The Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Marion Scrymgour has praised three Indigenous graduates who received awards for outstanding achievement.

The awards were presented today at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education graduation ceremony.

More than 200 Indigenous students from around the Territory and across Australia received their graduation awards and certificates in a wide range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education courses.

Ms Scrymgour said it is a great day for all the graduates, many of whom have overcome tremendous obstacles to complete their studies.

“Greg Hauser, from Darwin, graduated with his Bachelor of Teaching Degree (Primary) and received the Department of Employment Education and Training Higher Education Award for his consistently high grades throughout the course, including in his teaching practice,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Greg is one of seven students currently studying on a DEET scholarship or fellowship program to become teachers. He is also a representative footballer and a model for young Aboriginal men and boys.”

Ms Scrymgour said there were two VET awards from the department which included $400 for each of the graduates.

“Valma Banks graduated with her Diploma of Interpreting and received her VET award for excellence in achieving the Diploma of Interpreting LOTE/English in 2007.

“While Leitisha Jackson, from Kalano Community graduated with her Certificate III in Aboriginal Health Work (Clinical) and received a VET award for outstanding achievement for her enthusiasm, determination and positive attitude.

“These award recipients, along with the other 200 graduates must now use the knowledge and skills they have gained to make vital contributions to improving the lives and future prospects of their own communities and people,” Ms Scrymgour said.

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