

## Media Release **No. 596**

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### **KAZIW META STUDENT'S BUS BLESSED BY BISHOP MABO**

A blessing ceremony was held on 26 October 2014 with Bishop Mabo for a new bus that will provide improved, safe and reliable transportation for Thursday Island school students.

The Torres Strait Kaziw Meta (TSKM) was successful in receiving grant funding of \$51,200 to purchase the new student transport bus through the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Common Funding Round in March 2014.

TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the TSRA is pleased to have funded this project, which will aid the transportation of Kaziw Meta students.

"The bus was funded under our Safe Communities Program, which funds activities that contribute to community safety and access to social services," Mr Elu said.

"It is vital that we work to provide our young people with educational opportunities equivalent to young people in mainstream Australia.

"Reliable transport will ensure students attend school and that they are motivated to succeed. Getting children to go to school every day is one of our highest priorities."

Mr Elu said the bus would not only prove useful for current students in getting to school safely, but also to attend functions and events.

"Students will be able to travel safely to attend school, community functions, cultural activities and sporting events on Thursday Island," Mr Elu said.

"The new bus will essentially give students the practical means to attend school and be actively involved in community and cultural activities.

"It will also prepare TSKM for the arrival of additional Year 7 boarders when the 'Flying Start' Government Initiative commences in 2015."

Prior to receiving funding for the new bus, TSKM were using two buses that were over 12 years old and which required excessive ongoing maintenance costs.

The next round of community grant funding will open 5 March 2015 for activities taking place between July 2015 and July 2016.

For more information about TSRA grants visit [www.tsra.gov.au](http://www.tsra.gov.au) or contact the TSRA on 07 4069 0700 or by email [info@tsra.gov.au](mailto:info@tsra.gov.au).

**ENDS**

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TSRA Chairman, Joseph Elu with Kaziw Meta College Captains (Tanisha Pabai & Jeremy Tom) and the new student transport bus funded by TSRA Safe Communities (2014/15)



