

About the Keeping Kids in School (KKS) Programme:

“ You are not just giving money, you are giving a child to stay in school, stay safe and stay hopeful about their future”



The *Keeping Kids in School (KKS)* initiative supports children in Tissamaharama, Sri Lanka, who face the risk of leaving school due to financial hardship. Established in 2020 under AUSLMAT, the program provides targeted, practical assistance to help students continue their education through to the A/Level exam.

Through an annual sponsorship of **AUD 120**, each child receives essential school items — book lists, uniforms, shoes, stationery, and other education-related needs.

100% of funds go directly to students, with no administrative costs.

A local coordinator, retired teacher **Mr. Hilary Mathiasz**, identifies eligible students, monitors their progress, and ensures all funds are used responsibly through a receipt-based or voucher system. Sponsors receive regular updates and can choose to maintain personal contact with the students they support – a meaningful way to see the real impact they are making in these childrens' lives.

Keep a Child in School. Change a Life.

In the rural villages of Tissamaharama, Sri Lanka, many families live on day-to-day income that has become increasingly uncertain in recent years. When money runs short, education is often the first sacrifice. Children leave school not because they lack talent or ambition, but because their families cannot afford uniforms, shoes, stationery, or transport.

The **Keeping Kids in School (KKS)** project was created to protect those children from slipping through the cracks. For **just AUD 10 a month**, you can ensure a child stays in school all the way to their Advanced Level examinations — giving them the chance to build a future beyond poverty.

100% of your sponsorship goes directly to the child's educational needs.

No admin fees. No overheads. Every dollar funds essentials such as:

- School uniforms and shoes
- Books, stationery, and learning supplies
- Other education-related costs

Each child is monitored by **Mr. Hilary Mathiasz**, a respected retired teacher in Tissamaharama, ensuring transparency and meaningful impact. Sponsors receive:

- A student profile with family details
- Expense receipts

- Annual school progress reports
- The option to stay personally connected

How It Started

The *Keeping Kids in School (KKS)* project began in 2020, during one of the most economically challenging periods for families in rural Sri Lanka. Many parents in Tissamaharama—especially daily wage earners and flower sellers at the Tissa temple—found themselves unable to provide even the basic essentials required for their children to attend school. Faced with the impossible choice between education and survival, some children were on the brink of leaving school entirely. In response, AUSLMAT launched KKS with a simple but powerful mission: to prevent vulnerable children from dropping out by covering their essential educational costs.

How It's Maintained

KKS is run with complete transparency and zero administrative overheads, ensuring that **100% of every donation goes directly to students' educational needs**. The program is coordinated locally by retired schoolteacher **Mr. Hilary Mathiasz**, who identifies eligible children, manages purchases through receipts or vouchers, tracks progress, and stays closely connected with each family. Sponsors receive student profiles, receipts, updates, and annual school reports, and they are welcome to maintain personal contact with the children they support. With ongoing sponsorships from generous families in Australia, and the growing involvement of local schools and community partners in Tissamaharama, the program continues to expand sustainably.

How It Benefits the Children

For the children, KKS is far more than financial assistance—it is the key to staying in school, staying safe, and building a future beyond poverty. Sponsorship provides essentials such as uniforms, shoes, books, and stationery, removing the financial barriers that often force children out of education. The stability offered by KKS allows students to focus on learning, participate fully in school life, and work toward completing their Advanced Level examinations. Many experience improved confidence, better academic performance, and renewed hope for their futures—because they know someone believes in them. Today, roughly 95 children remain in school thanks to this support, each with a brighter path ahead.