Syd Stirling
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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INDIGENOUS LEADERS OF TOMORROW

A champion hockey player, a country music singer, a future film director and a gifted footballer are among 25 Territory students selected to participate in the inaugural Indigenous Students’ Leadership and Mentorship Program.

The program – one of the first projects to be rolled out under the NT Government’s $42 million Building Better Schools initiative – aims to help Indigenous students reach their full educational potential, providing them with the support and guidance of a mentor.

“Improving education is a major focus for the Territory Government,” Mr Stirling said.

Acknowledging the 25 participants at a Parliament House ceremony today, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said they had been chosen for their exceptional talents and skill.

“They have demonstrated real commitment and drive to excel in their education and in their future careers and we want to celebrate and encourage their efforts,” Mr Stirling said.

“Over the next 18 months, each student will be individually mentored and take part in leadership programs.

“They will be able to access funding for educational opportunities that otherwise may not have been available to them. They can use this funding for materials and resources that will assist them in their studies and in the development of particular skills or interests.

“For some students, this might mean the opportunity to receive individual coaching from a professional sportsperson. For others, it might be their chance to purchase specialised computer software that can assist them at school.

“Over half the young people in the program live in some of the most remote parts of the Territory.

“These students have demonstrated a real commitment to their education and personal development despite the enormous challenges they face by living in such isolated communities.

“They are the future leaders of their communities and the Territory and it is crucial that we support and encourage their efforts so they can reach their full potential.”

The number of students participating in the program will increase by 25 each year over the next four years, with 100 Indigenous students taking part in the program each year by 2009.

For further information on the Indigenous Students’ Leadership and Mentorship Program: Sarah Oppenheim 8901 1384

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