

Question on Notice

No. 625

Asked on 10 September 2013

MR HATHAWAY asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier (MR ELMES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister outline the (a) number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation scholarships that have been awarded to constituents in the Townsville Electorate, (b) total value of the scholarships that have been awarded and (c) impact that these scholarships have had on young Indigenous youth in Townsville and North Queensland?

ANSWER

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) does not record address details for scholarship recipients, as the primary contact between QATSIF and these students is through their schools.

While it is possible that students from Townsville may have attended school anywhere in Queensland, the most likely destination for the majority of these students is schools in either the Thuringowa or Townsville Electorates.

- (a) *Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation scholarships that have been awarded to constituents in the Townsville Electorate:*

New scholarship offers for the 2014–15 QATSIF Scholarship Round were announced on 4 October 2013.

A total of 61 QATSIF scholarships totalling \$130,861 have been awarded to students attending schools in the Townsville Electorate since this scholarship program commenced in 2010. The schools attended by students that have received scholarships include Townsville State High School, Tec-NQ, St Patrick's College and St Margaret Mary's College.

A total of 37 QATSIF scholarships totalling \$84,590 have been awarded to students attending Kirwan State High School and St Anthony's Catholic College in the Thuringowa Electorate since this scholarship program commenced in 2010.

- (b) *Total value of the scholarships that have been awarded:*

The total value of the scholarships awarded to students from the Townsville and Thuringowa Electorates, since the scholarship program commenced in 2010 is \$215,451.

(c) *Impact that these scholarships have had on young Indigenous youth in Townsville and North Queensland:*

Of 20 QATSIF scholarship recipients from schools in the Townsville Electorate who completed Year 12 prior to 2013, post school destinations for 16 were as follows:

- five were offered tertiary places;
- one went to Japan as an exchange student;
- seven went to TAFE;
- one applied for the Defence Force; and
- two entered full-time employment.

An additional seven scholarship holders will graduate from Year 12 at schools in the Townsville Electorate in 2013.

It was reported by Kirwan State High School in the Thuringowa Electorate that the two QATSIF scholarship recipients who completed Year 12 in 2011 were *“recognised leaders in their classrooms, as year 12s, on the sporting field and as elected Kirwan Young Indigenous Leaders. These two students were both undertaking school based apprenticeships in their chosen fields and each “duxed” their specialty subject”*.

An additional 14 scholarship holders will graduate from Year 12 at Kirwan High School in 2013.

Across Queensland, the proportion of young Indigenous people completing Year 12 and achieving the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is significantly lower than their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Completion of Year 12 is important in securing positive employment outcomes.

Strategies to increase the economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by increasing Year 12 attainment to 90 per cent are being actively supported by the QATSIF Scholarship Scheme.

I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland.