



The Skyline Education Foundation Australia recently was the recipient of a generous donation of twenty-nine lap-top computers from McGrathNicol!

The Skyline Education Foundation Australia is a non-profit, non-denominational, independent organisation with deductible gift recipient status. The foundation helps talented young people step out of adversity and embark on a journey of opportunity where they can realise their potential through education.

Research prior to the commencement of the Skyline VCE Bursary Program found that improving the chances of success for disadvantaged, talented students required both financial and emotional support. VCE Bursary Program benefits include:

- * Paying school fees and levies and compulsory excursion charges;
- * Providing textbooks and necessary educational materials;
- * Providing some private tuition for students to support and enhance their studies;
- * Working closely with the student's school through a nominated staff member who becomes the student's "companion teacher";
- * Conducting a personal development program which assists students to understand themselves and to develop their motivation to remain engaged with their studies through their VCE. All students attend a weekend residential camp and two full-day workshops.
- * Providing the students with career guidance;
- * Assisting students to make informed decisions about future studies and career choices;
- * Facilitating a social network for these students so that they can mix, socialise, share subject knowledge and draw strength from others in similar circumstances;

One of the major tools required to complete VCE studies in the 21st century is a lap-top computer. The foundation does not have the funding to provide these to the group, so was very excited when approached by McGrathNicol with an offer of a lap-top for each participant. The 28 participants were thrilled when the lap-tops were delivered to their schools by the Program Coordinator who felt a little like "Santa" delivering them to the ten Melbourne metropolitan government schools. The lap-tops have greatly improved the participants' chances of success and will support them in their goal to complete VCE and enter tertiary studies; these financially disadvantaged students now have the same tools most other VCE students take for granted. Many of the participants sent thank you notes to be passed on to the team at McGrathNicol who made this possible.

"I think it's so generous and so kind for these computers to be donated to the skyline foundation. I think I can speak for everyone in saying that it a very special gift and that no words could describe what it means to us. It's nice to know that there are people out there who would give up something of such value to others who may not be able to get it otherwise (if that makes sense). It also shows the true generosity and selflessness that we need in this society to make life that little bit easier for others. So thanks again and be sure that it will make a big difference to our education and our lives".
Year 12 student

"I'm not too sure how to write a thank you note as I have never received something as big as a laptop from complete strangers so I'll just keep it nice and short. This kind gesture that you have given us will surely not be forgotten anytime soon. The laptops that you have given us free of charge are simply awesome. Now I can take my studies with me where ever I go and this is all thanks to you guys at McGrathNicol. The name McGrathNicol will definitely not be forgotten, I can assure you guys that".
Year 11 student

"I would like to thank McGrathNicol for their generosity; a laptop really is a generous and smart gift to our generation. It made everyone excited even about using the laptops to do homework and studying on it. Thank you very much, I appreciate it"!!!
Year 12 student

"A big thanks to the people at McGrathNicol for this very generous act. It's good to know there's still so many kind people in this world.
YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST"
Year 11 student