NEW HIGH FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IN THE TERRITORY

Indigenous education in remote Northern Territory communities reached new heights with the release of the NT Certificate of Education results. For the first time, all five remote community education centres that are accredited to provide senior secondary studies have produced graduates.

Maningrida CEC has 8 graduates, Kalkaringi CEC 3, Yirrkala CEC 4, Shepherdson College 3, and there are 7 graduates from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School at Wadeye.

Education Minister Syd Stirling praised the students on their efforts and achievements, and their principals, teachers and support staff for their dedication, commitment and leadership.

“This is a proud moment for senior secondary Indigenous education and I am delighted for the students and their teachers who have every reason to be celebrating,” he said.

“A few short years ago none of this was possible. There were no high schools in remote communities with the capacity to produce NTCE graduates.”

Mr Stirling said Indigenous education was a top priority for Government and the continued growth in the number of graduates was a big step in the direction of growing the capacity of remote communities.

“Two years ago we celebrated when Kalkaringi made history by producing the Territory’s first home grown graduates. Maningrida followed suit last year, and this year for the first time, students at Shepherdson College, Yirrkala and OLSH-Thamarrurr Catholic School have completed year 12 in their home communities,” he said.

The 25 remote graduates bring the total number of Indigenous Territorians to attain their NTCEs to a record 106 – 23 up on last year.

Cherisse Buzzacott of Centralian Senior Secondary College is the NT’s top Indigenous student, and Quitaysha Frith of Kalkaringi CEC is the NT’s top Indigenous student studying in a remote location.

“Indigenous graduates would follow a range of career pathways, several have indicated they may move interstate to attend university, some are interested in accessing training or further study in the Territory and others have organised employment opportunities in their own communities,” he said.

Mr Stirling said DEET is currently working with principals, schools and a range of providers including the Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce to support the successful transition of the Indigenous graduates from school to further education or training.

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