

**BACK TO SCHOOL BOOST FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Western Australian Community Foundation (WACF) has just been able to grant \$10,000 worth of Back to School Vouchers to families in need in rural and remote areas of Western Australia.

Ms Kathryn Sydney-Smith, CEO of WACF, is delighted that the Foundation has been able to partner with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, (FRRR) and the Sidney Myer Fund to ensure WA families had access to this vital funding.

“The FRRR Sidney Myer Back to School Program provides Coles Myer vouchers, valued at \$50 each, to assist families in need of support, at the start of another busy and expensive school year”.

“We still have 16% of families in our state living below the poverty line and many parents would know the cost of going back to school can leave some families in dire financial circumstances” said Ms Sydney-Smith.

WACF teamed with local Anglicare regional offices who assisted in distributing the vouchers to families in need.

“The vouchers have been used by over one hundred families in our rural and remote communities to purchase such items as clothing, footwear, books, stationery or school bags” Ms Sydney-Smith reported.

Ms. Sydney Smith said some of the stories of need were heartbreaking with many families constantly struggling to provide the basics for their children.

Ms Sydney Smith “We are delighted the program was able to help in such a simple but effective way. The Foundation is keen to be able to build on this program and start to offer it annually across the state in both metropolitan and regional communities.”

“This partnership is one of many the Foundation is looking to initiate to benefit communities across our state. Being chosen by FRRR and Sidney Myer Fund is a demonstration of the potential of such partnerships as we work at building the first community foundation of this scale in Western Australia.”

If you are interested in supporting the Foundation's Back to School initiative please contact the Foundation on 9323 5521.

\*\*\*\*\*

End of Release