WE KNOW THE PROBLEM

THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES
Challenges include sickness, disability, unemployment, difficulty affording basic living costs, inability to provide resources for their children’s education, and a lack of knowledge or confidence about how best to support their educational development.

POORER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN
Behind in essential skills when they start school, not having the items needed to fit in, limited access to resources to support learning development, falling behind at school and difficulty catching up, limited or no access to positive role models to guide study/career paths.

POORER OVERALL LIFE OUTCOMES
Inability to get ahead in life, health and wellbeing affected, passing on disadvantage to the next generation.

DIFFICULTY GETTING A JOB
Lack of engagement and motivation with their education, lower educational performance, leaving school early with few or no qualifications, fewer job opportunities, limited connections to community networks and services.
One in three children in the most disadvantaged communities is developmentally vulnerable in one or more key areas when they start school.¹

61% of Year 5 students whose parents have not completed Year 12 or equivalent, achieve above the national minimum standard, compared to 94% of Year 5 students who have parents with a university qualification.²

Around 60% of young people from the lowest socioeconomic backgrounds complete Year 12. This compares to around 90% for those from the highest socioeconomic backgrounds.³

Post-school, 41% of 24-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are not fully engaged in work or study, compared to 17% of those from the most advantaged backgrounds.⁴

⁴ Ibid.
“I have eight kids to support and, as a full-time carer to my husband, our family budget is tight. Five of my kids are on the Learning for Life program and without that support we would be lost. It means that my children can go to school at the start of the year in new uniforms, new shoes and with their hair cut. It is important to me that they look smart and that they don’t stand out from the other kids.

All my children need specialist shoes for school, because they have big shoe sizes, and these can be expensive, so having the scholarship really helps.

My eldest, Shawn, is receiving a Learning for Life tertiary scholarship and studying to be an arts teacher at Griffith University. Having the scholarship means the possibilities for the kids have increased. It brings their dreams within reach.

The scholarship for Shawn has been a big help as I would never have been able to help him. It’s enabled him to get those big ticket items for uni that I would not be able to get for him.

Ruby and Sam (The Smith Family’s Family Partnership Coordinators) are caring for your children as much as you are. They think of things that would help your children and they are very approachable.”

Jean, Learning for Life parent