

THIRD LINK PARTNER PROFILE

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)
REAPing Rewards Program



“Quality education should be accessible to all children in rural, regional and remote Australia, regardless of circumstances”

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) champions the economic and social strength of Australia’s regional, rural & remote communities through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and government. FRRR’s focus has been to make discretionary grants to not-for-profit organisations working to strengthen rural and regional communities across Australia. The REAPing Rewards program assists early childhood, primary and secondary learning establishments to deliver quality, positive educational experiences.





KEY PROGRAMS

Access to programs and resources is often a major barrier to learning for students in rural, regional and remote Australia, which in turn affects students' engagement and motivation. REAPing Rewards is a small grants program, supporting locally-driven projects that directly benefit pre-schoolers, students up to 18 years of age, and their educators.

Dedicated FRRR staff oversee program delivery, liaise with community groups, key stakeholders and peak bodies, and evaluate and review the program to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of the community.

CLIENT BASE

The REAPing Rewards program aims to ensure the delivery of quality, positive educational experiences in the early childhood, primary and secondary years to children in remote, rural and regional communities of Australia – especially those with fewer than 15,000 people.

It assists community-based, not-for-profit organisations and educators such as community playgroups, kindergartens, preschools, day care / family centres, toy libraries and Parents & Friends groups, to fund projects that enhance:

- Literacy and numeracy
- School readiness
- Student engagement, leadership and retention through positive attitudes to learning
- Digital online learning/technology
- Creative and performing arts
- Skills of educators, through Professional Development
- Pathways to meaningful employment or further training
- Involving the community in school/ parental learning programs

Since the launch of the program in 2013, FRRR has granted more than \$1.1 million to almost 200 projects in rural, regional and remote areas across Australia.

EVIDENCE BASE

There are constant challenges to delivering early childhood and education support in rural Australia. This includes complex barriers to education in these areas, such as economic restructure and decline, isolation, Indigenous engagement, as well as adverse weather events.

Access to early-years education support is especially limited. Some families are unable to provide early learning or social experiences for their children and rely on playgroups, child care and preschools for these vital opportunities. Playgroups help children to learn vital socialisation skills and expose them to educational toys and experiences they may not have at home. They also help families with peer support for parents, especially young mothers.

Program results are measured both quantitatively and qualitatively, with each project reporting on the impact within 12 months. This means the program is flexible and responsive to ensure it is providing support where it's really needed.

Playgroups help children to learn to play with others and expose them to educational toys and experiences they may not have at home

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE

Third Link's support of REAPing Rewards enables the support of educational projects like these:

Bringing sunshine to a playgroup

The small mining town of Paraburdoo in WA has more than double the national average of 0 – 4 year olds, and the Sunshine Playgroup wanted to provide the children with the same experiences as those in urban centres. Funds enabled the purchase of equipment for Active Playgroup, a program which aims to increase confidence and independence, develop coordination, increase fitness and allow kids to use their energy while having fun. Responses from parents were overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing that the program plays a valuable role in their children's development.

Understanding diversity, from day one

The Parkes / Forbes Family Day Care is in an area of NSW that has experienced population growth due to the mining boom. Approximately 230 families benefit from the Family Day Care service and its toy library borrowing system provides resources to enhance early childhood development. Funds enabled the purchase of multicultural and Indigenous resources for the toy library to engage the local Indigenous population and develop awareness of diversity with children from an early age. A staff member said that the new resources provide an excellent opportunity for children who may not have the opportunity to otherwise experience different cultures, and thereby increase cultural awareness and tolerance.

Kindy of the Air

The Longreach School of Distance Education has offered programs from prep to year 10 for many decades, but has never had a preschool program. The funds enabled the development and introduction of a distance preschool program, which includes parent learning kits and guides, activities and toys. The resources are rotated during the year to promote hands-on learning for pre-school age children living in remote parts of Australia. The program is now being used as a key learning tool by parents of young children living on large remote grazing properties.

POINT OF DIFFERENCE

REAPing Rewards helps to ensure equity in education for students in rural and remote areas, addressing isolation and getting early intervention services to children who need them. This flexible program, built on what communities are asking for, means you can reach and help people who would otherwise normally not be able to access philanthropic resources.



Learn more about REAP and FRRR by visiting:
www.frrr.org.au

