Teach for Australia’s (TFA) Future Leaders Program (FLP) is a one-year professional development program supporting educators working in Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) schools to develop leadership skills and capabilities.

FLP is equipping teachers to take on and thrive in the challenging and rewarding roles of school leadership and to deliver lasting impact for their students, school and community.

Great teachers change lives, and TFA’s programs are growing a community of leaders committed to equity for students, by recruiting and developing exceptional people to teach and lead across Australia. TFA’s work is grounded in the vision of all children receiving an education that provides choice and opportunity for their future.

In 2023, the Future Leaders Program is being completed by 76 ‘Fellows’ from NT, WA and QLD.
FLP began in 2021, with 35 Fellows from NT and WA. It expanded to 65 Fellows from NT, WA, QLD and NSW in 2022.
More than 25% of Fellows have been prompted to positions of leadership or higher responsibility within a year of completion

Why is the Future Leaders Program needed?

Schools in regional, rural and remote (RRR) communities face unique challenges including limited access to support services and attracting and retaining staff. The Future Leaders Program is designed to meet the needs of educators in RRR contexts by building on their strengths and developing crucial skills that help schools thrive.

What does the program involve?

The one-year program includes a series of targeted workshops, peer learning, online modules and one-on-one leadership coaching from a leadership expert. As part of FLP, participants set a personal leadership goal aligned to the program’s theory of leadership, as well as lead an ‘Innovation Project’ in their schools/communities that focuses on improving student experiences. These structures aim to develop the skills school leaders need to support positive learning experiences and equitable outcomes.

Do teachers pay to take part?

Participants are offered a full scholarship. For schools, a stipend is available to help cover the cost of up to two days of time release needed to attend face-to-face workshops. FLP is delivered with the support of the Australian Government Department of Education.

Who can apply for the Future Leaders Program?

Program applications are open to K-12 educators who have leadership aspirations and meet the following: Teachers must have at least two years’ experience, and work in a school classified as outer regional, remote or very remote in WA (Government or Catholic sector); NT (Government or Catholic sector), Queensland (Catholic sector) or NSW (Catholic sector). Schools must have an Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) score below 1000.

Why are only specific schools and locations eligible at the moment?

The FLP is targeting states and territories that have greater proportions of outer regional and remote populations. As the program matures, the aim is to build and strengthen partnerships with other RRR communities and territories in future to expand FLP’s reach and impact.

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