

# the impact 100 people can make



If you want to know the difference that a \$1,000 donation can make, just look to the improvements in behaviour and attendance at Forrestfield Primary School, which has been receiving support from Impact100 WA's first grant beneficiary, Manna Inc.

Manna Inc has provided Forrestfield Primary (and many other schools across Perth) with its Winter School Uniform Program since 2009, leading to significant improvements in school attendance and student behaviour.

Collectively, Impact100 WA members provided Manna Inc with a \$100,000 grant for the Winter School Uniform Program in 2012, and thanks to the funding boost the program will support 1,000 school students in 2013.

Under the program they will receive one winter tracksuit with their school emblem, one padded rainproof jacket, a pair of running shoes and two pairs of socks.

For many children this means they can get to school without getting rained on and because they are in the same uniform as everyone else, that they fit in to the school environment, reducing social isolation.

## Increased attendance rates

Forrestfield Primary School deputy principal Janine Mason has been monitoring the school's behavioural issues and attendance records and the effect of Manna Inc's Winter School Uniform Program and Breakfast programs on these statistics and believes the programs have had a significant positive impact on the school. In 2009, prior to the school accessing Manna's programs, 14% of the school's students were at severe, moderate or indicated risk for not attending school. That figure is now 4%.

Severe risk is when a child is attending school at a 0-59% rate, moderate risk is when a student attends school 60-79% of the time (missing between 1.5-2 days per fortnight) and indicated risk is an attendance rate of 80-90%.

In one case at Forrestfield Primary School in 1st term of 2012, prior to receiving Manna's breakfast and winter uniform assistance, a student had an attendance rate of 8%. After receiving support from Manna Inc, in term 4 their attendance rate was 88%.

Ms Mason said much of this improvement can be put down to Manna Inc's support at the school. By providing students with breakfast when they arrive at school and a winter uniform so they are warm and 'fit in' to the school environment, students are provided with an incentive to attend and are more socially accepted. This social acceptance has significant positive impacts on behavioural issues.

## Behavioural incidents down

In the first term of 2012 at Forrestfield, a total of 71 behaviour incidents that were severe or infringed the school's behaviour code were recorded. By term four the number of behaviour incidents had halved, to 35. Of those 35, only 10 were severe behaviour breaches, such as intimidation or bullying and the vast majority were moderate behaviour issues such as not showing respectful behaviour and teasing.

Ms Mason said much of this could be put down to the Winter School Uniform Program. Because these students now had a school uniform that looked like all the other students', they could blend in.

And because they didn't stand out, they got picked on less, they were less reactive and their self-esteem was elevated.

At Forrestfield Primary School 69% of the parents of children are welfare dependent, and Ms Mason said the program neutralises the effects of poverty in the school environment.

Ms Mason said that without Manna Inc, the school would not have achieved what it has achieved in behavioural and attendance improvements.

[www.mannainc.com.au](http://www.mannainc.com.au)



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collect collaborate make an impact

"Philanthropy is the practice of applying assets of knowledge,  
passion and wealth to bring about constructive change."

*Peter Goldmark, Rockefeller Foundation 1998*



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