Alice Student Turning Japanese Language Study Into Travel

Education Minister Marion Scrymgour today met with teachers and students at the Alice Springs Language Centre to celebrate the achievement of 16 year-old Year 11 student Juanita Karena.

Ms Scrymgour said Juanita was one of three Australian students selected by the Japan Foundation, who will visit Japan for two weeks in July to develop a deeper understanding of the Japanese language, culture and society.

“Juanita can read and write both hiragana and katakana and is looking forward to the opportunity to use and improve her spoken Japanese in conversation,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“This is great example of the opportunities that open up through education and achieving good results at school.

“We are committed to improving educational outcomes – starting with English reading and writing and numeracy for students across the Territory.

“This needs to start with children attending school regularly and getting a good start to their education which later leads to further and varied opportunities.”

An Indigenous student, Juanita has been learning Japanese with Alice Springs Language Centre teacher Brenda Austen for the past four years. She plans to complete Stage 2 Japanese in Year 12 next year.

During her two week trip, she will attend lectures on Japanese language, culture and society, visit cultural and historical sites, meet Japanese high school students and stay in the home of a Japanese family.

The Alice Springs Language Centre also provides classes in Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese and Arrernte.

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