Recipients of the 2005 NT Government Scholarships and Student Teacher Bursaries will be announced at a Parliament House ceremony this evening.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling, who will make the presentations, said the aim was to provide young Territorians with financial support as they embarked on further studies and training.

“The Government has already employed an extra 100 teachers in Territory schools,” Mr Stirling said.

“We also want to boost the number of Territorians in the teaching profession and in Territory schools, which is why we have created the Student Teacher Bursary scheme, which provides recipients with financial assistance of $12,000 each year of their studies for up to four years.

“To be eligible for a bursary, you must be a resident of the Territory. A number of this year’s recipients were actually born, bred and educated here. It’s exciting to see them now embarking on a career which will allow them to play an important role in educating future Territorians.

“The NT Government has also awarded 5 Vocational Education and Training (VET) scholarships, worth $1750 a year, with recipients studying courses ranging from Conservation and Land Management to Library & Information Services.

“In addition, 40 Higher Education scholarship recipients will each receive $3,500 a year during their studies, with the top ten students receiving an additional $1,500 in their first year.”

The Top student in the Higher Education category is Rifley Rafiudeen of Casuarina Senior College with a Tertiary Education Ranking (TER) of 99.90. Rifley is currently studying for a Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery/ Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Melbourne.

“These scholarships and bursaries are an important way for the Government to invest in our young people, build a skilled and educated workforce and keep the Territory moving ahead,” Mr Stirling said.

“This afternoon’s ceremony is also a chance to acknowledge the teachers, parents and families who have supported and guided each of these young people to this stage of their life and who will continue to support them throughout their time at university.”

This afternoon’s presentation is on in the Strangers’ Lounge, Parliament House, Darwin, at 4.45pm.

* A full list of Bursary and Scholarship recipients is attached *

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