

**Report to Court Grammar School
for Support of Anglicare WA
2019 Back to School Christmas Appeal**



Background

As part of the 2019 Anglicare WA Christmas Appeal, our partner schools were asked to consider donating back to school supplies, backpacks and lunchboxes. Our frontline staff tell us that one of the things that families often struggle to afford when going through hard times is school equipment. Not to be able to send your child to school with the correct school supplies impacts not only their education but their confidence and dignity. During this Christmas season we wanted to make sure that as many of our clients received the back to school supplies they need, ready for the 2020 school year.

Anglicare WA supports over 40,000 Western Australians every year, with demand for our services ever increasing. Of those, over 10,000 are children. We operate 86 services in 56 locations across WA. Supporting families going through tough times is at the heart of what we do every day. While our reach and impact are significant, for most at Anglicare WA it is the individual stories that demonstrate our impact. As an organisation where people support people, it is the human stories of growth, resilience and connection that drive our work and remind us every day why it is we continue to do what we do.

Court Grammar School's participation in the 2019 Back to School Christmas Appeal helped to provide essential items for many of Anglicare WA's clients. It took the burden of this cost away from these families and has given the children a sense of pride and excitement for the start of the 2020 school year. The Court Grammar School community made a true impact on the lives of many Western Australian families with their generous, thoughtful and well managed Christmas campaign.

Outcomes

The Back to School Christmas Appeal was able to provide families from Bunbury to Joondalup with stationery and backpacks. The backpacks were packed by volunteers from Perth College who ensured that the appropriate items were packed into the bags. Each backpack contained a collection of stationery items, a lunch box and water bottle.

Gifts were distributed to most of Anglicare WA's metropolitan offices, as well as our Bunbury office. East Perth, Mandurah, Rockingham, Joondalup, Midland, Wanneroo, Armadale and Gosnells offices all received a delivery of backpacks for their clients. The reach of the donations reflects the amazing response we had to the appeal this year. We were very pleased that so many of our young clients were able to receive a backpack.

Thank You

We have received feedback from our service workers across Perth about the donated backpacks. The feedback has been beautiful. The best way to demonstrate this is with words from the support workers themselves, who gave the backpacks out to their clients just before Christmas:

"This family is a young family of 6, They have 4 children aged 7,5,3 and a very new addition only just 20 days old. The family have been in hardship for the last 12 months due to husband X injuring his spine on site as he worked FIFO. X has since recovered and is seeking employment however due to the financial hardship the family is still currently on the brink of losing their family home being in arrears along with having multiple outstanding debts owed.

This family have never experienced such hardship in the past and were reluctant to have their photo taken this morning however tears were shed and it is clear how much of an impact this gift has made on the family during this tough time. With the help of donated school bags, books and Christmas toys Anglicare WA have certainly helped this family throughout their struggles and will continue to do so as the family faces a few more hurdles. Because of this great campaign we were able to ensure the family can enjoy the holiday season this Christmas."

Financial Counsellor, Armadale

"The back packs had so much cool stuff in them. Most of the kids who have received one have been over the moon with excitement.

One little 4 year old girl is starting kindy next year and chose a little 'Hello Kitty' backpack that was perfect for her size . It had a brand new lunch box and drink bottle with unicorns on it. She literally screamed with joy.

Thank you so much. Many families in this area have experienced joy and relief through the generosity of the donors of these gifts."

Manager, Gosnells



"My client sends her thanks and appreciation. After separation she lost her job, struggled with her mental health and had financial difficulties with re-housing herself, her 2-year old and 15 year old sons. She became teary and overwhelmed at the generosity offered by the donors and felt relief as she wasn't sure how she was going to afford any gifts for her children this year.

Big thanks to all involved for helping support our families at Anglicare WA this Christmas."
Counsellor, Joondalup

"One gorgeous girl chose a Smiggles backpack (we know they are pricey and the kids know that too and most can't afford Smiggles)! She said she was 'never going to take it off'. She is vision impaired and the backpack was a bright pink. Her grandmother also was really appreciative as it would help her out not having to buy so many stationery items for the new year."

Child and Adolescent Counsellor, Gosnells

"Oh thank you, this means so much. I haven't had the money to go and buy much. Thank you again."

Client, Joondalup

Conclusion

The feedback from all of the service and support workers who distributed the backpacks has been overwhelmingly positive. The quantity, quality and thoughtfulness of the donations was truly heart-warming.

Thank you to all Court Grammar School. You provided a little brightness to some of our state's most vulnerable families this Christmas. We are very grateful to be chosen as the recipient of your 2019 Christmas donations and truly value the partnership between Court GS and Anglicare WA. Wishing you all a wonderful 2020.

Kelly Keall
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Anglicare WA