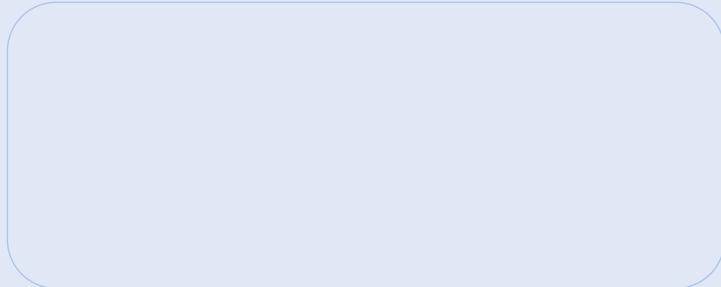


# peacemail

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POSTAGE PAID  
OFF PEAK  
AUSTRALIA



**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities

## Working for Justice for Indigenous Australians

Act for Peace helps support the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) of the National Council of Churches in Australia. NATSIEC works with churches and other groups to advise, educate and walk together in exploring ways to bring Indigenous peoples and injustices which have particular impact on them, such as poverty and racism, into the heart of our common concerns.

NATSIEC supports Indigenous communities and groups who are working to achieve their goals and aspirations such as the Opening the Doors Foundation. This foundation is an ecumenical organisation helping young Indigenous people to reach their full potential and to confidently take their rightful place in the community.

Your gifts will sustain and extend their important work. Some examples:

**\$800** can fill a secondary student's booklist for a year

**\$450** can provide a talented student with a musical instrument and lessons

**\$100** can provide footwear for a student

**\$50** can provide stationery requirements

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

**actalliance**



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**THANK YOU Partners** for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Sarah on **1800 025 101** or email [hgraham@ncca.org.au](mailto:hgraham@ncca.org.au). Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed! *All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

## Giving Indigenous Children Equal Education Opportunities

*Dear Act for Peace Partner,*

My name is Sam. When I was young, I went to live with my grandmother, because my dad and mum weren't coping too well. I remember walking to primary school and passing a big school with a church and lots of gardens. All the kids looked smart in their uniforms, they all had matching bags and shoes and beautiful blazers. I knew Gran wanted me to go there, but she said didn't have much money because she helped a lot of my cousins. One day, Gran told me that she had heard about Opening the Doors Foundation (OTDF) at church and that she had spoken to them about me.

I was enrolled in Grade 6 and OTDF helped me to feel that I was part of the school community.

They provided me with a uniform and I stopped getting in trouble for not having my own books. I'm now in Grade 11 and am living back home with Mum. This year, I needed a calculator that cost \$200! Thanks to OTDF, I have my calculator and can keep up with the others in class.

I'm the first person in my family to go past Grade 8. They have an Aboriginal Educator at this school, which is great because they understand a lot about me. I'm learning French, and I hope I can go to France later this year as an exchange student with my classmates with some help from OTDF. I will be the first person in my family to get a passport and go overseas. My Gran's pretty stoked. I really hope dreams do come true.

This school is very caring. I think if I was in my old school, with the other stuff going on in my life, I would have left already. I'm hoping to get into Uni when I leave and do something in teaching or health that will make Mum and Gran really proud.

Thank you for helping me to feel great about completing my education. The Foundation says that this year they are helping 400 of us Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to not just have the basics for school, but help us to do all the extra things like excursions, so we can be like everyone else. I'm really pleased that Gran made contact with OTDF. It's changed my life.



*A happy Sam with school friends*

### **Partner's Prayer Points:**

***Pray for the work of NATSIEC and organisations like Opening the Doors Foundation that strive for equal opportunity for Indigenous people.***

***Pray that more Indigenous children will be encouraged and enabled to reach their full potential.***

*Sam*