




2022

A Year in Review

DYM  CKS
CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

Acknowledgement of Country

Dymocks Children's Charities acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise their continuous connections to Country, community and cultures as well as their stories, traditions and practices.

We acknowledge the long lasting strength and resilience of the peoples that have come before us and the sovereignty of the Traditional Owners of these lands. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Who we are

Dymocks Children's Charities is an independent, Australia-wide charity who provide brand-new books to children in priority locations around Australia.

What we do

We support children who have limited or no access to age-appropriate or relevant books. We do this because children who are exposed to good books and read regularly have better educational outcomes and lead healthier and happier lives.

Our history

Established in 2000, we've been working with communities to improve children's literacy to support over 500,000 children around Australia to date.

Our Mission:

To promote a love of reading and improve literacy outcomes for children in Australia.

Winchelsea Primary School, VIC





Welcome to our 2022 Year in Review!



2022 has been an incredible year of making a difference to children's literacy thanks to our generous community of donors, partners, supporters and team who stand with us as we promote a love of reading and improve literacy outcomes for children across Australia. Thanks to the support of our Dymocks Children's Charities' (DCC) network this year, we've helped deliver the life-changing gift of literacy to children across all states and territories in Australia. The bottom 1-2% of schools have been a significant focus in 2022 in accordance with the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA).



2022 has been DCC's most successful year to date with the highest number of books distributed and schools supported. We were delighted to deliver over 74,000 books to over 219 schools and nearly 40,000 students across the country. This was only made possible through the generosity of our supporters.



Through the introduction of our free, online book club, Lit Club 4 Kids, as well as new schools participating in our Library Regeneration and Book Bank programs, more children are discovering for themselves the joy and magic of a good book which can set them up with a lifelong love of reading and learning.

However, it wasn't a year without challenges, with devastating floods impacting communities right across Australia. Many of the schools we worked with shared that their students had lost everything they owned in the flood, but many also shared amazing stories of resilience, unity and community.



Our 2022 Flood Appeal saw our community come together to raise over \$85,000, to deliver over 22,000 books to flood-affected schools. In response to receiving 273 brand-new books, a teacher from Tumbulgum Public School in Northern NSW shared *"I was distressed when our entire left-over library fit on one single desk. These books will make a huge impact for our children, thank you."*



One in six children and young people in Australia grow up in poverty.¹ Through DCC's process of identifying priority areas, we have targeted schools with some of the lowest socioeconomic scores in Australia. DCC then works with the school and community to deliver the tools to build vital literacy skills and provide entertaining books to grow children's creativity, imagination and sense of adventure.

The Dymocks Children's Charities team continue to work tirelessly to ensure disadvantaged children across Australia can access great quality books, games, puzzles and literacy programs. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board of Directors, collaborating organisations, funding partners and the Dymocks store network for their ongoing support in 2022.

Together, along with our wonderful donors we were able to reach tens of thousands of children in a challenging year which we could not have done without your commitment and support.



Best wishes,

Melanie Smith
General Manager

Melanie



Literacy in Australia


Our programs support schools and other important community groups where a need for assistance has been identified.

Many of the children we support have limited or no access to books of their own. A lack of resources at school, no local library or poorly stocked local libraries, combined with financial challenges at home mean good books are often unavailable.

Disadvantaged children are up to

5 years behind


their peers with this gap growing from year 3 to year 9 according to NAPLAN ²

45%

of Australian school librarians indicated that their library budget is “insufficient” ³


6%



of disadvantaged students, were top performers in reading compared to 24% of students who are in the highest socioeconomic status quartile ⁴

1 in 4

year 7 students do not have the required numeracy or literacy skills to start high school. This can have a ripple effect throughout the rest of their schooling years and beyond ⁵



12.6%



of Australian adults have literacy skills that are lower than required for participation in work, education and society ⁴

4 in 10

children in Australia own less than 10 books at home ⁶



Our Programs

In 2022, we ran three core programs that provided brand new books to children in priority locations around Australia:

Book Bank



The Book Bank program supports students in years 3-6 by promoting book ownership and a love of reading. Students select a brand-new book each term, every year from a specially curated catalogue of age-appropriate, recent and relevant titles. Students are encouraged to read, swap, and share the books with their classmates and at the end of each term, they keep their chosen book to cherish forever. This means by the time they finish primary school, they will have collected 16 books. Sometimes, these will be the only 16 books they will own in their childhood.

Library Regeneration



The Library Regeneration program equips school libraries and other important support centres with brand-new books of their choice. The school selects books from a catalogue of over 2,600 quality titles to ensure they receive the most suitable books for their students' needs, interests and curriculum. The program breathes new life into libraries and is delivered for a range of reasons including insufficient school funding, schools located in low socioeconomic areas and disaster relief.




Read at Home

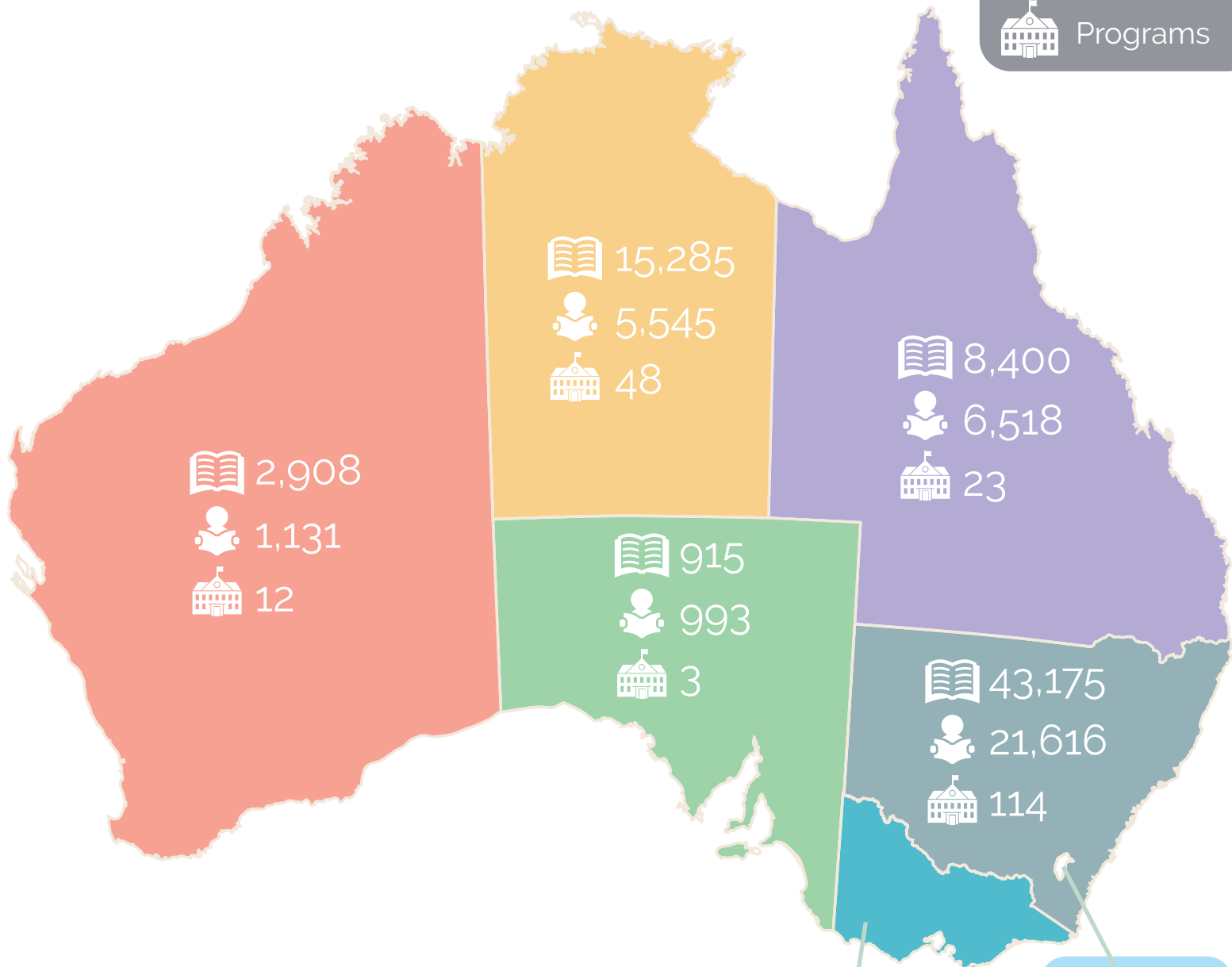


The Read at Home program extends beyond school environments into children's homes. The program supports children of all ages in priority locations and is often used to support communities through disasters including the recent floods, bushfires and the pandemic. Children receive brand new books, educational games, puzzles and activity books to keep, cherish and call their own at home.

Regular access to good books is an important first step towards improving literacy outcomes.


Our Impact in 2022

-  Books
-  Children
-  Programs



In 2022, DCC supported

 74,703 Books

 39,878 Children

 219 Programs

That's over \$1.4 million worth of books!



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Thamarrurr, NT

Library Regeneration

Our Library Regeneration programs restock school libraries and other important support centres with brand new books of choice. In 2022, 161 schools and centres were supported through this program, making it the largest program in our profile.

Library Regeneration programs build and replenish library collections with new, exciting titles the children will love.

Schools are able to select their own books from an extensive catalogue of over 2,600 titles. Covering a diverse range of genre and subject areas, the books cater for the specific needs and interests of the students as well as the schools' curriculum.

One of the benefits of the Library Regeneration program is that the books can be enjoyed by the school community for years to come. In 2022, our Library Regeneration program schools had a total enrolment of 32,558 students, and this number will continue to rise as new cohorts join the school community.



The books have arrived and have been a wonderful addition to our school. As a small school with a limited budget, and a very tired library of books, this has provided us with such an excellent provision of resources that we otherwise simply couldn't have afforded. We appreciate it so very much.

Teacher, Bulman School NT



47,064
books



32,558
children



161
schools

Case Study: Meet our Palm Island Library Regeneration Schools!

In 2022, Dymocks Children's Charities had the opportunity to work with Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's Catholic School in Palm Island. Located in far north Queensland, our Library Regeneration program saw the delivery of over 800 brand-new books for the schools' 425 students who range from kindergarten to year 12. Both schools fall within the bottom 1% of schools in Australia in accordance with ICSEA rankings.⁷



Where is Palm Island?

Palm Island is located 182km north of Townsville, QLD. To drive from Townsville to the island would take over 10 hours! There are two ferries a day between Palm Island and the mainland of Australia as well as flights three days a week.



The program allowed us to turn over our current library stock. We also chose titles that the children at our school would really relate to as our school is 98% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Principal, St Michael's Catholic School

This is a great program that really benefits students, they loved all the books, especially the Bluey books!

Year 2 Teacher, Bwgcolman School



839
books



425
children



2
schools



What books can you find in our catalogue?

Dymocks Children's Charities gives children, teachers and schools the opportunity to select brand-new books that genuinely excite and inspire them.

Our specially curated catalogue has over 2,600 titles across all genres and reading levels. Teachers or Librarians can choose the books they need for their school based on the following:

- their cohort's reading age and interests
- popular titles that are missing in their collection
- books aligned with curriculum
- building classroom book sets

Our programs team work directly with 16 publishers to curate an extensive, diverse and up-to-date booklist. We work with large international publishing houses for popular titles, classics and new releases.

We collaborate with the Children's Book Council Award (CBCA) and Australian Children's Laureate Foundation (ACLF) to curate a list of quality children's titles. This year, we were thrilled to bring Woodslane Press on board and include their series, *Deadly Science* by Corey Tutt in our catalogue which has quickly become a school favourite!

A big thank you to our publishing partners:



Book Bank

Book Bank is Dymocks Children's Charities' longest running program. It supports children in years 3-6 from schools throughout Australia. Students choose a brand-new book each term (four per year), every year, for four years.

Students are able to take the books home to keep and cherish forever. They are also encouraged to share their books with their classmates and discuss the books.

In a 2022 survey of the Book Bank schools, 100% of participants stated that the program increased student's enthusiasm for reading. Feedback from the schools and students also consistently tells us that Book Bank is one of the most powerful ways to motivate their students to read.

There are currently 20 schools participating in the Book Bank program. That's over 3,400 students who received four brand-new books of their choice each in 2022! We were delighted to welcome three new schools into the program in 2022 - Leichhardt State School in QLD, Budgewoi Public School and Bass Hill Public School in NSW.



The excitement and joy in seeing the student's faces light up when they received their books and were told they could keep them was amazing. Students have also been more interactive in discussing books with each other!

Teacher Librarian, Lightning Ridge Central School



13,833
books



3,459
children



20
schools

The Book Bank Program is proudly supported by:



Randwick Club



Ha-Ke-Na
Foundation

Warialda Public
School, NSW



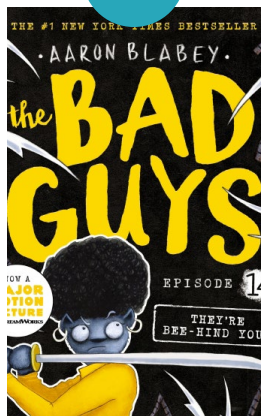


Ulmarra Public School, NSW

Top 10: Book Bank

We analysed the Book Bank student's book selections from 2022, and the following books were the most popular titles for the year:

1



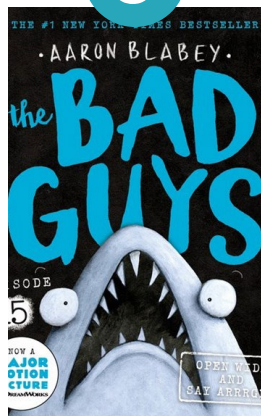
The Bad Guys
Episode 14:
They're Bee-Hind
You!

2



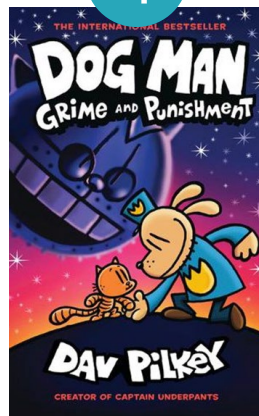
Into The Wild:
Wolf Girl 1

3



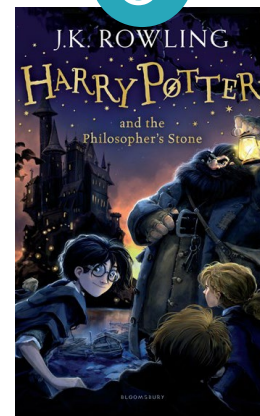
The Bad Guys:
Episode 15:
Open Wide And
Say Arrrgh!

4



Dog Man #9:
Grime And
Punishment

5



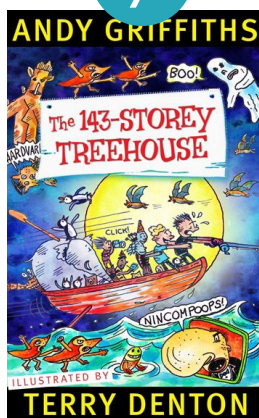
Harry Potter and
the Philosopher's
Stone

6



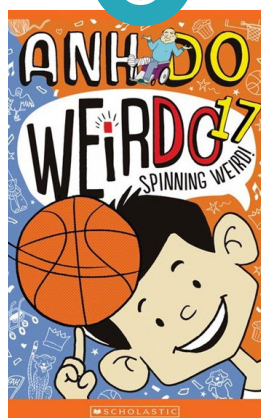
Dog Man #10:
Mothering Heights

7



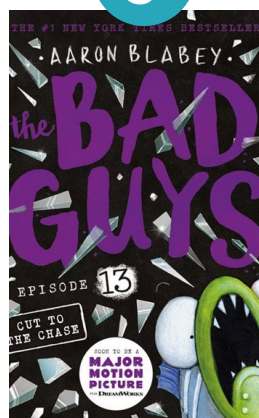
The 143-Storey
Treehouse

8



Weirdo #17:
Spinning Weird

9



The Bad Guys
Episode 13:
Cut To The Chase

10



Diary Of An 8-Bit
Warrior:
Book 4: Path Of
The Diamond

Case Study: 2022 Flood Response

In early 2022, Australia's east coast experienced storms and intense rainfall which endured for weeks. Southeast Queensland and Northern New South Wales were devastated by the floods with tens of thousands of people being evacuated and facing the difficult task of rebuilding their homes and lives.

In response to the devastation of the floods, Dymocks Children's Charities turned to our donor community and a number of corporate donors including AIS NSW through the 2022 Flood Appeal. Over 22,000 books were provided to children and school communities who were heavily impacted, many of whom are still displaced from their homes and schools.

Due to substantial damage from the rain, over 100 students and teachers from One Mile State School (pictured below) were forced to use facilities at another nearby school so the students could continue to learn in a safe environment. Many of these communities lost everything in the floods, so the books were an important first step in the rebuild of school library collections.



It has been a stressful time processing the loss, then facing the rebuild and this makes an enormous difference in moving forward – getting books back into the hands of the children. I was absolutely thrilled with the news about the generous donation!

Teacher, Mullumbimby Public School



The students were so appreciative and the books made them feel that something good came out of a very negative and traumatic flood experience. They lost so much that this was just a little light of hope for them.

Teacher, Tweed Valley Adventist College



22,373
books



5,765
children



36
schools

One Mile State School, QLD



The Great Debate Gala

The Great Debate is our biggest night of the year and is an opportunity to showcase the work of DCC while raising much-needed funds to support our programs. Our 2022 Great Debate Gala raised a record-breaking \$372,000!

In 2022, The Great Debate once again took place at the five-star Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney's CBD. Guests enjoyed a premium three-course dinner while being entertained throughout the evening by an outstanding line-up of celebrity personalities engaging in the debate. Led by DCC Ambassadors Adam Spencer & Rob Carlton, the topic for the 2022 debate was "Everyone should write a book".

The lively banter of the Great Debate was interspersed with an exciting live auction and opportunities to bid on luxurious silent auction items. Thank you to the sponsors, donors, partners and guests who helped make our 2022 Great Debate such a success.

The Great Debate was proudly sponsored by:



\$372,000
raised



280+
guests





Gorokan Public School, NSW

Library Boost Project

Throughout Term 3, 2022 the Library Boost Project challenged schools across Australia to fundraise and blast off with brand-new books. The Library Boost Project empowers school communities to take an active role in fundraising for books for their library as well as a school in need.

As part of the project, schools and community groups were encouraged to organise a fundraiser of their choice. This year we had 18 amazing schools join the fun and some of the creative fundraisers we saw included:

- Coin Walls
- Crazy-Hair Days
- Flamingo Friday
- Fun Runs & Relays
- Movie Nights
- Mufti Days
- School Disco
- Second-Hand Book Sales
- Step Challenges



Library Boost Project 2022 was proudly supported by:



\$28,627
raised



18
fundraising schools

Lit Club 4 Kids

Lit Club 4 Kids book club was launched in September 2022. Designed to inspire children aged 8 - 13 years, Lit Club 4 Kids is a free, safe and inclusive digital space for children to find new books, engage with authors, enjoy fun activities and develop their love of reading.

DCC select a new book every 3 months with each book being accompanied by lots of creative activities, resources and detailed teacher notes. Each book also includes an exclusive online Q&A event with the author for Lit Club 4 Kids members. The first book club pick for 2022 was *We Run Tomorrow* by Nat Amore and Mike Barry, published by Penguin Random House.

The book club was launched with a fantastic event with students from La Perouse Public School. The event included an extremely engaging author reading with Nat, an interactive Q&A session, illustration activities with Mike, games and plenty of delicious cupcakes too! Lots of fun was had as we celebrated the power of reading in fostering connection and community. La Perouse Public School has participated in our Book Bank program since 2012. It was wonderful to take this next step and launch our book club alongside them.

I loved the book. I liked that it had real places from Australia in it like the Gold Coast! The story was exciting and I liked all the characters. I would recommend this book to my friends!

Kai, Lit Club 4 Kids Member, Year 3



550+

members

litclub4kids.com.au



La Perouse Public
School, NSW

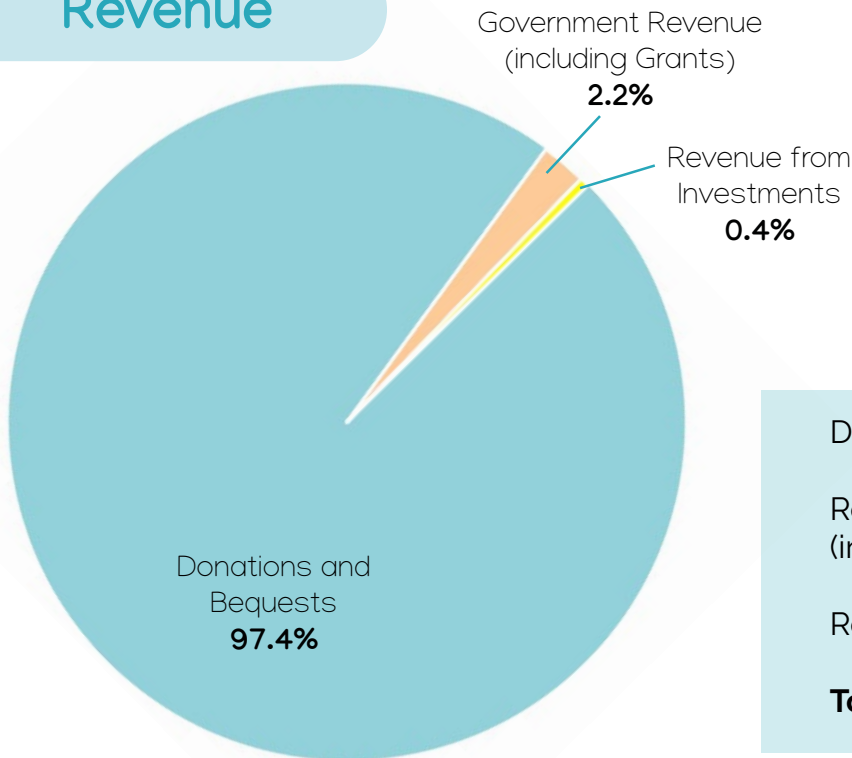
Accountability

Dymocks Children's Charities is registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and our audited accounts are published annually.

The FY22 Annual Report is available to view [here](#).

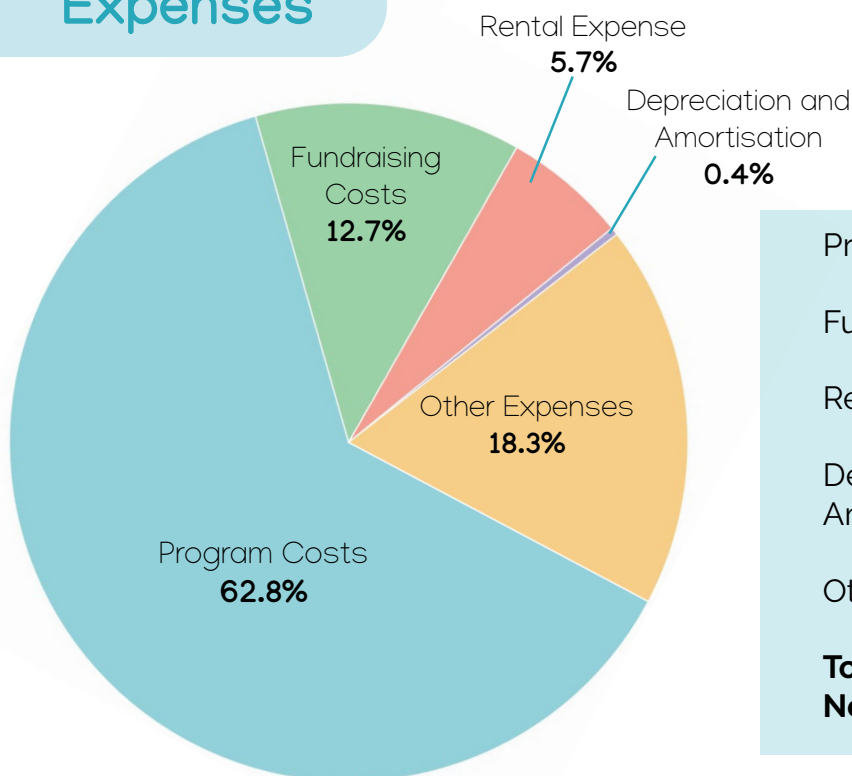
Appointed Auditor: Ernst & Young

Revenue



| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Donations and Bequests | \$1,463,314 |
| Revenue from Government (including Grants) | \$32,576 |
| Revenue from Investments | \$6,499 |
| Total Revenue | \$1,502,389 |

Expenses



| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Program Costs | \$747,567 |
| Fundraising Costs | \$151,065 |
| Rental Expense | \$70,140 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation | \$4,329 |
| Other Expenses | \$217,428 |
| Total Revenue | \$1,190,529 |
| Net Surplus | \$311,860 |

Thank you

This report shows how the generosity of our DCC supporters makes a meaningful impact on the lives of disadvantaged children and their access to literacy.

Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Robert Williams | Chairman | Janelle Fyson | Director |
| Mark Newman | Managing Director | Shane Lloyd | Director |
| Cathy Tiberio | Treasurer | Geoff Newcombe | Director |
| Adelina Tama | Secretary | Paul Nicolaou | Director |
| Emma DiGiacomo | Director | Kaylie Smith | Director |

Team

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Melanie Smith | Acting General Manager |
| Evelyn Liu | General Manager |
| Corinne Schweizer | Program Manager |
| Emily Meredith | Program Coordinator |
| Maddison Guthridge | Fundraising & Events Supervisor |
| Melanie Malakou | Fundraising & Events Officer |
| Megan Harte | Digital Marketing & Communications Officer |

Publishing Partners

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Affirm Press | Harper Collins | Simon & Schuster |
| Allen & Unwin | Magabala Books | Walker Books |
| Bloomsbury | New South Books | Wiley Books |
| Exisle Publishing | Pan Macmillan | Woodslane |
| Hachette | Penguin Random House | |
| Hardie Grant Publishing | Scholastic | |



Mundulla Primary School, SA



Bentley Primary School, WA


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2. *Three things we should do to close the education equity gap*, 2021, Grattan Institute.
3. *2021 School Library Survey Report Australia*, 2021, Softlink Education.
4. *2018 Country Note, Australia*, 2018, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Programme for International Student Assessment.
5. *Educational opportunity in Australia 2020: Who succeeds and who misses out*, 2020, Centre for International Research on Education Systems, Victoria University, for the Mitchell Institute: Melbourne.
6. *Books for Kids Survey Report*, 2017, Dymocks, YouGov.
7. *What does the ICSEA Value Mean*, 2015, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).





DYMOCKS



CHILDREN'S CHARITIES



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