cost to students, and thanks in a large part to The Bates Family Foundation, students were able to experience the day without exception. Anecdotal feedback from participating students proved that the day was thoroughly enjoyed, with each of the three activities listed as the 'best of the day' by some students. The development of resilience, healthy lifestyle awareness, and deeper social connectedness with their peers has been observed since the event. The college was very grateful for the opportunity provided by The Bates Family Foundation to explore new and creative ways to engage students in learning about such essential skills, with the aim to continue to build on positive experiences, so that they can ensure life-long learning around these topics, which are integral to the personal development of students into happy, healthy, and successful individuals.

Small Metropolitan Primary School with <100 Students

The donation from The Bates Family Foundation supported twenty-seven (27) students from Grades 4, 5 & 6 to attend camp. The pressure that these funds took off the numerous struggling parents was evident. Some families with siblings were able to send all of the children on camp which meant that they did not miss out. Camp attendance improves the sense of connectedness to peers and school.

Small Regional Primary School with <200 Students

Funds were utilized to contribute to the school's breakfast program for one hundred and eighty-four (184) students. The local government area is low socio-economic with members of the community facing food insecurity. Offering the Breakfast Club ensures students are able to access nutritious food to start their day and give them the energy to positively set them up for learning.

Medium Metropolitan Primary School with <300 Students

A good portion of the donation was used to fund speech and language pathology sessions for an extremely vulnerable child to continue with important therapeutic supports while awaiting NDIS services. Outcomes in student wellbeing improved during these sessions and teachers were able to use strategies provided by the therapist to support learning outcomes.

Medium Metropolitan Secondary College with <500 Students

Laptops were provided for ten (10) VCE students to allow them access to essential programs such as Microsoft Office suite, Edrolo, Google Classroom, email, and online research, both at school and home. These devices were purchased specifically for scored students facing disadvantage, ensuring they have equitable access to the resources and tools needed to succeed in their VCE and VET subjects, performing at the same standard as their peers across the state.

Medium Regional Secondary College with <300 Students

Funding was spent on a range of sensory equipment and emotional regulation resources to support twenty (20) students in the early year levels. These included fidget toys, sets of noise-reducing headphones, musical instruments, wobble stools and cushions, crash mats, sensory tiles, and more. All of these will have an immeasurable positive impact on the students, and the college is grateful to The Bates Family Foundation for kindly providing these funds to allow the purchase of these resources.

Small Regional Primary School with <100 Students

Funds were used to purchase classroom supplies for ninety (90) students. Having this support has meant that the school has been able to ensure an adequate supply of classroom materials throughout all of the school's five (5) classrooms. Ensuring disadvantaged students have access to the same stationery as others has ensured that no student stands out as being different to the other no matter their socio-economic background.

Medium Regional Community College with <300 Students

The donation from The Bates Family Foundation was able to support ten (10) students enrolled in the college's Young Parents Program with ICT access via iPads. Students were able to access their learning and engage with their educators remotely using these iPads. As you can imagine, being a young parent presents many challenges to accessing education, and sometimes getting to school is a barrier. Access to their learning from home with these iPads has been a fantastic support for these students.