



COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL
Scholarship Program

FOR EMMA, BOARDING SCHOOL BECAME A LIFE-CHANGER

Leaving her small country town for Westminster School in Adelaide turned Emma's life around. The move has been a big deal, helping her form tight friendships, gain confidence and step up her schoolwork and social skills.

The Commonwealth Regional Scholarship that made her Westminster education possible has opened up a world Emma loves. "I really enjoy boarding as I love being with friends and I have met a lot of new people which I have become great friends with," Emma said. "Attending Westminster allows me to participate in activities that I would never have done at home, like co-curricular activities, boarding activities and the use of school facilities."

Her teachers have been a major influence. "The support I receive from my teachers has been fantastic! They always encourage me to let them know if I don't understand something and they will explain it in a way that suits my learning style," she shared. Their help has made tackling her studies much easier.

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I have improved and received good grades for all my subjects, completing subjects at Westminster that were not available at my local school. The Agriculture program at Westminster is state-of-the-art. I have played all the sports I love and improved in all of them.

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Westminster has also shaped Emma's values through unique experiences. A boarders-only service trip to Vietnam, where she helped build a house for a family in need, was a defining moment. "Westminster values are now my own: Courageous, Curious, Inclusive, Kind, Mindful and Resilient," Emma said. "The service trip to Vietnam was a highlight." This experience strengthened her sense of purpose and showed her the power of giving back.

Beyond these opportunities, moving to the city has been a huge shift for Emma. "Moving from the country with no traffic lights to being able to catch public transport to work experience, shopping centres and the beach in the city has been an incredible change," she said. "My day revolves around time management, playing and training for sports, being on time for class, meals, and tutoring daily." Unlike her hometown, where girls' football and cricket weren't available, she's now fully involved in both sports at Westminster.

Emma's interest in agriculture has grown stronger at Westminster. She works with cattle and sheep at the school's agricultural block and has competed in events like the Heifer Expo SA, where she took third place in her handler's event. She's also shown cattle at the Royal Adelaide Show with the Westminster team. These activities tie into her studies and keep her connected to her country roots.

Westminster has given Emma more options for her future. "Westminster has broadened my options for future career goals. I'm interested in a few fields, including teaching and have selected subjects that support my aspirations," she said. She's considering a gap year, possibly working at a summer camp in the U.S., before starting university in 2026 or 2027.

Emma's thankful for her family's decision and the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program that made it possible. "I am very thankful for my parents deciding to send me to Westminster and I'm really thankful for the Commonwealth Scholarship, which has assisted my family so much financially," she said.

From a quiet country town to the busy life of Westminster, Emma's path has been one of growth and new possibilities. She's set to take on whatever's next.

