

Media Release **No. 546**

Under Embargo 6 April 2014

SEVEN TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO TORRES STRAIT STUDENTS

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, have announced seven new tertiary scholarships under the Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme (ATES).

Mr Elu said the TSRA was proud to support Torres Strait Islanders from the region to obtain formal academic qualifications.

“For many of our people, one of the biggest challenges to obtaining formal university qualifications is the cost of study as well as living away from home,” Mr Elu said.

“The ATES scholarship is designed to assist students with their study and living away expenses to ease the financial burden on them so they can focus on their studies.”

Senator Scullion said he was pleased to announce the scholarships in conjunction with the TSRA.

“The Australian Government is committed to addressing Indigenous disadvantage in the Torres Strait and initiatives such as the ATES scholarships contribute directly to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) targets for overcoming this disadvantage,” Senator Scullion said.

“I commend the TSRA for providing this opportunity for Indigenous students of the Torres Strait and I also congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them every success in their studies.”

Recipients of the Scholarship for 2014 include Mr Kevin Savage (Bachelor of Engineering Technology, University of Southern Queensland), Ms Solanima Mareko (Bachelor of Arts, James Cook University), Mr Maza Kelly (Bachelor of Education, James Cook University), Ms Idakul Bowie (Bachelor of Physical Education, James Cook University), Ms Leila Abednego (Bachelor of Social Work, James Cook University), Ms Lelae Newie (Bachelor of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology) and Mr Joseph Sabatino (Bachelor of Urban Development, Queensland University of Technology).

The TSRA advertises the ATES Scholarships each year and applications for the 2015 academic year will open in December 2014.

For information about the ATES Scholarships or any other capacity building programs, please contact the TSRA on (07) 4069 0700 or email info@tsra.gov.au.

ENDS



Caption: ATES Scholarship recipient Kevin Savage