



10 YEARS

Thousands of Stories, One Village



SUPPORTER PROSPECTUS

WHAT IS school savvy ? by centacare FNQ

Getting children ready for a new school year can be a struggle for many families. For the past 10 years, School Savvy FNQ has been our community's village response – a way of making sure no child misses out on education because of cost.

School Savvy FNQ aims to help as many children as possible be 'back-to-school ready', with the resources required to succeed.

This ensures that back-to-school costs are not a barrier to education and reduces a child's risk of isolation and disengagement.

When families face financial pressure, the whole village feels it. Children who start

school without the right clothing, books, or supplies can fall behind – impacting confidence, wellbeing, and long-term learning outcomes.

That's where the village steps in

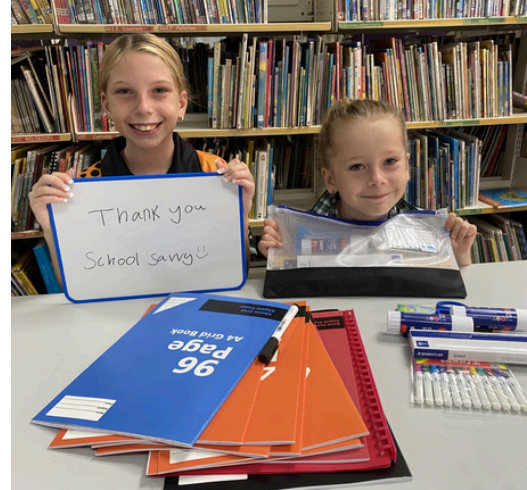
School Savvy brings together second-hand uniforms, stationery supplies, and even haircuts, all made possible by the generosity of volunteers, businesses, and donors across Far North Queensland.

For 10 years, thousands of children have walked into school feeling equal, included, and ready to learn – because their village stood beside them.

Our conversations with parents and teachers have shown a steady increase in the number of children starting school without adequate clothing, shoes, or equipment. But when our village comes together, we can change that story.

EDUCATION IS KEY TO BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE – AND IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.





OUR ORIGINS

BUILT BY THE VILLAGE, FOR THE VILLAGE

School Savvy began in Cairns in 2016, not as a program, but as a community response – a grassroots initiative grounded in the belief that it takes a village to raise a child, and a whole community to get them back to school with dignity.

What started as a local effort during Anti-Poverty Week quickly became a movement. In just three months, the concept grew from idea to impact – with thousands of donated school items, a pop-up shop staffed by Centacare FNQ, and generous support from businesses, volunteers, and everyday locals.

Since then, our village has only grown. Today, School Savvy runs across multiple regions – from Townsville to Rockhampton, Mackay to Gladstone – with Toowoomba and Brisbane preparing to come online in 2024. There is now strong interest in expanding the model interstate.

Centacare FNQ created School Savvy as a practical alternative to Emergency Relief funding, designed to empower families to access school essentials through choice, dignity, and community care. What began in Cairns is now recognised as a replicable model of compassionate support – one that extends well beyond school supplies.

Haircuts, laundry services, volunteer opportunities, local employment referrals, and trusted information-sharing have all become part of the experience – because School Savvy is not just about being school-ready, it's about feeling seen, supported, and part of something bigger. At its heart, School Savvy is a reminder that when times are tough, it's the strength of the village that carries people through.



OUR ORGANISATION

At Centacare FNQ, we believe it takes a village to raise a child – and a community to lift a family. That’s why we’re proud to be one of the organisations at the heart of Far North Queensland’s social fabric, walking alongside people through life’s challenges, transitions, and dreams.

School Savvy is just one of the many ways we bring this belief to life. Grounded in the values of dignity, inclusion, and shared responsibility, our programs work to ensure no one is left behind – especially our region’s youngest citizens.

As a locally rooted organisation, we exist not just to serve, but to listen. We know the solutions to community challenges live within the community itself. That’s why our services are built on trust, local insight, and real connection – from our neighbourhood centres and family support, to counselling, aged care, disability services, and community education.

We’re not just delivering services – we’re helping to build the village. One where families feel supported, children are seen and celebrated, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

At Centacare FNQ, we’re here for the moments that matter. And together, with our supporters, volunteers, and partners, we’re building a future where every dream has the chance to grow.



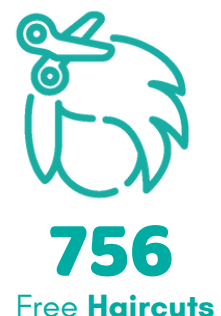
BY THE NUMBERS: A VILLAGE OF IMPACT

We long for a day when initiatives like School Savvy FNQ are no longer needed – when every child can start the school year with confidence, dignity, and everything they need to thrive. Until then, we take heart in the strength of our village.

Over the past 10 years, School Savvy has grown from a small local idea into a region-wide movement, supported by individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups who believe every child deserves the chance to become who they dream to be. Each year, the demand grows – and so does the generosity.

Your support helps children walk through the school gate feeling proud and prepared, no matter their family's financial situation. When you contribute to School Savvy, you're not just giving school supplies – you're giving confidence, dignity, and opportunity.

A DECADE OF DREAMS, POWERED BY OUR VILLAGE



This is what a village with heart can do – and we're only just beginning.

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. SUPPORT

IT TAKES A VILLAGE – BE PART OF IT

For 10 years, School Savvy has been powered by one simple truth:

When the village shows up, children thrive.

In 2026, we invite you to be part of The Village Behind the Backpack — a collective of community-minded businesses, schools, and organisations working together to ensure every local child can walk through the school gate proud, prepared, and ready to learn.

Whether you give financially, donate supplies, or volunteer your time — your involvement builds more than pencil cases and uniforms.

You help build confidence, dignity, and hope for families across Far North Queensland.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THE VILLAGE

Your financial contribution helps us directly support local children with uniforms, backpacks, stationery, and dignity.

DONATE

Every village has its generous givers — the ones who quietly but powerfully help carry the load.

When you donate to School Savvy, you're not just giving money — you're giving a child confidence, pride, and the tools to step through the school gate ready to learn.

Every \$150 helps one child be back-to-school ready.

Your donation becomes part of something bigger — a community united in care.



VOLUNTEER

Villages thrive on willing hands and open hearts. Whether it's packing pencil cases, sorting uniforms, or helping in a pop-up shop, your time is a gift that brings this campaign to life.

Volunteering connects you to the heart of the village — people helping people, side by side. No task is too small when you're part of something this big.

SUPPORT

Not every villager gives money or time — but every voice, window, and workplace can help spread the word. Display a poster. Share a social post. Mention us in your newsletter.

Even the quietest support strengthens the village and helps a child become who they dream to be.

EVERY ROLE MATTERS. EVERY CHILD COUNTS.

Whether you're donating, volunteering, or showing your support — you're helping build a village where every child can walk through the school gate with pride.

Call **(07) 4044 0130** or email
schoolsavvyfnq@centacarefnq.org

Our team is here to help you find your place in the village.

Whether you're giving time, money, or support — your involvement helps local children step into school with pride.

Together, we make the village stronger.

