



Department of Education and Child Development

Business partnership with a heart

The organisation

South Australia's Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) puts children and young people at the heart of everything it does. Its goal is to support every family, so all young South Australians have the opportunity to be happy, healthy and safe members of the community.

The challenge

The Department supports The Dame Roma Mitchell Trust with funding for grants. Providing financial assistance for young people living in care placements, these grants are used to help transform their lives – from helping fund a gym membership, musical instrument or art materials to helping them get a driver's licence or pursue further study.

Since its beginnings in 2003, the Trust has granted over \$2.5 million to children and young people in South Australia. In 2013, the DECD was looking for supplier of stationery and office supplies that would help them support the Trust.

The solution

Staples proposed a rebate system, linked to expenditure, which would enable funds to be raised for the Trust.

The idea is simple, yet powerful. As the Department's preferred supplier for the purchase of stationery and office supplies, Staples provides a rebate on each dollar spent, with funds going directly to the Trust. From everyday stationery to promotional items, every corporate order counts towards the running total.

And the support doesn't stop there. Since the relationship began in 2013, Staples has worked closely with the DECD and the Trust to find innovative ways to increase donations – over and above the contract. For example, Staples position as a large supplier with strong relationships, made it possible to negotiate a rebate from Acer directly to the Trust for the purchase of laptops.

As of May 2015, Staples Australia had donated over \$90,000 to the Trust. DRMTF Board Chairperson, Colleen Fitzpatrick, said this support has helped more than 280 children and young people pursue opportunities they might not normally have access to.

Staples is thrilled to be helping support the Dame Roma Mitchell Trust through its partnership with the DECD. It's a true privilege to work with a client to provide life-changing opportunities to the young people of South Australia, and Staples looks forward to a long-lasting partnership.

For more information about the Dame Roma Mitchell Grants and to learn how you can donate, visit the website.

www.staplesadvantage.com.au | 13 26 44.