



Education Foundation Australia

2019 SROI EVALUATION

Our vision is that gifted and academically talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their full potential and our mission is to empower VCE students to thrive through education and personal growth in a caring community.



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INTRODUCTION

Skyline Education Foundation (hereinafter Skyline) is a vibrant organisation deeply committed to seeing students realise their dreams. The key focus is to support gifted and academically talented year 11 and 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds to reach their full potential.

To understand the impact of their work, Skyline commissioned this Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation, which examined the value created from activity undertaken in a typical 2-year period using data from 2017 and 2018.

The purpose of this evaluative SROI was to understand and measure the social and economic value created by Skyline during the 2017 and 2018 calendar years.

The activities examined included:

WRAP AROUND CARE

Skyline's dedicated Program team creates a continuum of educational, emotional and practical support and resources by forming a strong school, companion teacher and parental support framework and partnership that wraps-around students during their two years in the Program.

FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT AND SUBSIDY

Reimbursement of educational expenses incurred by students (school levies and fees, textbooks, uniforms, materials and academic requirements, travel and excursions).

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Two transformational three-day courses designed to foster personal growth and development.

MASTERCLASSES

Six intensive day long seminars designed to further build personal growth and development.

2018 EVALUATION RESULTS

To date independent evaluations by I & J Management Services evidences up to 65% of Skyline students achieving VCE results in excess of their aspirations prior to joining the program:

- **100% of students who completed the two-year Skyline Program transitioned to tertiary education or career of choice**
- **85% of Skyline students entered university with others proceeding directly to career of choice**
- **More than 70% of Skyline students took on leadership roles within their school or were recognised for academic excellence**
- **Schools report that these students become role models for their siblings and peers.**

With Skyline's encouragement, support and advocacy, by far the most significant difference that Skyline students see in themselves is increased confidence and self-efficacy – personal traits that translate to longer-term personal, societal and economic benefits. As they leave school the students say they now:

- **See themselves as a person of value and worth**
- **Have confidence in their academic ability and capacity to succeed**
- **Are better able to define and pursue a career pathway of their choice**
- **Have stronger personal, organisational and work-readiness skills**
- **Have increased motivation and capacity to give back to their community through leadership and volunteer work.**

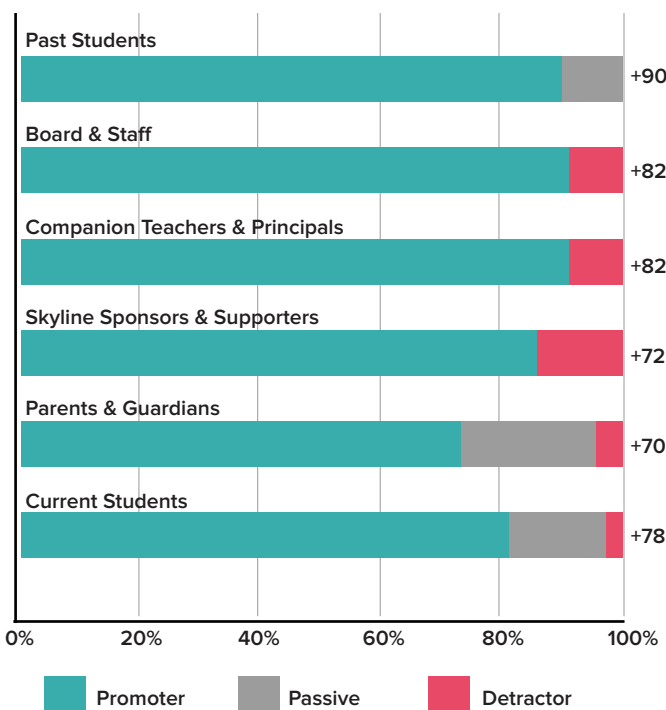
In 2018 the Skyline Board approved 51 new students to join 43 year 12 students in 2019, making **a total Skyline cohort in 2019 of 94 students across 25 Victorian schools**, continuing the student intake into the Skyline Program growth trajectory.



In September 2018 Skyline stakeholders were asked how likely was it that they would recommend Skyline to a student who is eligible to apply. The results were used to calculate a Net Promoter Score (the difference between the proportion of people who promote a program and those who detract from it). Independent Evaluators I+J Phillips note that an NPS that is positive (ie. higher than zero) is felt to be good, and an NPS of +50 is excellent.

+78

On average, respondents had a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of +78. This is an exceptionally high score and indicates a very high level of support for the Skyline Program. Past students have by far the highest NPS – with a score of +90. Current students have the lowest NPS of +69, although this is still very good. The difference in scores between past and current students is almost certainly influenced by the perspective from which each group views the program – some are still experiencing it and some look back with the benefit of hindsight on how it has impacted their lives.



SROI KEY FINDINGS

The SROI evaluation examined the value created in a typical two-year activity period, 2017 and 2018.

The evaluation found that for every dollar invested in the program, between \$9.45 and \$13.32 of social and economic value was created. Skyline is creating considerable social and economic Return as a result of the wrap-around care approach which provides students the ability to strengthen their self-identity, build confidence, and experience the support of a stable network.

For every dollar invested in the program,

\$12.19

of social and economic value was created.

OUTCOMES VALUATION = \$13,423,833

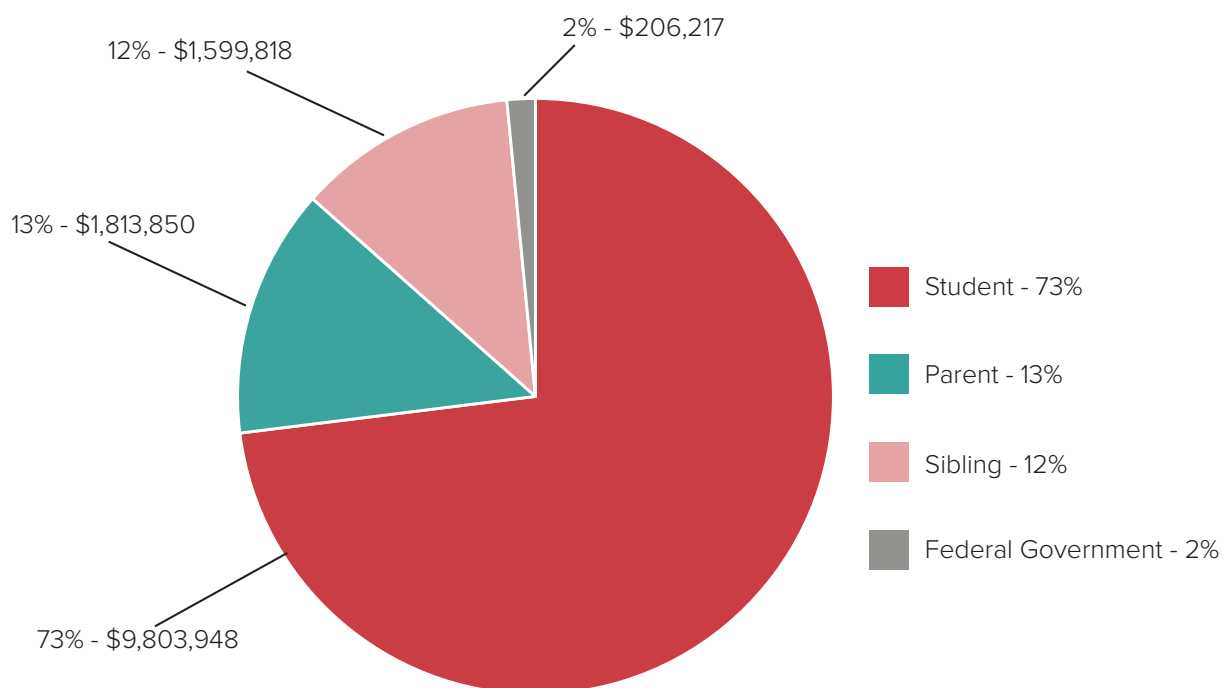
INPUT COST = \$1,100,847



“I believe any student who has entered Skyline would have absolutely achieved less academically due to the outside pressures of their lives mixed with not being exposed to like minded individuals. Of these, I would believe that some of them would have chosen different pathways or even potentially dropped out”

- Skyline Companion Teacher

The chart below illustrates the breakdown of the total social and economic value created by Skyline by stakeholder group.



Students experience 73% of the total social and economic value created by Skyline valued at \$9,803,948.

Stronger self-identity was valued most highly by students through opportunities to explore their identity and contribute to greater empathy for others.

Parents experience 13% of the total value created by Skyline valued at \$1,813,850.

The outcome with the highest value was reduced financial stress described by parents as worrying less and having a greater ability to spend money on the essentials.

Siblings experience 12% of the value created by Skyline valued at \$1,599,818.

Expanded aspirations had the highest value of the sibling outcomes realised through the influence of their role model Skyline sibling.

The federal government realises 2% of the total value created by Skyline.

This equates to \$206,217 of economic value through increased tax revenue as a result of students completing higher levels of education and higher wages.

“I would have had to work over-time so I would be unable to spend more time with my children at home... My child would have to do these things for me instead because I would come home late from work, which in turn would affect their study.” – Skyline Parent

SROI METHODOLOGY

SROI is an evaluation approach that draws on well-established methodologies in economics, accounting and social research. It is underpinned by seven principles which ensure that the analysis understands the changes that take place and additional value that has occurred through the activities being delivered¹.

The SROI Guide's (Social Value International, 2012) process is underpinned by the following seven principles:

1. Involve stakeholders
2. Understand what changes
3. Value the things that matter
4. Only include what is material
5. Do not over claim
6. Be transparent
7. Verify the result

A SROI calculation provides an indication of cost effectiveness, by comparing the investment required to deliver the activities with the value of the outcomes experienced by all beneficiary stakeholders. Social value is calculated by placing a financial value on the quantified change commensurate with the degree of change experienced by stakeholders as a result of their involvement with Skyline. These financial values are known as financial proxies.

The value of the outcomes represents 'additional value' that would not have occurred in the absence of the activities. Value that would have happened anyway (deadweight) or that is attributable to other stakeholders (attribution) has been deducted.

In accordance with the principle 'Do not over claim', a conservative approach has been adopted for decisions on data and assumptions used in the SROI calculation.

The social value is calculated as follows:

Social Value = Outcome incidence X Financial proxy

Outcome Incidence (number of people experiencing the outcome) = Number potential individuals in the stakeholder group X % survey respondents in the stakeholder group that experience change. I.e. the outcome incidence is extrapolated based on the available sample data to the entire stakeholder cohort.

This value was then discounted to determine the value associated with this outcome that could be attributed to Skyline including **attribution** (how much of the value is a result of Skyline activities), **deadweight** (what would have happened anyway), **displacement** (how much is a net benefit), **benefit period** (how long does the value last), **drop-off** (how much does this value decrease over time). The SROI is calculated by adding the value of all the discounted outcomes divided by the input contributions required to deliver the program.

Value of materials outcomes (\$)

Program contributions value (\$)

SROI Ratio

¹ The SROI evaluation was conducted in accordance with 'A Guide to Social Return on Investment' (the SROI Guide) published by the SROI Network in 2012 (now known as Social Value UK). Available at: <http://www.socialvalueuk.org/resources/sroi-guide/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SROI report prepared by Suzi Young and Jennifer Feinstein of Think Impact.



Skyline Education Foundation Australia

Suite 51, 45 Riversdale Road
Hawthorn VIC

0468 406 814
info@skylinefoundation.org.au

