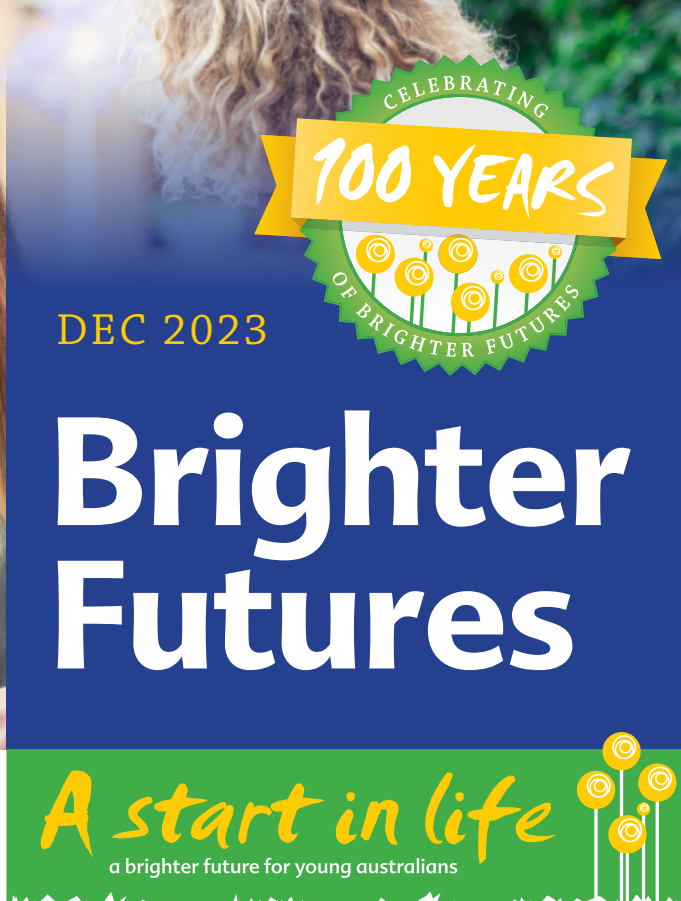




© BRIGHTER FUTURES

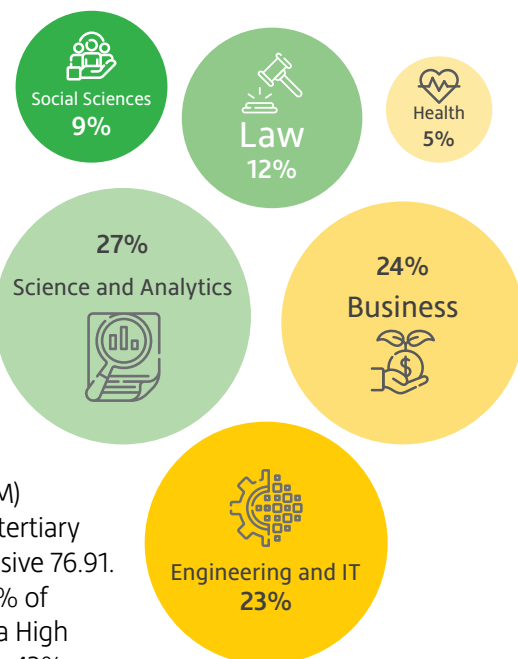
Tertiary students benefit from your support

As the year comes to an end, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible diversity and shared commitment of the tertiary students you help support.

Our students come from a wide array of backgrounds and study at twelve different Universities and TAFEs, ranging from their first to sixth year of study. They each hold a unique set of aspirations, yet they are united by their unwavering dedication to knowledge, hard work and the pursuit of a brighter future.

These students have a diverse range of academic interests and career aspirations, spanning various industries such as Economics, Computing, Medical Science, Education, Engineering and Agriculture to name just a few. In the past year alone, our students delved into 251 different subjects, ranging from 'Fundamental Concepts in Food and Nutrition' to 'Educational Thought' to 'Fix and Secure Electro-Technology Equipment'. This diverse range of subjects provides insight into their unique career goals. For example, Marianne, a student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation and Law, aspires to become a detective. Meanwhile, Nala, studying a Certificate III in Agriculture, is passionate about working with horses.

Through dedication and mastering effective study techniques, the average Weighted Average Mark (WAM) across our current tertiary cohort is an impressive 76.91. In the past year, 18% of students achieved a High Distinction average, 43% achieved a Distinction average and 24% achieved a Credit average. These students consistently go above and beyond in their pursuit of excellence too. Some of their recent achievements include Artie's leadership role in his University's competitive business consulting club, Marianne's inclusion in



Students' various fields of study

>>> the Dean's merit list, and Gill's resilience in passing the first semester of her Doctor of Medicine Degree despite the challenges of relocating to a different state.

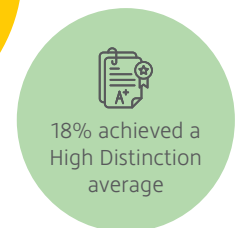
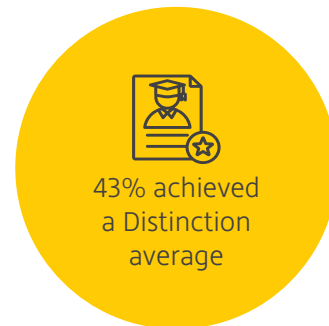
A common thread among these students is recognising the value of practical experience beyond the lecture room. For instance, Luisa, studying a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Advanced Computing, secured an internship with a leading national accounting firm, which led to a casual position in the tax department and invaluable practical experience in data visualisation. Meanwhile, Mimi has taken on various volunteer roles to support her Dentistry Degree, including delivering oral health workshops to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Cairns.

Reina, one of the 46% of students pursuing a double degree, recently reflected on the crucial role *A Start in Life* supporters play in her academic journey: "Your support has enabled me to work towards goals beyond academics, catalysing my personal development journey. It has allowed me to explore various career paths and pathways to success." Importantly, we tailor our support to meet each

student's specific needs, whether it's helping Mimi afford dental scrubs and plastic training teeth for her Dentistry Degree, or providing Simon with a customised laptop to meet the software requirements of his Engineering and Science Degree.

We take immense pride in the tertiary students you help us assist. Thanks to your kind support, we are confident they will continue to succeed and make lasting impacts across various enjoyable careers and industries.

Students' academic grades



© RAISING MONEY FOR A START IN LIFE

Soaring to New Heights

Chloe FAMILTON, a long term supporter of *A Start in Life*, is on a journey to become the youngest woman to circumnavigate Australia solo in a light aeroplane! At 17 years of age and having just completed the HSC, this is remarkable.

Chloe shares many philosophies with *A Start in Life* and believes that "every opportunity and avenue is possible" to young people in whatever field they choose. Having been an avid supporter of *A Start in Life* since she won a competition in primary school and decided to donate the proceeds to our charity, we are so delighted she is raising even more funds for us as part of her journey. After just a month of fundraising, Chloe has already raised over \$5,000!

Chloe has been fascinated with aviation from a very young age and with only 5% of Australian pilots being female, she is determined to encourage young people,

especially girls, to spread their wings and take flight to new possibilities. Chloe also wants to challenge herself as an aviator and prove that, in the 21st Century, all women and youth are completely capable of breaking down barriers and achieving anything they set their minds to.

To keep up to date on Chloe's progress, we encourage you to go to www.chloefamilton.au. Go Chloe!



Exceeding Expectations

Our Career Coaching is already broadening students' career perspectives and options.

Launched earlier this year for a small group of diligent and ambitious Year 9 students, our Career and Skills Development Scholarship helps build vital 21st Century skills relevant to the modern workplace and broadens the career horizons of these aspirational students. Students in this unique program are provided with valuable skills training, on site visits to some of Australia's leading employers, and one-on-one 'career sampling' meetings with a variety of industry professionals. Each of these are proving enormously beneficial (and you will hear more about them in coming newsletters!).

Our Career Coaches, Anthony and Giselle, also meet with each student on a monthly basis to help them discover and explore their unique values, skills and strengths through utilising a variety of resources. They spend valuable time with each student reflecting and considering how their values, skills and strengths may be applied in their current environments – including at school, with peers and at home. Our Career Coaches then use these insights to help students discover and explore the many different careers that their values, skills and strengths may be aligned with.

We are pleased with the surprise and delight experienced by the students as they not only realise the innate talents they already possess, but also the myriad of possible careers available to them. Just some of the careers and industries these students are interested in and have begun exploring are sports psychology, biomedical engineering, journalism, management consultancy, renewable energy and architecture.

These students are curious, willing to explore and take on opportunities for growth. Through reflecting on their values, skills and strengths, Anthony and Giselle also encourage students to explore areas they would like to improve on – whether it be working on perfectionistic traits or becoming a more confident speaker.

We have also witnessed significant mindset shifts amongst these students as they have welcomed new ideas and formed new opinions. Petra, for instance, used to see herself as a lone worker but now enjoys and recognises the value of creative collaboration. As Lisa stated, "I always wanted to be a doctor, but I've already changed my perspective on this through the Scholarship" and "if I could live multiple lives you would catch me doing every job for each lifetime".

Giselle and Anthony also mentor students in job readiness, professional development, workplace culture and the transition from school to tertiary studies; and provide tools to help create resumes, prepare for interviews and obtain internships.

We are confident these students will be truly 'future-proofed' and well placed to enter the workforce in the not too distant future. Most importantly, however, we know these students are already well on their way to broadening their career horizons and we are excited to continue supporting them on their path of self-discovery and growth.

© PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS

Student Achievements

The collective and individual achievements of our primary and secondary students continue to impress.

We are in awe of the remarkable progress of our primary and secondary students. On a collective level, students have improved study routines, attendance rates and participation in leadership amongst many other areas. On an individual level, we have also witnessed impressive accomplishments in a wide variety of areas including improving academic grades, finessing extra-curricular skills and personal development.

Just some of the highlights achieved, at both collective and individual levels, are shown in the tables on page 4.

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With your support, the assistance we provide helps students experience a better learning environment, thrive and become increasingly capable and accomplished young adults. Thank you.

Featured Achievements by Year Groups (Collective)

 Year 4 Improved their study routine by 18% – including completing homework and practising times tables	 Year 7 Highest rate of achievement of learning goals across all year groups	 Year 10 More than doubled their participation in school activities – e.g. sports carnivals, excursions, camps
 Year 5 Experienced a 32% increase in new interests	 Year 8 Half of all students achieved an average mark of 70% or higher in English	 Year 11 Gained a 27% uplift in their overall grades in elective subjects
 Year 6 1/3 of students were involved in leadership roles – e.g. SRC, Arts Captain, Vice-Captain	 Year 9 Improved their literacy grades by 39% and numeracy grades by 14%	 Year 12 Achieved an 18% increase in their confidence to learn

Featured Achievements by Students (Individual)

Mar Year 3	- Stepped outside his comfort zone to perform in Drama and “left the class in stitches” - With “the biggest infectious smile” participated in the school eisteddfod
Namina Year 4	- Won multiple gold, silver and bronze medals at her gymnastics championships - Helped her team win multiple awards
Monica Year 5	Developed her creative side by designing her own picture book, writing a poem, experimenting with artistic techniques and enthusiastically performing in her class play
Lex Year 7	- Attained mainly A’s and B’s in his recent school report - Experienced exceptional growth since tutoring began. Lex’s tutor said “It has been an honour to be given the opportunity to mentor Lex and I am so proud of all his achievements”
William Year 9	Excelled in History – including a source analysis of WWI, and an essay on the colonisation on First Nations Peoples of Australia
Fifi Year 10	Selected for UNSW’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering program and gained work experience on 6 projects. A huge achievement as only 90 students state wide were selected!
Al Year 11	- Placed in the top 10 for all subjects (a goal of his) – including 1st in PDHPE - Self-directed learner who undertook additional activities to seek understanding of career prospects
Rinny Year 12	- Improved her exam mark to 75% from 49% after identifying opportunity to move to Standard from Advanced Maths - Received favourable comments from teacher, including that she is “never shy from extending herself mathematically” and working ahead of schedule

