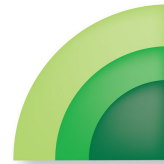




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# Community Foundation back to school relief

Local families in need are once again receiving support for the cost of sending children back to school, with small grants made available through the Broken Hill Community Foundation (BHCF).

More than \$17,000 will be distributed this year, in \$50 vouchers from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) 2009 Back to School Program.

This is the fifth year the BHCF has been able to obtain vouchers through the FRRR program, in total supporting 1,290 students with \$64,500.

BHCF Chairman Vince Gauci said the vouchers ease the pressure on families struggling to out-

fit students for the start of the school year, especially when there were a number of children involved.

"We've been especially pleased to see the number of vouchers allocated to the BHCF grow from 140 in 2005, to 200 in 2006, 250 in 2007 and 350 for the last two years," Mr Gauci said.

"Each voucher has the potential to make a difference to the way a child feels on their first day back at school or, indeed, their very first day in the education system. For parents, it relieves some of the stress associated with finding extra money when times are tight."

The vouchers can be spent at

Target on any items relating to school, including clothing.

The BHCF is again working in partnership with Lifeline to distribute the vouchers following the success of this arrangement in past years.

"While the BHCF is happy to apply for the funding each year, Lifeline is the right organisation to oversee the distribution.

"They have appropriate contacts and a network of other local agencies to ensure the privacy of families is protected and that those most in need receive support," Mr Gauci said.

Lifeline Manager Richard Lines said the vouchers had gone very quickly since being received

last week, but that there were still some available.

"This can be a very difficult time of year for families on limited incomes and Lifeline very much appreciates the opportunity to be involved. On behalf of these families, our sincere thanks go to the FRRR and the Broken Hill Community Foundation," Mr Lines said.

The Back to School Program is an initiative of FRRR and the Sidney Myer Fund, and supported by the Sidney Myer Fund, VISY, Bennelong Foundation and the DOXA Youth Foundation.