

What has been the impact of the Australian Disability and Indigenous People's Education Fund.

Since its inception in September 2009 there have been 28 funding rounds up to 31 March 2023. For a small community fund the ADIPEF has made an important contribution to the goals and aspirations of people with disability in Australia.

Initially working with the Towards a Just Society Foundation and now the Ralph and Betty Sims Fund both through the Australian Communities Foundation, we have previously distributed these funds through the Disability Resources Centre and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and continue to assist many people with disabilities. For example, during this period:

- 1491 applications were received.
- Of these, 348 were successful ie. approximately 23% of all applications
- Of these, 171 successful applicants were non-indigenous and 178 were indigenous people with disability
- Grants totalled \$280,881 (\$112,927 non-indigenous and \$167,954 indigenous)
- Grants generally ranged from \$400-\$1,500 and in many cases were part-funding only due to the limited funding base of the ADIPEF.
- 179 of recipients were male and 169 were female
- All recipients had a disability, with a number of people with multiple disabilities. All disability types were represented.
- While the majority of recipients were younger people with disabilities eg 141 aged 3-12 years and 83 aged 13-18 years, 41 people were aged between 19-30 years, 60 people were aged between 31-50 years and 18 people were in the 50+ years category.
- Grants were provided to residents throughout Australia: Victoria (94], Queensland (108], NSW (86], Western Australia (28], South Australia (20], Northern Territory (3], ACT (2) and Tasmania (3).
- Dependent on age and learning goals funds were used for a variety of purpose including: purchase ipads, associated disability-friendly apps, laptops, other accessible software, printers, scanners, assistive technological programs and aids such as Dragon Dictate, tutoring at all levels, training to use technology, TAFE, Adult Education and further learning courses, university fees, text books, speech therapy, occupational therapy, reading glasses, leadership programs, literacy and numeracy training, school outings and camps, forklift certificate, tools to start an apprenticeship, driving lessons, music lessons, art courses and training, horse riding, ballet classes, NASA space camp, piano lessons, swimming lessons etc.

Feedback from grant recipients and their families

'Just wanted to thank you sooooo very much for approving my son, Rylan's, application for a new iPad! We are so happy and so incredibly grateful. I had my NDIS meeting yesterday and was told that I couldn't get equipment for Rylan that including a communication iPad for him. I was so upset about it as he would benefit from it so greatly and needs it, so to come home and open your letter and receive the cheque to purchase one was so wonderful! ...it will make a huge difference for Rylan.' Victoria A.

'Thank you for your grant/sponsorship...I had the interview for the Gippsland Community Leadership Program two weeks ago... I am happy to inform you I have been accepted into the Program for 2017. Your grant will make a significant difference in my life, to enable me to attend and complete this program.' James

'I feel very fortunate to have been considered and I appreciate your encouragement for my future studies. I wish all the students who are part of your grant, all the very best with their academic pursuits. I thank you again for the wonderful opportunity that your education fund provides for students and all the very best to you also.' Jessica

'OMG thank you so much. I'm very grateful for this and am suprised for the girls to be recipients of tutoring. Wow I'm in tears thank you so much. I'm shaking. The girls will immensely benefit from this. Thank you so much.' Sarah

'I wanted to thank you for the cheque Connor received from your Foundation. He is very thankful and excitedly rang his aunty to tell her (he usually won't use the phone). He will have some work to do to earn the rest of his money and then get his computer to have a project over the summer. ... we are very appreciative that something positive has happened to him after a rough year.' Melissa

Funding for five students at a Queensland High School

'Chelsey uses her computer for school work and to help her with her work experience modules. Chelsey said it is great to have all her work stored on the computer as she is able to work at home to help her complete work.

Courtney said it is good to have all her school work stored on her new computer as she can keep all of her school work in their own files. She said it is good to keep up with the rest of the class. Courtney is able to research on her own now.

Caitlyn loves her new computer and will bring it to class when required but likes to do her work at home where she is able to do research and keep her files neat and tidy.

Gaige has found having his own device in class helps him to keep his work up to date. He can research for his assessments and class work. He doesn't have to write as much now.

Sam is happy to have her computer in class and is able to keep up to date with her assessments as she is in Grade 12 now and needed a computer to keep her documents in one place. She can also access her files from home.'