

Annual Impact Report 2025

Connection matters

raise.org.au

raise
youth mentoring
that changes lives

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we mentor. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise their long-held traditions of mentoring and nurturing the next generation through story, connection, and shared wisdom. We honour that legacy by creating spaces where learning flows both ways and every voice is valued.



Raise acknowledges and honours the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We pledge to create and maintain an environment that celebrates diversity and equality and is inclusive for all.

To protect the privacy of our mentees, photos featured throughout this document do not feature real mentees. The quotes used on the images are not related to the person(s) pictured.



"Raise mentoring should be shared worldwide because it helps young people particularly with their communication skills, opening up, learn to trust others, helping others, being confident and positive."

– Raise mentee



Letter from the CEO and Chair

We can't strengthen community connection alone, and it is so needed right now. It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes the whole Raise Village to improve youth wellbeing in our country. We know we can make a huge impact together, and your continued support is invaluable and appreciated.

Over the past 17 years Raise has grown and evolved just like the young people we support, and, like them, we're making another significant transition this year.

Since we started in 2008, with just 58 young people across 3 school programs, we've been developing and refining our mentoring programs to ensure that, year after year, we see the same consistently significant, positive impacts for young people. We have total confidence that mentoring works, with independent research confirming what we've seen in our evaluations every year. With the commencement of an exciting longitudinal study this year, we are excited to speak with Raise graduates over time to further prove the difference that mentoring makes. In 2025 alone, we've provided our proven program to a record 2,753 young people across 189 school programs, which we are very proud of.

Alongside this, 2025 has marked a significant change for us. Delivering our programs through schools has been the core foundation on which we've grown, and we'll continue to deliver our flagship program this way. However, to reach more young people across Australia who would benefit from a trained and trusted mentor, we are thinking differently and embracing the opportunities our digital world presents to provide our life changing programs in a more flexible and sustainable way.

Since piloting in 2024, we have been developing and building our online mentoring service, Raise Digital. This new program builds on what we know, to deliver our proven programs in a new way. In 2025 we have supported 117 young people through this service, and we plan to expand significantly over the coming years to support young people who aren't currently able to access our programs. We aim to reach 5,000 young people every year by 2030 with half of them accessing our programs online. This will not only help us support more young people when they need us, anywhere and anytime, but it will also enable us to deliver more effectively and efficiently, reducing costs and increasing impact.

It's fair to say that this year has proved financially challenging for us. Whilst we've continued to build and deepen relationships with our village of generous funders and donors, we have faced more challenges than we anticipated in growing our income at the rate needed to scale our impact. We've had to look at every aspect of how we run our organisation to identify and realise efficiencies. With the unwavering support of our Board, this included a restructure which saw us rationalise our teams. Whilst this was a difficult time for everyone at Raise, we are now in a stronger position to move forward, with a clear strategic focus.

Thank you for the vital role you play in supporting young people. With your help we will achieve our vision of providing a trained and trusted mentor to every young person in Australia who needs one. The sooner the better.





Vicki Condon AM
Founder and CEO

Leon Condon
Chair

Building a brighter future for Australia

Purpose

Mission

Vision

Impact

Raise significantly improves youth wellbeing by connecting trained and trusted mentors with every young person in Australia who needs one. Young people can survive and thrive in adolescence, believe in themselves and others, and are equipped with tools for life.



"I could talk about almost anything, serious or casual, and we could make jokes. He felt like the older brother I never had."
– Raise mentee

Who we are

We put young people first

By actively listening and understanding, we support and empower young people to navigate challenges with resilience, both now and in the future.

We are youth mentoring experts

As an early intervention and prevention solution, we provide industry-leading mentor training to deliver best-practice programs that meet or exceed industry benchmarks.

We are trusted, safe and reliable

Providing a safe space, supervised by a qualified professional, for young people to connect with a trusted, independent adult who shows up for them, every week.

We deliver programs that work

Rigorously monitoring and evaluating our programs, we prove and improve our significant impact in young people's ability to seek help, be resilient, engage with education, and build hope for the future.

We bring everyone together

Forging connections with schools, donors, business and government to foster thriving communities by equipping everyone with essential youth mentoring skills.

We find better ways

Collaborating and developing new approaches, exciting initiatives and innovative ways to efficiently provide a mentor for every young person who needs one.

We are *people* people

Priding ourselves on listening, caring and working openly with everyone, we proactively build strong relationships and successful partnerships.

Our values

Show heart – we are kind, passionate, sincere, empathetic

Give respect – we believe in acceptance, equity, inclusivity

Deliver excellence – we are evidence-based, responsive, consistent, experts in our industry

Bring vitality – we are positive, fun, energetic, inspiring

Practice integrity – we operate with authenticity, accountability, transparency

Be courageous – we are imaginative, driven, progressive, confident



Young people at the heart of everything we do

We don't believe in doing our work *for* young people, we believe in working together *with* young people to design and deliver programs which meet them where they are. Young people are embedded throughout the organisation in shaping how we work, what we do and what we say.

Raise Youth Advisory Councils

The YACs meet regularly across the year to provide insights from the youth perspective, advocate for the young voice and collaborate on projects with teams across the organisation. We are grateful to have so many highly skilled and ambitious young people aged 14-24 who are passionate about improving the wellbeing of other young people through mentoring.

We would like to thank our 2025 YAC members: Ava Anselme, Ashwak Ahmed, Juilian Stavrou, Zali Fisher, Michael Humpryson, Jess Stone, Dillon Harris, Darcy Oates, Julia Lander, Henry Gray, Theodora Koutzoumis, Skye Harman, Rebecca Le, Tilly Groves, Sania Gabba and Zoya Zoya.

We also extend our thanks to all our YAC members from our partner schools; Ren, Chloe, Cherry, Mercy, Tanya, Viv, Tiffany, Madailein, Addison, Lily, Annasia, Chloe, Emily and Luke. Their energy and involvement were essential in piloting the participation of our younger YAC members.

Some of the projects our YACs have been involved in:

- Marketing and messaging approaches for mentee recruitment in Raise Digital
- Mentor recruitment
- Fundraising campaigns
- Speaking at Raise events, including our evaluation webinar and milestone events such as the QLD 10-year celebration
- Sharing insights with Raise on issues impacting young people, such as social media ban, mental health, gaming, loneliness and AI
- Developing video content
- Involvement in Youth Mentoring benchmarks
- Consultation of longitudinal studies
- Curriculum revisions



Below, left: Amanda Thomas – Head of Youth Engagement at Raise and the YAC participating in our fundraiser *Step by Step*; and right: YAC members Tilly and Zoya share their experience of Raise mentoring at Raise HQ.





2025 Youth Summits – Sydney CBD and Southern Highlands, NSW

In 2025 we had the pleasure of hosting two, one day Youth Summits. In Sydney, we co-hosted with Braze. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Braze, Mittagong RSL and Berrima Buslines and our Southern Highland supporters, without whose generosity and involvement we wouldn't be able to continue to engage with young people through these valuable events.

The Raise Youth Summits provide another opportunity to capture insight and feedback from young people which is used to continue to evolve our programs and ensure the youth voice is firmly embedded in our organisation. This year, our Summits were powered by the voices of Raise Graduates, bringing the true lived experience of our program into every decision we made. Their collective wisdom and passion ensure that our work remains deeply connected to the realities faced by young people today, driving programs that are not only relevant but transformative.

Across the two events, 45 young people joined us from grades 9, 10 and 11 from our school partners: Randwick High, Parramatta High, Bowral High and Moss Vale High.

Alongside providing valuable developmental feedback for us, the Summits create a unique space for young people to come together, share ideas, be part of advocacy work and build new connections.

They also offer the chance for young people to engage with and experience our co-hosting organisations, gaining insights into future pathways and opportunities for their careers.

Raise graduate mentees

Again, we have been moved by the powerful stories shared with us by our graduate mentees. We would like to thank everyone who has shared their experiences with us. These stories allow us to share the real, life-changing power of mentoring with funders, mentors, young people, parents and schools, helping us to continue supporting more young people in Australia who would benefit from our programs.

Youth engagement in 2026 and beyond

Our focus over 2026 will be on further expansion of the Junior YAC and embedding and enhancing our youth engagement activities, ensuring that we provide value-adding opportunities for our young supporters and advocates and build mutually beneficial relationships.

"Being on the YAC has empowered me to advocate for young people with more confidence and clarity."
– Theodora

"The YAC has been incredibly rewarding. Working with a broader team with a common goal, having the autonomy to make suggestions, and to see those suggestions taken on board is hugely beneficial."
– Michael

Young people across Australia are facing increasing challenges

Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for young people, with 1 in 2 young people[1] being impacted by suicide. The ripple effect from both attempts and deaths by suicide cause deep and lasting trauma for young people, their families and friends, and that effect ripples out through schools and whole communities.

We need to act early to give young people the tools and skills they need, so suicide never feels like the solution.

Young people across Australia are struggling, and our 2025 mentees were some of the hardest hit, experiencing these issues to an even greater degree:



1 in 5
young people would find it hard to turn to friends and family if they needed help[2]

41% of Raise mentees were able to ask for help only sometimes or almost never at the start of mentoring

1 in 6
young people feel lonely all or most of the time[3]

64% of Raise mentees have experienced loneliness before joining the program

1 in 9
young people feel negative or very negative about the future[4]

46% of Raise mentees scored low in hope for the future at the start of mentoring



2 in 3
young people identify cost of living as a concern[7]

31% of Raise mentees have actual experience of financial hardship

1 in 5
young people are experiencing high psychological distress[6]

72% of Raise mentees have experienced anxiety

45% of Raise mentees have experienced depression

1 in 4
young people reported being bullied every few weeks or more often[5]

58% of Raise mentees have experienced bullying

35% of Raise mentees have experienced discrimination

1 in 12
young people are disengaged from education and work[8]

16% of Raise mentees were not confident about their ability to finish school at the start of mentoring

8% of Raise mentees were not confident about their ability to get a job in the future at the start of mentoring

References available on page 51

What mentees wanted from mentoring:

- 72% want a space to be able to talk openly and be listened to
- 56% want help to get through school
- 56% want advice and guidance from their mentor
- 47% want help with their future
- 45% want help with their mental health
- 44% want help with friendships and other relationships
- 40% want help identifying their strengths

They want to develop their skills in:

- 59% Confidence
- 57% Communication and social skills
- 49% Coping with challenges/ stress
- 42% Self-care
- 42% Getting a job
- 40% Help seeking
- 33% Goal setting

And are most concerned about:

- Mental health 50%
- Economy / cost of living 48%
- Safety and crime 43%
- Alcohol and Drugs 38%
- Environment 35%
- Housing / homelessness 35%
- Discrimination 34%
- Animal welfare 31%



Raise Theory of Change

We deliver our evidence-based program through:

1. **Comprehensively trained volunteer mentors in schools and online.**
2. **Sessions are supervised by qualified, professional counsellors, youth workers and psychologists.**
3. **The program is continually evaluated and evolved through ongoing consultation and engagement with young people to ensure that it continues to deliver statistically significant improvements in the four key outcome areas: asking for help, resilience, hope for the future and engagement with education.**

Improvements in these four outcomes enable young people to thrive through ad olescence, believe in themselves and others and be equipped with tools for life.

Alongside this, positive impacts are felt by mentors, schools, young supporters and advocates, and parents and caregivers.

You can find our full Theory of Change at

raise.org.au/theoryofchange



Our outcomes framework – focusing on four key outcome areas



Mental health support

Through mentoring, young people have more capability to ask for help and a stronger likelihood of accepting it. They develop trust in adults, improve communication skills and can find support and resources.

Outcome 1: Finding trusted adults who can help
Outcome 2: Knowledge of resources

Curriculum modules:

Full program

- Help – where, who and how to get there
- Support – my support map
- Risk – my choices
- Flip – my turn
- Ask – reaching out

Skills program

- Challenges and barriers to help-seeking



Social and emotional wellbeing

With higher levels of hope, young people improve socially and academically. They are able to set and achieve goals and develop a growth mindset with mentor support. Hope is a buffer against stress, anxiety and suicide ideation.

Outcome 1: Awareness of capabilities
Outcome 2: Ability to set goals
Outcome 3: Ability to achieve goals

Curriculum modules:

Full program

- Identity – who am I?
- Stand up – assertive rights, my skills
- Future – looking ahead
- Reflect – my progress
- Hope – my future

Skills program

- I am amazing
- Future

Our outcomes framework – focusing on four key outcome areas



Social and emotional wellbeing

Mentoring improves a young person's ability to bounce back after stress and enhances recovery. Mentors help young people to increase confidence, adapt to new situations, develop coping skills to deal with adversity and overcome challenges.

Outcome 1: Confidence
Outcome 2: Coping strategies

Curriculum modules:

Full program

- Me – my strengths
- Self-talk – my thoughts
- Courage – building resilience
- Connect – catching up
- Friend – relationship skills
- Managing stress - looking after myself

Skills program

- Overcoming barriers
- Support
- Practice
- Building you
- Fill your bucket



School engagement

Through mentoring, young people improve their relationship with peers and teachers. Mentees attend school more, resulting in increased grades, higher school completion rates, stronger academic confidence and better economic outcomes.

Outcome 1: Better relationships
Outcome 2: Academic confidence
Outcome 3: Improved attendance

Curriculum modules:

Full program

- Community – my place
- School – my learning

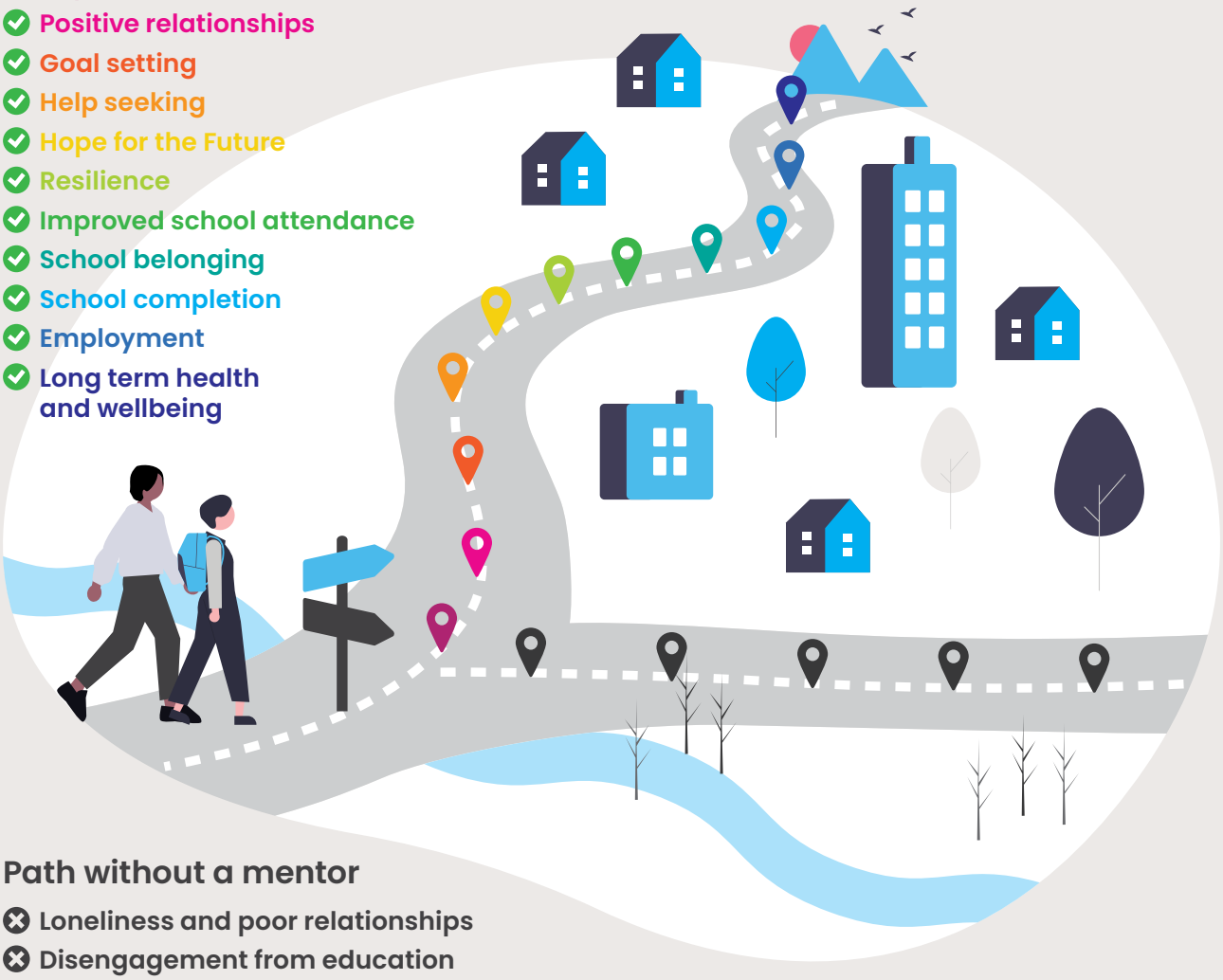
Mentee journey outcomes with Raise

Working upstream in early intervention

raise

Path with a mentor

- Improved confidence
- Positive relationships
- Goal setting
- Help seeking
- Hope for the Future
- Resilience
- Improved school attendance
- School belonging
- School completion
- Employment
- Long term health and wellbeing



Path without a mentor

- Loneliness and poor relationships
- Disengagement from education
- Poor mental health
- Un or under-employment
- Poor overall health and social engagement

2025 in numbers

2,870
total young people supported

2,753
in-school mentees

117
Raise Digital mentees

189
mentoring programs delivered

170
school partners supported

2,224
total mentors volunteered

1,351
new mentors screened, trained, matched

873
experienced mentors volunteered with us again

487
university student mentors

Since we started

11,443
mentors trained

19,114
young people mentored



Summary KPI results 2021 to 2025

Raise Foundation organisational goals

Blue Deliver a high-quality program that has a positive impact

Orange Expand that impact to more young people

Green Ensure we do it sustainably

KPI	Target	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Number of digital mentoring matches	Increase yoy	117	–	–	–	–
In school KPIs						
Number of mentoring matches	Increase yoy	2,753	2,546	2,744	2,088	2,124
Number of programs (schools)	Increase yoy	189	189	210	180	155
Match retention rate (within program)	>90%	75%	86%	86%	88%	74%
Mentees enjoyed the program	>90%	98%	97%	97%	99%	98%
Mentees would recommend Raise	>90%	95%	94%	93%	96%	94%
Statistically significant impact on help-seeking skills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Statistically significant impact on resilience	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Statistically significant impact on hope for the future	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Statistically significant impact on school belonging	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Mentors enjoyed the program	>90%	99%	98%	97%	98%	N/A
Mentor likelihood of referring Raise to a friend	8/10	98%	98%	97%	98%	9/10
Mentor training rated favourably	>90%	97%	98%	100%	93%	99%
School satisfaction with the program	>90%	99%	99%	98%	100%	100%
Mentor retention rate (yoy)	50%	47%	46%	32%	51%	52%
Staff team engagement with vision and purpose	>90%	99%	92%	96%	91%	97%

* For mentees who started with a low score in the outcome at the start of the program.

Raise mentees



Meet the 2025 Raise in-school mentees

Raise mentees come from a range of backgrounds and experiences and we work hard to make our mentoring program inclusive and suitable for all young people.

In 2025 we...

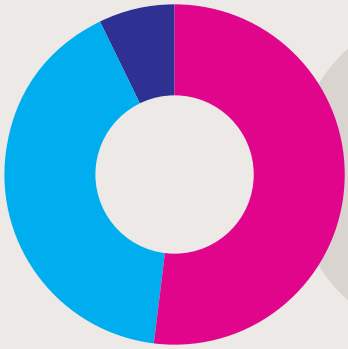
Mentored **2,753** young people



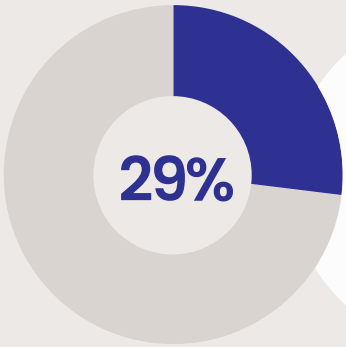
Average age **14**

7 **8** **9** 10 11 12

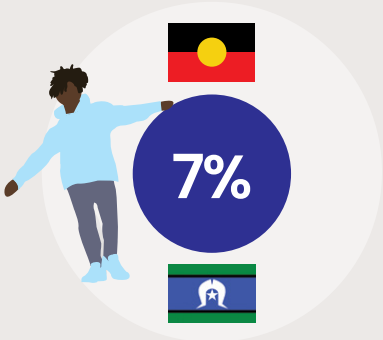
Majority were in years **8 and 9** at high school



53% female
41% male
6% another option including non-binary



29% speak a language other than English at home



7% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people



6% identify as disabled



11% were born outside of Australia

45% have caring responsibilities for a family member or friend

37% identify as neurodivergent

In-school program and match summary 2025

YP Supported/ program	ACT	NSW	QLD	VIC	SA	WA	TAS	Total
Raise Online	0	29	0	14	0	0	0	43
Raise Group	0	172	28	65	0	87	20	372
Raise Skills Program	0	23	0	29	0	0	0	52
Raise Full Program	28	1,079	241	520	222	127	69	2,286
Total	28	1,303	269	628	222	214	89	2,753

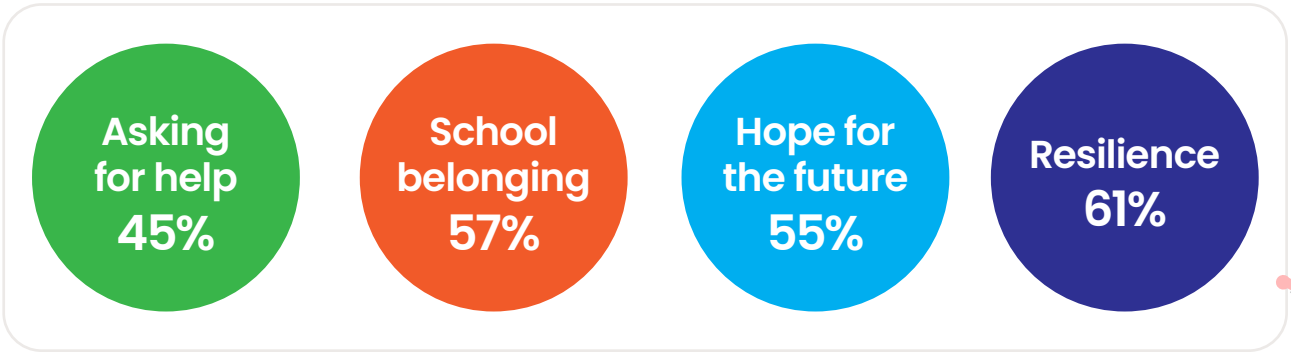
	School Partners	Raise Full Program	Programs -Raise Group	Programs - Raise Online	Raise Skills Program
NSW	76	69	14	2	2
ACT	2	2	0	0	0
VIC	39	34	5	1	2
QLD	18	17	2	0	0
SA	15	15	0	0	0
TAS	8	7	2	0	0
WA	12	9	6	0	0
Total	170	153	29	3	4



Statistically significant impacts across all four key outcome areas

Our evaluations have consistently shown statistically significant outcomes in our programs year-on-year and 2025 was no exception. This year's outcomes build on evidence from the last 16 years and the independent evaluation in 2024 which proved our findings.

Percentage of mentees that improved in each of the four key outcomes by the end of the program.







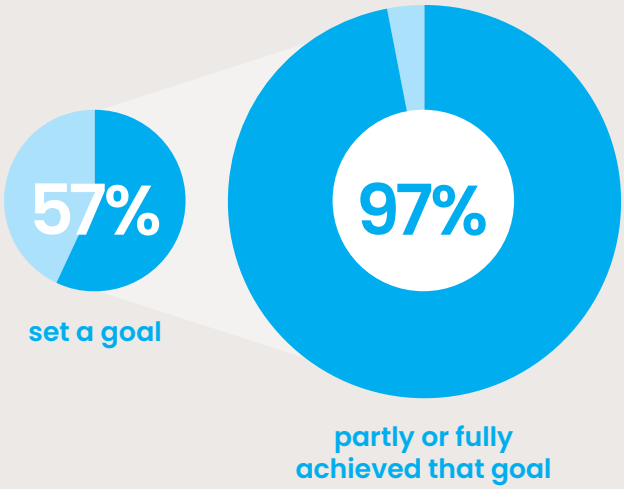
Areas of improvement for mentees

96% identified improvement due to the program, which might look like...

- 56% communication skills improved
- 54% feel more confident
- 45% feel better about the future
- 44% feel better about myself
- 43% feel able to make better choices
- 38% feel better about school
- 36% feel less lonely
- 35% mental health has improved
- 34% are more likely to help others

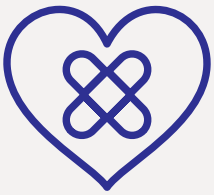


78% of mentees said the program helped with their personal issues



"We always found something interesting to talk about, and felt safe sharing personal stuff about our lives, and whenever I was upset my mentor would always listen and give me advice."
– Raise mentee

The mentee experience



78%
said mentoring helped them with mental health or personal issues



98%
of mentees enjoyed the program



95%
of mentees would recommend to a friend



91%
of mentees liked the group activities



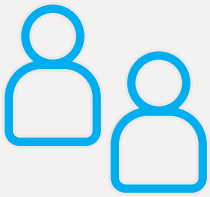
82%
of mentees liked the handbook activities



98%
of mentees felt safe talking to their mentor



86%
of mentees felt safe in their mentoring group



91%
of mentees rated their connection with their mentor excellent or very good



96%
of mentees felt supported by their Raise Program Counsellor



Mentee outcomes

One of the key milestones of the Raise mentoring program is Graduation.

This marks a significant moment with an event which celebrates their journey and achievements. At graduation we ask mentees to reflect on their personal journeys. It not only recognises their commitment to the program but also acts as a springboard to future success. As part of this, for the second year, we invited the young people in our programs to creatively express their personal journey through our *Raise ReImagined* competition, every year we are blown away by the creativity demonstrated.

Below: *Raise Reimagined* winning entry.



What others saw

Asking for help

Hope for the future

Resilience

School belonging

100% of schools identified improvement in the cohort – including:

student attendance **72%**

student behaviour **69%**

96% of mentors saw an improvement – including:

communication **79%**

hope for the future **78%**

ability to ask for help **77%**

77% of parents saw an improvement in their child – including:

confidence **51%**

feeling happier **46%**

better relationship with others **42%**



"I used to be really nervous talking to adults but I can do it a lot easier now."
– Raise mentee

Raise Digital mentee outcomes

This was a transformative year for us as we moved out of piloting and into full delivery of Raise Digital. We proved through those pilots that our programs (both Full and Skills based programs) continued to deliver the same positive outcomes for young people when delivered through a digital channel.

Pilot outcomes for Raise Digital mentees

92%
of mentees enjoyed the program

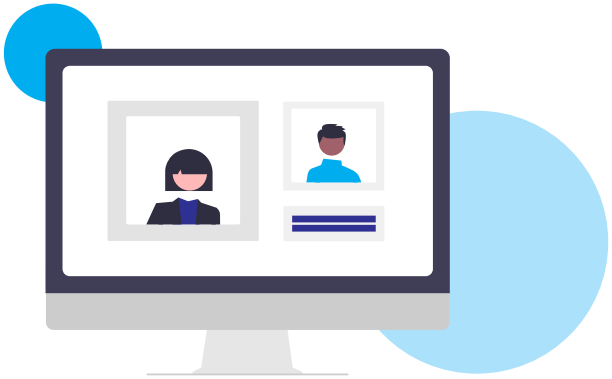
83%
of mentees would recommend to a friend

75%
of mentees feel like things are different for them because of the program

90%
of mentees who identified personal issues feel the program has helped them cope

92%
of mentees said that mentoring helped them in at least one area

92%
of mentees rated their connection with their mentor as excellent or very good



We supported 117 young people through Raise Digital in 2025

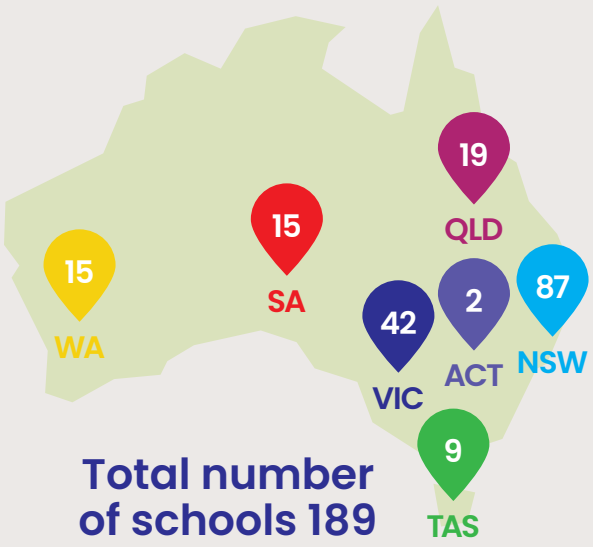
As the number of mentees we support each year grows, we will continue to evaluate in line with our school programs to ensure our programs continue to deliver positive impacts for young people wherever and however they access them.



School experiences

Collaborating with schools across Australia

This year we partnered with 170 schools across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory to deliver in-school mentoring programs.



Total number of schools 189

"Just a big thank you to the Raise team for another incredible year. The impact on our students is always noticeable, along with the professionalism, care, and consistency from everyone involved make the partnership such a pleasure. We're genuinely grateful to have Raise as part of our school community, it's become one of our most valued and trusted wellbeing supports."
– Raise school partner

99% rated the program as excellent or very good

98% of schools would recommend the program to another school

97% felt the program improved student relationships and belonging

91% of schools rated the Raise Program Counsellors **as 5 stars!**

83% recognised the program helped build individual and collective wellbeing at the school

71% felt the program supported the wellbeing team at school

School partner feedback

Pakenham
SECONDARY COLLEGE
We Grow Through Connection

1020 Princes Highway Pakenham Vic 3810
EMAIL: Pakenham.sc@education.vic.gov.au
PHONE: 03 5945 1433

November 14th, 2025

Raise Youth Mentoring Foundation
133 Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Raise Foundation,

At Pakenham Secondary College we are proud to partner with Raise Foundation to deliver the Raise Youth Mentoring Program for the last 4 years, consistently experiencing positive outcomes for our school community.

Since introducing the program, we have seen significant impacts for our students, particularly in the areas of help-seeking behaviours, building confidence and resilience, fostering a sense of belonging and hope for the future. Our participating students have shown noticeable growth in their ability to build relationships, navigate challenges and engage in the school environment, and we've seen these changes positively influence the overall school culture. These changes in student wellbeing and engagement extend beyond the student, creating a ripple effect that benefits their peers, teachers, and families through improved relationships and a more connected school environment.

The mentors provide a safe, caring, and consistent space for our young people, complementing our school's wellbeing team. Rather than replacing or duplicating existing support, the Raise program enhances our capacity to reach more students by offering an additional layer of care. This partnership has become an integral part of our wellbeing strategy, enabling us to provide more comprehensive and responsive support to students who may otherwise go unnoticed. The Raise team's contribution strengthens our overall ability to foster student wellbeing and engagement.

We have observed measurable improvements in attendance, classroom engagement and improved relationships with teachers and peers, and many students have shared that their Raise sessions are a highlight of their week. For some students, this program has been a key motivator for re-engaging in learning, in building confidence and managing personal challenges.

Beyond the individual impact, the program has strengthened our wider community by connecting students with caring adult mentors from the local area and by equipping those mentors with the skills to support others in their own lives.

To scale this impact and reach more young people in need, we encourage ongoing investment in Raise's evidence-based programs and digital infrastructure. This support will help ensure every young person has access to a trusted adult mentor when they need it most.

We would highly recommend the Raise Mentoring Program to other schools seeking to enhance student wellbeing, engagement, and community connection. It has become an invaluable part of our school's wellbeing strategy, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in the years ahead.
Yours sincerely,

Aaron Smith
Principal
Pakenham Secondary College

Raise Digital through schools

"The Raise Digital mentoring program has really thrived at Cheltenham Girls' High because it feels genuine, supportive, and easy for the girls to engage with. The one-to-one chats give students space to open up, build confidence, and get advice from someone who truly listens, and the online format makes it simple to fit mentoring into busy school days. It's also been incredibly well organised; the communication between Raise and the school has been smooth, clear, and consistent, which has made the whole process run effortlessly. The digital Raise program is a fantastic standalone opportunity that gives students a positive, flexible way to experience the benefits of mentoring, making mentoring feel familiar and accessible."

- Maria Abram,
Cheltenham Girls School



Mentor experiences



Thank you to our 2025 Raise volunteer mentors

Raise mentors come from a wide range of backgrounds, bringing a depth of expertise and experience to the role.

2,224 volunteers mentored a young person in 2025



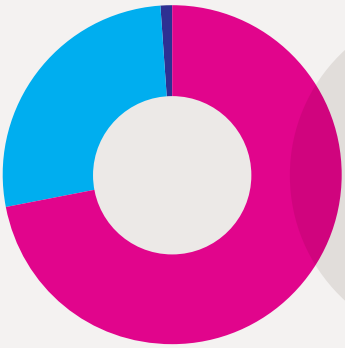
were born outside of Australia

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 +

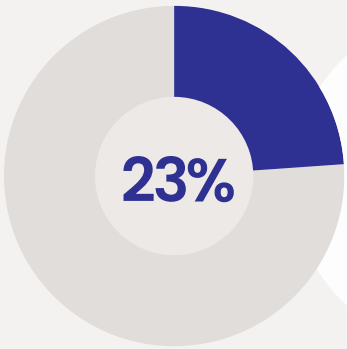
Ranged from **20 to 80+** years old



Average age **45**



72% female
27% male
1% another option including non-binary



speak a language other than English at home

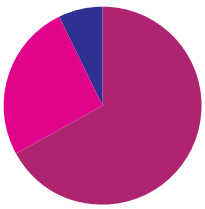
12% identify as neurodivergent

9% identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community

3% identify as disabled

1% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander





Mentor through
67% Community
26% University or registered training organisation
6% Workplace

Youth mentor training

Raise is the youth mentoring organisation in Australia that provides the most comprehensive mentor training, including online mini-modules and a full day of group training, all supported by a rigorous screening process.

This year we introduced mentor training for Raise Digital mentors. This is additional training which enables qualified mentors to translate their skills into an online mentoring space.

1,351 mentors trained

98% felt their confidence to mentor significantly increased

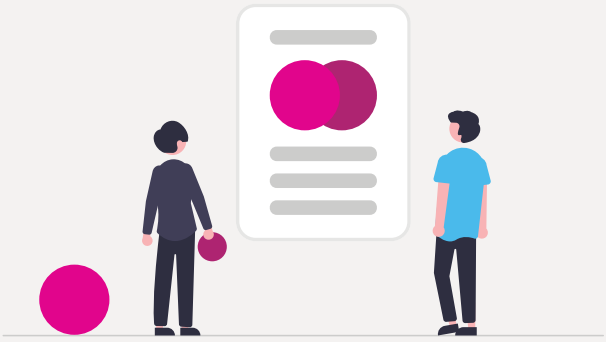
98% felt knowledge and skills had increased

97% of mentors rated the training they received as excellent or very good

- 96% learnt skills they could apply in personal relationships
- 94% of mentors said the training had prepared them for their role
- 93% felt their Program counsellor provided them with useful advice

Youth safety remains a core part of our screening and training. All mentors undergo mandatory Working with Children Checks and National Crime checks specific to their state.





Mentors volunteer for Raise for a variety of reasons:

- 91% to make a difference in a young person's life
- 81% to give back to the community
- 60% to feel a sense of purpose

The impact for mentors

Outcomes for all mentors

- 99% felt a sense of contribution to their community
- 97% felt a sense of purpose
- 97% felt they made a difference in young person's life
- 95% are more likely to volunteer in the future
- 95% have improved their listening and communication skills
- 91% felt more connected with their community
- 91% have more empathy for others



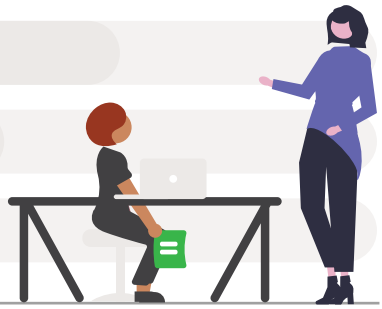
Mentoring benefits staff and business

6% of mentors volunteer with Raise through their workplaces, who partner with Raise as part of their CSR or ESG strategy.

Organisations who partner with Raise benefit from a decrease in employee turnover and an increase in employee engagement and commitment.

Outcomes for corporate mentors include:

- 96% feel a sense of pride in their employer for partnering with Raise
- 91% are able to confidently support wellbeing in the workplace
- 90% are more confident in creating a safe and inclusive environment
- 85% are able to apply mentoring skills in their workplace
- 80% have improved their leadership skills
- 71% are more likely to stay with their current employer
- 53% have increased networks in their organisation



"I was a little worried about connecting with my mentee and feeling confident to guide the conversation if needed. I found all mentee's to be easy to talk to and interested in the mentoring process. The workbook is a great support, so my concerns did not come true. I felt comfortable with the mentoring process. More importantly I really enjoyed getting to know my mentee. I would definitely do it again."

– Raise mentor



How Raise is equipping Australia's workforce of the future

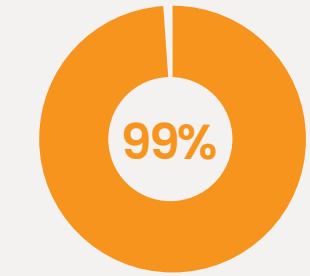
26% of mentors volunteer with Raise as part of a student placement for their university or training course:

74%
to learn skills to help them in the workplace

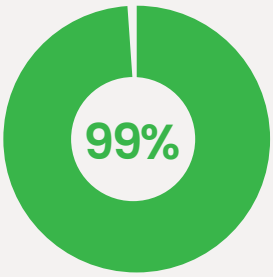
65%
to improve their listening and communication skills

56%
to improve their mental health knowledge

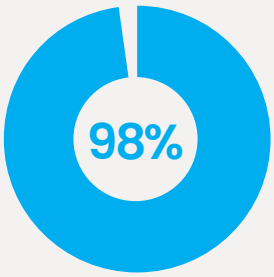
And after mentoring they tell us that they:



applied their studies in the real world



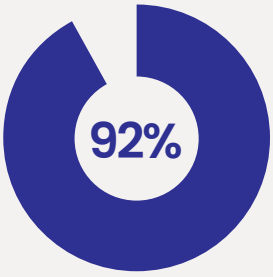
learnt skills relevant to degree



gained confidence in supporting young people



feel more equipped to gain employment in their chosen field



have more motivation to continue their studies



Strong investment

It takes a village to raise a child

It takes the Raise Village to support young people when they need it most

2025 has proved a challenging year for fundraising, with long-term partnerships reaching the natural end and many organisations facing their own difficulties. However, throughout 2025 we have continued to build our reach across many of our income streams, deepening relationships, and continuing to provide clear and compelling evidence of the impact that investment in Raise provides.

100% of our corporate partners are satisfied with their partnership with Raise

Raise programs deliver $4.37 per $1 invested in social return on investment.



"Hand on heart, I'm a true advocate for the work Raise does. With over 15 years in the NFP space, I'm consistently blown away by the integrity of your programs, the tangible outcomes, and the depth of your research. The professionalism of Raise is something you don't always find in this sector – and it's a real standout."

– Hayley Nissam,
Head of Social Impact,
Schneider Electric



Key fundraising highlights of the year

- Building on the successful launch of the Raise Ripples giving circle in Sydney in 2024 and expanding membership with a new Raise Ripples giving circle in Melbourne.
- Launching the *Step by Step Challenge* peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, with over 900 participants signing up to fundraise for us.
- Launching new community running events in Victoria and Western Australia with the addition of Run Melbourne and HBF Run for a Reason, both of which saw growth in our community fundraising income stream.
- Building our pool of Regular Givers through our EOY and EOFY appeals.
- Securing new multi-year partnership extensions with two of our transformational and principal partners.
- Securing a new transformational partner providing funding for Raise Digital online mentoring.
- Funding achieved for the launch of our First Nations pilot program in 2026.
- The Raise in-school mentoring program being supported by the Victorian Government for the first time in 2025.
- Expanding funding to Western Australia through Channel 7 Telethon Trust and Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.
- Some incredible efforts from our volunteer mentors who have not only given their time but raise vital funds as well.

Below: Rotary supporting Raise by hosting a Bunnings sausage sizzle.



raise ripples

Expanded Raise Ripples Giving Circle to Melbourne

step by step 1-31 OCTOBER

Introduced our Step by Step fundraiser

Funding achieved for our First Nations pilot program



Expanded funding to **WA**

Volunteers continued to donate their **time and raise funds**



Thank you to our partners

Our work would not be possible without our valued supporters. You make a world of difference, and you mean the world to us.

Transformational and Principal Partners

Australian Government Department of Health

Goodman

Future Generation Australia
DO WELL. DO GOOD.

MACQUARIE

Google.org

cg/ Canaccord Genuity

Philanthropists

Boyer Family
Crookes Family Foundation
Farrell Family Foundation
Graf Family Foundation
Moller Family Foundation
Stephen Shaul

Fuchs Family
David and Juliet Walker
Gray Family
Harlyn Foundation
Chris Vaughan
Tim and Stacey Bishop
Birch Family
Thelma and Paul Constantinou Foundation
Justin Liberman
Simon and Mel Wright
Todd Family Foundation

Peter and Elizabeth Moore Foundation
Su and Morrice Cordiner
The Petersen Family Foundation
Andy and Rosie Wade
Stuart and Emma Fox
Nanquette Family
Bruce Fink OAM
Garry Browne AM
Jaclyn and David Gazal

Aidan Allen
George Family
Michael McNamara
Rachel Rose
Shemara Wikramanayake and Ed Gilmartin
David Thodey
Tim Reed
David Griffiths

Jonathan Maister
Siobhan Dcosta
Veronica and Matthew Latham
Ilana Atlas
Rob Hanmer and Isabel De Meur
Mervyn Levin
David Knowles
Elena Lovu
Anonymous x5

Ripples members

Su Cordiner (Patron NSW)
Anita Pahor (Patron VIC & QLD)
Karen Cooper
Lianne Graf
Nicole Graf
Helen Kirby
Veronica Latham
Rachael McLennan
Sally McLennan
Jenny Pridham
Sarah Robb
Cathy Sertori
Cate White
Electra Wiggs

Major Partners $100K +

BTIG

ClubsNSW

TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Together 4 Youth

VICTORIA State Government

Partners $40K +

aurecon

Jaybro

KAIN FOUNDATION

origin foundation

Ottomin Foundation

RYSE CONSTRUCTION

Schneider Electric

STATE STREET.

SYD Sydney Airport

Partners $10K +

Steadfast Foundation
Bupa Australia Pty Ltd
People First Bank Foundation
Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd
Hearts & Minds Investments
Commonwealth Bank Foundation
One Zero
CrowdStrike
Google Employee Giving

Trusts and Foundations

Anthony Costa Foundation

Bowral District Children's Foundation

James N. Kirby Foundation

SHCF Southern Highlands Community Foundation

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

The Ross Trust

Thyne Reid Foundation

telethon

Waratah Education Foundation

Wilson Asset Management

In Kind Partners

Blackmarket research

7+

9

FOXTEL

JCDecaux

media monkey

SYD Sydney Airport

tello

CS1 GROUP

Board, Leadership and Advisory Councils



Board of Directors:

- Andrew Birch
- Tim Bishop
- Leon Condon
- Vicki Condon AM
- Jun Bei Liu
- Joost de Kock
- Dr Matthew Miles

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- Emily Dale
- Paul Kitchin
- Tamara Salamacha
- Lucy Snowball
- Adelaide Thompson
- Kathleen Vella

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- Chris Bond
- Leslie Loble AM
- Rachael McLennon
- Lisa Paul PSO AO
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- Carolyn Curtis
- Penny Daikin
- Anne Hampshire
- Suzie Riddell
- Michael Carmody

Youth Advisory Council:

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- Ashwak Ahmed
- Zali Fisher
- Sania Gabba
- Henry Gray
- Tilly Groves
- Skye Harman
- Dillon Harris
- Michael Humpryson
- Theodora Koutzoumis
- Julia Lander
- Rebecca Le
- Darcy Oates
- Juilian Stavrou
- Jess Stone
- Zoya Zoya

Junior YAC

- Addison
- Annasia
- Cherry
- Chloe
- Chloe
- Emily
- Lily
- Luke
- Madailein
- Mercy
- Ren
- Tanya
- Tiffany
- Viv

School Advisory Council:

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- Brendan Barlow
- Lance Berry
- Fiona Bird
- Maggie Butler
- Helen Conidaris
- Edwina Ricci
- Aaron Smith

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- Robbie Lawson
- Susan Massasso
- Nick Nichles
- Jessica Ridley
- Kylie Smith
- Mikey Taylor
- Charlotte Valente
- Matt Williams

Ambassadors:

- Mark Beretta OAM
- Ali Brahe-Daddo
- Chloe Dalton OAM
- Ryan "Fitzy" Fitzgerald
- Billi FitzSimons
- Georgie Gardner
- Ellia Green OAM
- Tommy Herschell
- Jean Kittson AM
- Cathrine Mahoney
- Pat McCutcheon
- Hugh Sheridan
- Erik Thomson
- Jacinta Tynan

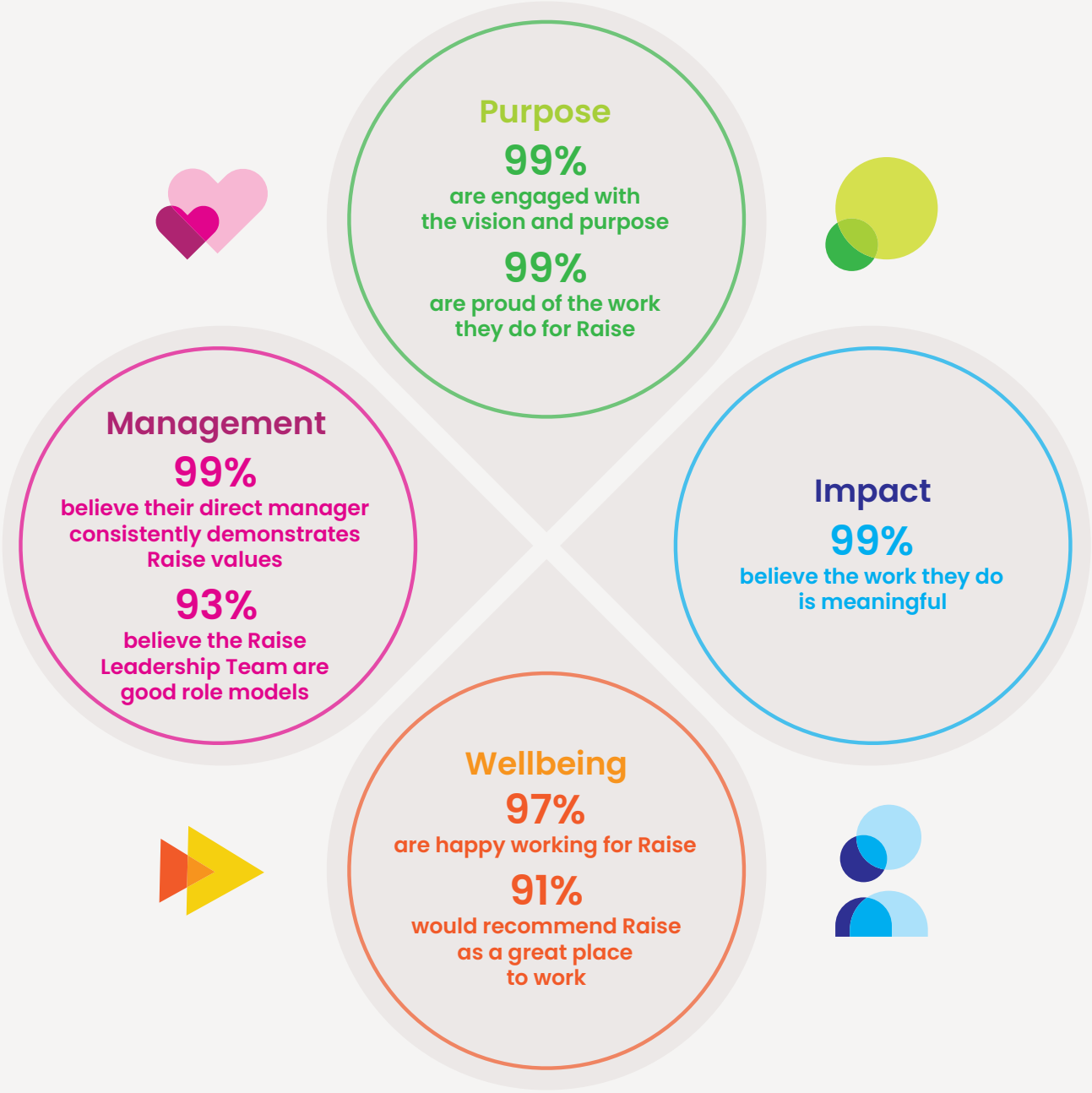


Meaningful work

Our staff are the backbone of Raise. They work tirelessly ensuring that young people are supported with best practice youth mentoring, Raise mentors are trained and supported, and our organisation runs efficiently and effectively, both now and in the future.

96% believe Raise is committed to best practice in our industry

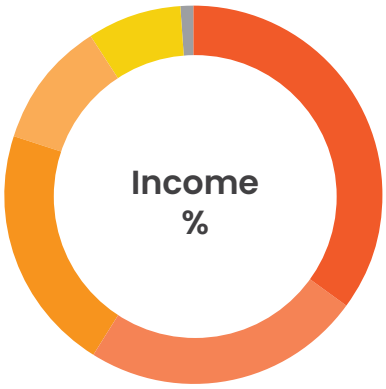
96% believe Raise has a vision which is inspiring



Raise Foundation –
operational income and expenses summary 2025

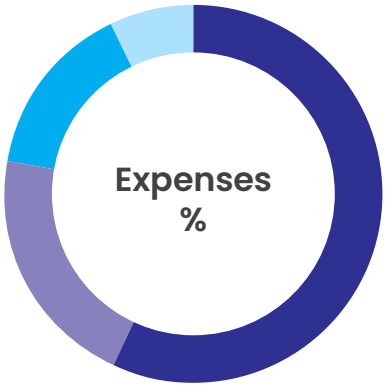
% Income summary

35	Corporate	$2.187m
24	Private and community	$1.488m
11	Trusts and foundations	$710k
	Total fundraising income	**$4.385m**
21	Government	$1.319m
8	Fee for service	$524k
	Total income	**$6.228m**
1	Other income	$66k
	Total Revenue and other income	**$6.294m**



% Expenses summary

57	Program delivery	$4.440m
21	Fundraising and marketing	$1.659m
15	Technology and admin	$1.152m
7	Strategic Impact projects	$531k
	Total Expenses	**$7.782m**



Every $1 spent on fundraising delivers more than $3 in funds to support our programs.

Audited accounts 2025

Statement of profit or loss

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 $
Revenue and other income	6,233,566
Finance income	53,343
Total income	**6,286,909**
Employee expenses	(6,620,578)
Marketing expenses	(146,320)
IT expenses	(364,110)
Finance, Depreciation and Other expenses	(643,789)
Total operational expenses	**(7,774,797)**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**(1,487,888)**

Note 1

The 2025 deficit was primarily due to volatility in corporate partnership income. In response, the directors of the trustee company and executive management team have undertaken a range of actions to strengthen the organisation's financial sustainability. This includes securing the renewal of government funding, targeted reductions in payroll and operating costs capped at a sustainable level, enhancement of operational disciplines, regular performance monitoring, strengthened forecasting processes, and capability uplift.

KELLY+ PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS

Audited accounts 2025

Statement of financial position

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Balance Sheet	2025 $
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,408,160
Trade and other receivables	153,583
Total current assets	1,561,743
Total non-current assets	155,828
Total assets	1,717,571
Liabilities	
Total current liabilities	817,791
Total non-current liabilities	149,390
Total liabilities	967,181
Net assets	**750,390**
Total trust funds	**750,390**

Strategic Impact Plan 2026–2030



Purpose Mission Vision

Raise significantly improves youth wellbeing by connecting trained and trusted mentors with every young person in Australia who needs one

Impact

Young people survive and thrive through adolescence, believe in themselves and others, and are equipped with tools for life

- Mental health support – Help seeking
- Social and emotional wellbeing – Resilience
- Social and emotional wellbeing – Hope
- School engagement – School belonging

Goals

1. Deliver mentoring and training programs that have a significant impact
2. Expand that impact to more young people, organisations and communities
3. Ensure we do it sustainably

Teams

- Fundraising and Marketing
- People and Culture
- Programs
- Strategic Operations
- Data and Youth Insights

Services

Raise Youth Mentoring
Early intervention youth mentoring programs delivered in secondary schools nationally

Raise Digital
Same evidence-based youth mentoring program delivered online, anywhere and anytime

Projects

- Fundraising predictability
- Raise Digital
- Organisational efficiencies



Values

- Deliver excellence
- Show heart
- Be courageous
- Practise integrity
- Bring vitality
- Give respect



Strategic Impact Plan
Projects and priorities

The coming year will be about sustaining impact and enhancing our ability to give a mentor to every young person who needs one by:

- Scaling and enhancing **Raise Digital** while tracking outcomes compared to in-school
- Strengthening our **fundraising model** for long term sustainability and predictability
- Building our capability to **recruit mentees and mentors** at scale
- Completing phase 1 and source funding for phase 2 and 3 of our **Longitudinal Study**
- Embedding our **Junior YAC** more deeply into program design
- Continuing to develop **Raise Learning** through our social enterprise initiative
- Launching the new **Australian Youth Mentoring Benchmarks** in collaboration

Projections	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Mentees - School	2,002	2,100	2,200	2,350	2,500
Mentees - Online	300	600	1,200	1,800	2,500
Total Mentees	**2,302**	**2,700**	**3,400**	**4,150**	**5,000**
Mentors	2,302	2,700	3,400	4,150	5,000
School Programs	143	150	157	168	179
Income ($'000)	7,700	8,700	10,500	11,900	13,600
Expenses ($'000)	7,000	7,700	8,600	9,800	11,100
Avg Cost per mentee	**3,041**	**2,852**	**2,529**	**2,361**	**2,220**
Overall Mentees	**21,299**	**23,999**	**27,399**	**31,549**	**36,549**

"It was such comfortable and non-stressful environment that really encouraged me to open up."

– Raise Digital mentee





References

1. Suicide Prevention Australia
2. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2025
3. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2025
4. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2025
5. Bullying No Way
6. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2025
7. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2025
8. Education and Work Australia 2025, ABS

Join the Raise Village

We rely on your support to continue our life-changing work.

Make a donation

Online at raise.org.au/donate, or

Via EFT

Account: Westpac Bank BSB: 032 097

Account number: 278 223

Payment reference: Your Full Name / Your organisation name

To receive a receipt for donations via bank transfer, please email donations@raise.org.au with your contact details and quote the payment reference.

By scanning the QR code ▶

Talk to us about a corporate partnership

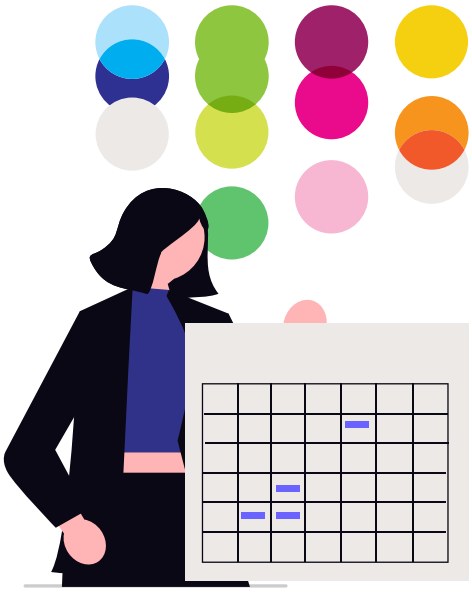
Email us at hello@raise.org.au

Volunteer to mentor

Find out more and apply at raise.org.au/mentor

Connect with us

- raise.org.au
- raisefoundation
- raise.org.au/podcast
- raise-foundation
- raisefoundation
- raisementoring




The raise program
has connected me to
so many amazing people who
have helped me grow.
As we come closer to
the end of the program
reflect on everything
have learned. I'm sad to
see it ending, but I'm
glad for the time we had
and I will carry the memory
FOREVER