TALENTED YOUTH OUR FUTURE INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Talented indigenous students are being given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jessica Mauboy and Jessie Thorne and become future leaders.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Paul Henderson has congratulated the 50 promising Indigenous students selected for the 2007 Indigenous Students Leadership and Mentorship Program (ISLMP).

“These students have the potential to be the future indigenous leaders in the Northern Territory,” Mr Henderson said.

“High profile participants of previous years include Australian Idol star Jessica Mauboy and Elcho Island’s Jessie Thorne, who represented the NT on the National Youth Round Table.

“This year’s group includes students aspiring to become the Indigenous athletes, musicians, artists, professionals and community leaders of the future.

“This dynamic program is an important part of the Territory Government's commitment to building Indigenous leadership.

“The NT Government is wholeheartedly investing in Indigenous education. We are committed to expanding educational opportunities for Indigenous students for the social and economic benefit of the whole Territory.”

Over half the students selected for this program live in non-urban parts of the Territory and in some of the most isolated parts of Australia.

“These students will take part in a range of educational experiences and will be individually mentored by a volunteer who will nurture and celebrate their growing individual skills and talents.

“The program will also provide access to funding to enable participants to attend youth conferences and purchase specialised musical equipment.

“The program, which started in late 2005, was one of the first projects under the Building Better Schools initiative. In 2008 students supported by the program will increase to 75,” Mr Henderson said.

After today’s induction and award ceremony in Darwin the students will travel to a three-day camp near Litchfield National Park to take part in confidence building and leadership activities.

For further information on the program and to view the full list of participating students, visit the ISLMP website at www.education.nt.gov.au/islmp

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