

A vibrant tropical floral border surrounds the central text. It features a variety of flowers including red hibiscus, yellow and white plumeria, purple orchids, orange bird of paradise, pink and yellow bird of paradise, and pink hibiscus. Green foliage like monstera leaves and ferns is interspersed among the blooms. The text "Thank you" is written in a black, elegant cursive font, with the word "Thank" on the top line and "you" on the bottom line. A long, sweeping underline from the end of the word "you" extends across the width of the page.

Thank
you



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I am Jordan McGrath, a student at Coombabah State Highschool (South-East Queensland), and a recipient of the QATSIF scholarship. I am writing to you today to express my appreciation for your patronage to this scholarship as it has been greatly beneficial to my studies as an indigenous student. So thank you! Financially, it has mostly covered school fees, a musical camp, and any costs for extracurricular activities. Due to this, I have been able to comfortably partake in many advantageous programs to further my academic, community and leadership exploits. Moreover, it has helped me to present myself as a role model to my three younger sisters, who are also indigenous, as well as other students. Once again, I thank you for the time and money you have so selflessly spent for helping others and providing students like myself the chance for a better education. It helps keep my faith for indigenous students to thrive in an educational environment!

I wish you all the best, Jordan McGrath



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

Thank you for all the help I am able to have thanks to the scholarship. It has been a big help in my schooling, and it's going to help me on my path to finish school and get my QCE. This will help me in the future to get into a trade after graduating (hopefully being an electrician). Congratulations Aunty Ruth for turning 91, and I hope there are many more years to come.

Many thanks from Jacob Stuart, Brisbane Adventist College



Dear Aunty Ruth,

Thank you for your support, it has been a great help for my schooling. It has helped me graduate High School and opened pathways for my future. Next year I am wanting to attend university in Brisbane and study engineering. Once again thank you for your support and for all you do for many young indigenous students, it has been greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards, Jaden Carpenter, College Vice Captain (Xavier Catholic College, Hervey Bay)



To Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

Your support throughout my senior schooling has provided me the opportunity to complete my QCE and this has allowed me to study nursing in 2021. Many opportunities have arisen as a result of your endless support and I am grateful for all the work that you do to support me through my senior schooling. The support and opportunities I have received has helped to me to complete Year 11 and 12 and has opened many pathway opportunities for me after I finish school. With your continuous support I can now sit my final exams and complete the last few weeks of year 12 with the knowledge that your guidance and hard work has provided me with the opportunity to obtain my QCE.

Thank you, Jess Preval (Xavier Catholic College, Hervey Bay)

Aunty Ruth & the QATSIF Board,

I express my gratitude to Aunty Ruth & the QATSIF Board for awarding me this scholarship. This scholarship has enabled me to complete my education at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. In my initial application for this scholarship I highlighted how this support would have been incredibly valuable to myself and my family. I have been completing school away from my real family and appreciate the opportunity to ease the burden of the family that supports and encourages me. Knowing that I had the support of QATSIF and Aunty Ruth has given me some peace of mind and helped me to focus on my academic studies rather than my financial circumstances. Over the past two years, I have been very busy studying ATAR subjects and envisage completing Year 12 with a QCE as well as my Certificate II in Business Administration which has been a valuable experience organised through QATSIF's association with the AFL Sports Ready Kmart school based Traineeship Program.

Once again, I would just like to formally acknowledge and say thank you for always being encouraging, supportive and giving students like myself the opportunities and potential to achieve our goals and to always strive to be the best we can be and to pursue our dreams of making a difference with the assistance of QATSIF within our communities. I will always be very grateful and appreciate what you have done for my school, Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, my family and for myself. I love being a Girls Grammar Girl.

Thank you – Raven Ahchoo. (RGGGS 2020)



To Aunty Ruth & QATSIF Board,

Please accept our sincerest thanks for your financial support of our daughter Raven Ahchoo!

When Raven applied for this scholarship, we believed she was a very worthy recipient as she was highly motivated to complete school and find her career pathway. In 2019 I was diagnosed with cancer and was unable to work for nearly 18 months. This scholarship, quite literally was the financial difference to Raven being able to complete her schooling and her having to go to work as a 16-year-old. For us it took a huge amount of pressure off so we could focus on getting better whilst supporting her to complete her senior schooling.

Throughout her Senior schooling years, Raven has done an amazing job, applying herself to all her commitments. She will not only have completed her Senior Certificate but a Certificate 2 in Business. Through her traineeship she has been offered a permanent job at Kmart and is looking at working her way through this organisation's career pathways. She has been working out her strengths and weaknesses and how these will impact the career pathway she chooses.

This was all possible because she could stay at Rockhampton Girls Grammar school because of the QATSIF scholarship. Thank you for supporting Raven and our family through this funding. It has made a world of difference not just for Raven but our whole family!

Kind regards, Marie Turner (Parent)

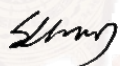
Dear Aunty Ruth,

Wunya! On behalf of James Nash State High School and the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student body, we would like to wish you a very happy 91st birthday.

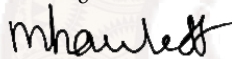
We would also like to thank you for your contribution to the QATSIF scholarship program. As graduating students this year, the opportunities and financial support offered by the program have significantly assisted in our transition to adult life after school. We have attached an image of us with our certificates. We are proud to represent our culture within our school and we wish you a happy, healthy future.

Kind regards,

Samantha Harry



Mikayla Howlett



Year 12 QATSIF Scholarship Recipients, James Nash SHS



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

On behalf of Blackwater State High School, we are sincerely honoured that we were selected as recipients of the QATSIF scholarships over the past two years. Thank you for your generosity as this scholarship has given us the support, the drive to complete school and has made us think about our futures.

As we complete our education at Blackwater High, we are very grateful and really appreciate the amazing opportunity you have given us, it is such a special gift. Because of your scholarship, we have the financial support we needed to help us gain access to what we needed to finish Year 12 and gain our QCE. We have each used the monies for new uniforms, stationery, electronic devices, new shoes, senior jerseys, formal tickets and paying our school fees.

In gaining this QATSIF scholarship, it has encouraged us to become positive role models and strong Indigenous leaders in our school and community.

We are very grateful to you, that we were chosen as recipients and we would like to thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sincerely, Sheridan Clifford, Maurice Conway and Denzel Row Row

Hello Aunty Ruth,

I would like to thank you for your involvement with not only the QATSIF program but Kedron State High School. I am very appreciative of the QATSIF scholarship and the opportunities I have received through my participation.

Thank you, Shar-Ann Morrison.



Hello Aunty Ruth,

Thank you so much for the QATSIF program. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given. I have fresh uniforms & new tools for school.

Thank you Aunty Ruth.





Graduates from Charleville State High School



To Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF team,

On behalf of myself David Wakefield and my family, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for your scholarship. It has been an honour to receive this. It has helped me so much during my senior years of school. I can't thank you enough for the help you've given. Also happy 91th birthday Aunty Ruth.

— David Wakefield.

Thank you so much Aunty Ruth, I really appreciate your help especially with the scholarship as it has helped me so much throughout the year and I will be forever grateful.

From Destiny Suhan.

Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board,

I am so incredibly grateful for the wonderful opportunity you gave me, it has helped me a lot throughout my final year of high school. I don't think I would've been able to get to where I am today without your kind help. I also wish you the biggest Happy 91st Birthday, I hope you have a beautiful day surrounded by loving family and friends. Thank you, Sharnika Isla.

Aunty Ruth,

I will be forever grateful for you and the QATSIF team for allowing me to apply and be successful for your scholarship. Receiving the scholarship has made my senior year so much easier. It has help not only myself but also my parents and I am so very thankful. I couldn't be happier knowing Im finishing school with your generous offer. I would like to also wish Aunty Ruth a very happy birthday and hope your day is fabulous.

Kind regards, Mackenzie Ross

Dear Aunty Ruth + the QATSIF Board,

I would like to start off by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to receive this QATSIF scholarship. This scholarship has not just helped me but also helped my family. I am very grateful for all the opportunities that were given to me in the past 2 years.

I Thank you greatly again for helping me get to this point in my Secondary education studies. Thankyou very, very much!!

Sincerely Jorji Kemp

J Kemp



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I am writing to tell you that I am very thankful to have been given the QATSIF scholarship. The extra help with school fees really helped, and I appreciate everything you and everyone else has done for me. Thank you so much.

From Tyisha Lui, Ipswich Girls' Grammar School



IPSWICH GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



9th September 2020

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

We would like to open this letter by acknowledging our elders who were so unjustly robbed of their fair wages so long ago, and wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to them, for the benefits we are now receiving.

On behalf of all of the current and potential, future QATSIF scholarship holders at Harristown State High School we would like to thank you.

Thank you for providing us with the support, which has eased the financial burden on our parents, associated with school fees, uniform, stationery and IT requirements.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to pay for things that have made our Senior Schooling experience extra special, such as formal tickets and school jerseys.

Thank you for providing us, and our upcoming Junior indigenous students, the motivation to work towards the goal of meeting the criteria needed to qualify for, and maintain eligibility of, this special gift.

Thank you for providing the vehicle, which gives us a sense of pride: the reason to become better versions of ourselves.

And finally, as QATSIF scholarship holders and as part of the Indigenous Student Leadership Team, thank you for encouraging us on this journey which has helped to develop qualities in us as leaders and mentors for younger students.

With sincere gratitude, Harristown State High School Yr 12 QATSIF students.

Bonnie Day [Signature] Emma-Lea Herridge [Signature]

Katarnia Taylor [Signature]

Zoe Hinch [Signature] Ricky Robinson [Signature]

Zac Heilig [Signature] Milli Waters [Signature]

Thank you

Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board,

My name is Carly Johnson and I would like to express what a privilege it has been for me to be recognised as a QATSIF Scholar for the past two years. The scholarship has covered various school related expenses, from stationery, uniforms and shoes, to purchasing a formal ticket.

Furthermore, this support has helped to alleviate the financial barriers that can be encountered in education, allowing me to pursue other interests, such as music and curriculum related excursions. As a result, my overall senior schooling experience has been enriched.

Once again, I would like to thank you for providing Indigenous students, like myself, with the opportunities and extra support that will enable us to reach our full potential.

Many thanks, Carly Johnson (Year 12), Pimlico State High School



Dear QATSIF Board and Aunty Ruth,

On behalf of Biloela State High School, Shanika and myself, we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to further our studies within out school. QATSIF has given us the funds to complete our studies to the best of our abilities.

Thank you QATSIF Team and Aunty Ruth.

by Sophie Dahtler



May I please start with saying thank you. Growing up I never thought I'd receive half of the things I have now. You have helped me for the past two years which has gotten me to where I am - A soon to be grade 12 graduated student. It's an honour to be able to say that and you helped me. I am grateful for everything, that it's left me speechless.

Thank You! Latisha Andrews

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

We would like to thank you for the opportunities and support you have given us during our senior education, through this scholarship. We are grateful to have been fortunate enough to receive the QATSIF scholarship, as it has opened us up to a multitude of university pathway options for our studies after high school. We both intend on carrying forward our culture through teaching in a classroom, expressing this in forms of art and language. We thank you for encouraging us to engage with our culture in school and connect with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who share the same passion for their Indigenous Australian heritage.

Thank you and kind regards, Alycia and Nikela Hyland, Trinity College Round 10 QATSIF Scholarship Recipients

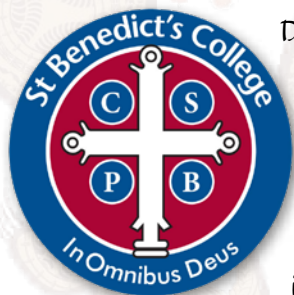


Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name is Shakira-Jane Ritson and I am writing this thank you letter on behalf of the QATSIF scholarship recipients at Balmoral State High School.

Thank you for your contribution and guidance. We are all very grateful and proud to have received a QATSIF scholarship. The scholarship has allowed us to attend Year 11 school camping trips, ensured we always looked smart in new school uniforms and provided us with all that we needed to graduate from high school. This year particularly during COVID-19, it has helped ease additional financial stress. Next week, we look forward to celebrating this unprecedented year by attending our formal.

Kind regards, Shakira-Jane Ritson, Indigenous Captain, Balmoral State High School



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I am sending my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the amazing opportunity that you have brought my way, through your passion and fair go for all campaigning.

The QATSIF scholarship program has helped me to gain the resources to improve my education both inclusively and exclusively. The scholarship helped me to pay for a computer to use inclusively in school and will eventually be exclusively used next year in university.

The QATSIF has been an eye-opening experience for myself, bringing new intentions towards my learning and life in general. I have been more than grateful for the opportunity that you have given me, and I could not be more appreciative for this amazing scholarship. The scholarship has supported my driven personality to succeed and helped pave the path to achieve my future career aspirations.

So, I thank you, my school and I have felt very welcomed and invited into this community and we both have been so encouraged to participate in this significant opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely, Poppy Marsh, St Benedicts College



Finn Niesler, Jaylana Taoso, Nancy Alick (CEC),
Rani Carmichael & Zac French.

Rani Carmichael

Dear Aunty Ruth,

I have attached some photos as part of our graduation and certificate presentations for our QATSIF recipients at Brisbane State High School to show our appreciation.

Also, I have included some pictures of Rani Carmichael, who received the Peter Doherty Award for Achievement in STEM subjects by an Indigenous student. Rani also received the 2020 QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award.

Thank you, Finlay Lester (Guidance Officer)



A big THANK YOU to Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Team. Here are our Upper Coomera State College QATSIF scholarship Graduates! We wish them every success for your dreams studying Medicine, Acting and Trade Apprenticeships. A big thank you to Uncle Alfred Summers for presenting the certificates and yarning about the background of the QATSIF scholarship money and the Stolen Wages. And we loved the didgeridoo playing too.



Graduates: Jess Robertson, Patrick Rees, Madisyn Sturgeon, Malakai Bingarape, Destiny Gerhard and Tegan Lucas



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

First, I'd like to acknowledge and wish Aunty Ruth a wonderful 91st Birthday. Your tireless, unwavering commitment to our people is truly inspirational. Thank you Aunty Ruth for all you have done and continue to do for us.

Thank you to the members of the QATSIF Board for your continuing support of our young people. The students and their families who have been recipients of the scholarships from my school, have been extremely thankful. The financial support received through the scholarships have greatly impacted our students and their families. Once again thank you Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board.

From Robyn Lea (Indigenous Education Support Worker), Everton Park State High School

Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name is Shanice Jackson and I am one of two School Captains from Everton Park State High School and am very proud to say the first ever Indigenous School Captain at Everton Park. Last year, I was selected to be a part of the 11th round of QATSIF and was extremely honoured to be awarded QATSIF Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship enabled myself and my family to be relieved of financial stress, so therefore enabling myself to be totally focused on my final year of high school. I am very proud to be a 2020 recipient.

Thank you, Aunty Ruth, for everything you have contributed to QATSIF and especially our community. You are truly an inspiration! Lastly, Aunty Ruth I wish you a very Happy 91st Birthday. I hope you had a wonderful day XXX

Lots of Love, Shanice Jackson Everton Park State High School



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

On behalf of Warwick State High School, I can't thank you and your team enough for how thankful we are for the QATSIF scholarships. I will forever cherish the scholarship I have had. I can't begin to imagine how last 2 years of schooling would have been without it. It has provided me with so many opportunities like being able to attend educational excursions, being able to purchase all textbooks for the last 2 years and being able to purchase school items like shoes, books, stationery, school photos and school uniforms. The scholarship has not only benefitted me it has also my parents of having to take the stress of having to fork out so much money for school resources. This scholarship has means so much to me and I am so thankful that applied for it because I would be so lost without it and I believe having these scholarships can completely change the last 2 school years of your life. I am forever thankful for having the opportunity to have this scholarship and I will forever acknowledge what this scholarship has provided for me and any student should feel proud and loved to be able to receive a QATSIF scholarship.

Kind regards, Abby Gainey (Cultural Leader)

Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name is Isabel Breen and I am the Indigenous Captain at Coorparoo Secondary College. On behalf of the Indigenous students I would like to thank you for organising everything to do with QATSIF and giving us the opportunity to be able to support ourselves during high school. I have personally benefited a lot from QATSIF and am so grateful to be given the opportunity to receive it. By receiving QATSIF it has helped me throughout Year 11 and 12 to pay for school supplies, camps, school fees and many more. It has been a big impact on my schooling, and I am very appreciative for it.

Kind regards, Isabel Breen



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to take time to acknowledge and pay my respect to the work you have done for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students of Queensland.

Your foundation has allowed a stress-free environment, financially, for me to complete my senior studies. The scholarship given to me at the beginning of this year changed my life for the better. The ability to afford private catholic schooling with pastoral care and a psychologist on staff has supported my mental health through senior schooling.

Support for travel costs involved in attending St Mary's College has allowed me to explore my full potential as a student.

Because of the support and subject range, I am working towards my goal of applying for a Biomedical Degree at UQ. My school is an hour away from my home and QATSIF has helped with my travel costs

I have worked hard to achieve my goals and be a role model for younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students at my school.

Wishing you all the best, Adelaide Synnott



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

What has the scholarship done for me? It has helped me with having the materials for school, it has helped me pay for my bills, it has allowed me to go to Brisbane for legal studies and we got to speak to a judge that used to live in Emerald. The scholarship has helped me go through till year 12 it has given me hope for the future and getting granted the scholarship was an amazing honour that I could never of even believed I was in the running for. The scholarship has helped me motivate myself to be better because I know there are people out there seeing the potential in me and what I could possibly become. It was an amazing opportunity to have the scholarship.

— Charlise, Emerald State High School

Chalise is an independent student at Emerald State High School and she works two jobs to cover her rent and utilities as she was unable to receive any financial help from Centrelink. Chalise's day starts at 3am every morning when she gets up and goes to work until 8.30am, Chalise then comes to school by 8.45am and does a full day of learning until 3pm. When the school day is finished Chalise then heads back to work and works until the coffee shop she works at closes. Chalise is a true champion and always has a smile and willing to help where ever she can.

Regards, Lega Hall, Emerald State High School (CEC)

QATSIF address for Graduation Ceremony – by Lawson Allen, St Patrick's College (Mackay)

Good afternoon,

Firstly, welcome again to all our special guests and respected members of the community, I remember how excited I was when Miss Russell called me into her office back at Mercy College and told me about the QATSIF scholarship program for senior schooling. At first, I thought it was a free scholarship, but I shortly learned it was much more than that.

I found school fairly breezy but upon thinking back, anything is easy if you don't actually do it. When I read through the criteria to apply for the scholarship, I found myself setting goals I wanted to achieve through my education and putting plans in place to help me become more focused at senior school. I was rapt when the news broke that my application had been successful.

Coming from a single parent home and with very little help from my dad, money could be tight, even though Mum made this fairly hard to notice. The funding went to my school fees and provided me with the opportunity to explore the many curriculum areas St Patrick's had to offer, to be well equipped to pursue a job after successfully completing Grade 12 and for that I am truly grateful.

I am a proud Bundjalung and Githabul man. I have enjoyed the many opportunities being able to get involved in Indigenous school and community events over the past two years. A highlight being our leadership camps down in Rockhampton. I made many new friends that quickly became brothers and I've never felt more at home.

Closing, I would like to thank Mrs Melissa Russell and Mrs Deborah Millar for their constant support and understanding of my big personality and firm beliefs. I would like to also thank Mrs Karlie Tatchell for working on all the behind scene things in regard to job searching and putting our ideas into practice within the region. I have appreciated all your hard work, effort and time. Thank you for listening.



Lawson Allen, Lachlan Ramsamy, Mrs Janelle Agius (Principal)
and Angela Derdziak.



Dear Aunty Ruth and the members of the QATSIF Board,

The students of the Australian Trade College North Brisbane want to thank you for your support through the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) program. We have eleven (11) students who are currently being supported through your program of which five (5) are graduating at the end of this year.

We are a trade college and as students, are currently enrolled in a trade or have a school-based apprenticeship. This includes a Certificate II in a trade which include construction, plumbing, electro-technology, automotive, metal engineering, hairdressing, beauty and commercial cookery.

As a school-based apprentice, I am 'on the tools' Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week and complete my essential learnings Business, English and Mathematics on Monday and Tuesday. I gained my school-based apprenticeship in plumbing in October, 2019.

For those students who are completing their Certificate II in their trade at the college, they complete over 70 days of work placement/experience over the two years of years 11 and 12. It is anticipated that the extensive work placement/experience provides an opportunity for employers to assess our ability and offer either a school-based or full time apprenticeship.

We will also gain our Queensland Certificate of Education with a Certificate III in Business and the completion of four semesters of Essential Mathematics and Essential English.

Of the current year 12 QATSIF group:

- Two (2) – School-based apprenticeship
- One (1) – Working part-time in construction
- Two (2) – Have completed a Certificate II in their trade

All of us are expected to finish the year with a Queensland Certificate in Education.

For myself, I am achieving A's and B's in Mathematics and English and am three-quarters of my way through the Certificate III in Business. I have competed in the Redcliff Peninsula Rugby League College Cup for the last two years and was awarded 2020 Man of the Match in the College Cup Grand Final. I have been involved in providing mentoring for the cadets including talking with parents and students at our information nights. I have given the Welcome to Country at our Annual Award evening.

As a result of the scholarship, I have been able to purchase personal protection equipment (PPE) including uniforms and boots for my trade, plumbing text books, my college uniforms and contributed to college fees. This has made it easier for my family to support me in my career and has lessened the worry for my parents.

I appreciate the support I have received and believe it is a good program as it makes going to college more comfortable. I would recommend it to other students.

On behalf of the students at Australian Trade College, North Brisbane I want to thank you again for providing this opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It makes a difference in our lives not only financially but knowing that our community support us.

Regards,



Colby Coggan (Year 12 Student)



Brett Kavanagh (Principal)

Letters from Laidley State High School Staff and Graduates

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

We would like to say a massive thankyou from all grade 12's at Laidley State High School who got the special opportunity to receive the QATSIF scholarship for the last 2 years. We know the financial support has been extremely helpful and the support from everyone is the reason we are graduating. The amount of love and support we have all received is unconditional and we cannot thank you all enough. We understand that the money we are receiving comes from Indigenous Elders that were underpaid years and years ago. The money we received went to uniforms, school supplies, end of year costs and support throughout the year. This would not have been possible without the QATSIF scholarship.

Emma, Kimberley and Harmony

Dear Aunty Ruth,

As a QATSIF recipient, I am very grateful to have this opportunity. You have helped so many people whether it is just support or financially, brand new uniforms, new shoes and excursions paid for, none of this would be possible without you.

As a family of six, we had financial issues and would not have anything without QATSIF. It paid for my school fees, senior jersey and my certificates classes. Overall, I would say it played a massive role in those 2 years.

Yours sincerely, Morgan

Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name's Janaya Burchell and I was one of the lucky QATSIF recipients of 2017, as was my brother. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity to all the senior kids of schools whose family often are suffering from financially difficulties. As my siblings and I were raised by our grandparents who had both retired, we constantly found ourselves worrying about money and especially about school expenses. However, thanks to you, money was one of things I did not need to worry about during my schooling. Since I have graduated, I am now enjoying work as an Indigenous teacher aide at Laidley High School – the very same school I graduated from. You and your organisation have made a huge impact on my life and many others past and present.

Thank you – Janaya (Past QATSIF recipient, Round 7)

Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board Members,

On behave of the Laidley State High School staff and QATSIF Scholarship recipients we would like to say thank you for your ongoing support given to the school and our students. The scholarship has given the students financial support to them and their families, without this student's would not be able to afford uniforms, school supplies, enrol in Certificate courses, buy their senior jersey and afford to buy a formal ticket to celebrate 12 years of schooling.

We are very grateful for the support QATSIF gives our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students each year. We will continue to encourage and remind the students to be thankful to their ancestors who worked hard for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students of today in gaining their QCE.

Yours Sincerely, Karen Day (CEC) and Allistair SMith (Head of Department Indigenous Education)





Clontarf Beach
State High School

Dear Aunty Ruth,

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout our senior schooling and assisting us with our QATSIF scholarships. We are very appreciative as it didn't just help us as individuals but helped our families and future selves. With your help we were able to continue our education by using the funding to pay our school fees, uniforms and some activities we would normally miss out on along the way. Again, thank you, we will forever be grateful.

Kind regards, Jenayah Woolford and Charminey Hillhouse, Clontarf Beach State High School

To Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

On behalf of all the QATSIF scholarship students here at Kirwan High, we would like to say a big thank you for your continued support throughout our journey through grades 11 and 12. This scholarship has been a wonderful blessing to our families and for us as well because the funds were able to pay for great school programs and school supplies, without putting a great deal of burden on our families. From this help, we were able to focus on our academic and school commitments as students and leaders. We would also like to pay our respects to the hard-working Indigenous peoples who created the foundation for this scholarship, acknowledging the Stolen Wages as a part of Australian history. As proud recipients of the QATSIF scholarship, we are deeply grateful.



Many thanks, Indigenous Captains Rikisha Phinsea, Kasey Gardner & QATSIF Scholarship Recipients, Kirwan SHS



Dear Aunty Ruth,

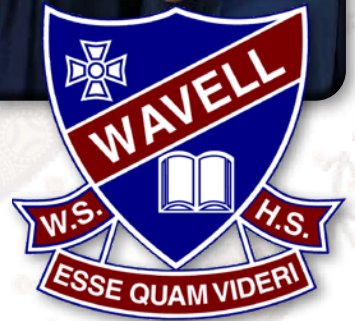
I would like to thank you for the scholarship granted to me from QATSIF. This money has assisted my family tremendously and has contributed significantly to payment of school fees during my senior years at Seton College Mt Gravatt East.

My mother works very hard and this money has allowed some pressure to be taken from her during this time of COVID. I very appreciate the support other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students to achieve their goals.

Many thanks, Tyrone Bateman



Letters from Wavell State High School Graduates



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I would like to thank you for this chance and opportunity to receive this QATSIF Scholarship. This scholarship has allowed me many benefits in my schooling as it has paid for missed payments and fees which has allowed me benefits such as my senior jersey and new clothing as I progressed through my time at Wavell SHS. Being honoured this scholarship has made both me and my family so grateful and proud to be a part of this opportunity.

From Inabi Dunn

To Aunty Ruth,

I am very thankful and grateful for the QATSIF scholarship money. My family has been going through a lot with money and also having two special needs brothers who are always needing help, this has helped me a lot. My aunty has a Bachelor of Arts degree and I was planning on doing the same but have found out about the Bachelor of Contemporary Indigenous Art at Griffith University and I would love to go through with that and proudly represent my Aboriginal culture. While studying I will still be working with the Preston Campbell Foundation Presto's Café, at the Indigenous Health Centre at Windsor as it is amazing and I get to meet new mobs. I would like to also say if I didn't have help with my QATSIF QCE scholarship money I wouldn't be able to go to events and get my school work done successfully. I would like to acknowledge and thank the elders for helping me achieve my goals and studies (money wise) but also guiding me to achieve future dreams.

From Leah Floro

To Aunty Ruth,

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity and guidance through the QATSIF scholarship. This scholarship helped me and my family financially and on behalf of us, I like to thank you once again. Being a family of three was hard because all the pressure was on my mum since dad was overseas so this helped the whole lot of us. It was a proud moment for both me and my family and now that we are about to graduate, I can see how much the QATSIF and Beyond the Broncos helped me develop and grow as a proud indigenous student. So once again thank you!

From Jeremiah Lahari

To Aunty Ruth,

I would like to say a big thank you for the support that QATSIF has given me throughout my senior schooling. QATSIF has made me be the first person in my family to graduate high school and that is something I've always wanted to achieve. Now look at me, I am here and I'm finally graduating. So once again a big massive thank you Aunty and all the Elders.

From Chris Robinson

To Aunty Ruth,

I would like to thank you heaps. The support I got from QATSIF helped my family a lot financially. It also allowed me to focus on school and sport which helped me a lot with my grades. It has helped me become a step closer to my goals. I am extremely grateful to be given this opportunity. Graduating Year 12 is something no one has done in my family. Without your support, senior year would've been stressful. So again, I thank you and all the Elders that have given me this opportunity.

Yours sincerely, Jermaine Soresen

To Aunty Ruth,

I would just like to say thank you for everything you have done. You have been such an inspiration to all indigenous & non-indigenous people. I am extremely grateful for the QATSIF scholarship, it has really given me opportunities that I never thought I would have. Growing up I went to a 'whiter' school, when I came to Wavell it really opened my eyes to understand my culture and appreciate everything that has happened. I can't wait to see what is in store next.

From Lekiesha



Dear Aunty Ruth,

The QATSIF Scholarship has meant a lot to my family and me. I have been able to afford my extracurricular activities outside of school without having to stress about school fees. I am extremely grateful for having the scholarship and being able to afford grad tickets, my computer hire and VET courses. Without this I wouldn't be able to do my music outside of school, or any of the other extracurricular activities I have been involved in over the past year. Next year I plan to complete a Cert III in Child Care and possibly a Diploma in music.

My dreams are to either be in the music industry or help young children going through tough times in their own living situations, and give them a safe house. Thank you for the opportunities the QATSIF Scholarship has given me.

Kind regards, Kylie Strik (Year 12), Gilroy Santa Maria College



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

My name is Angus Lindsay and I am a proud Badtjala man, and I can't thank you enough for this experience. Over the past two years it has allowed me to partake in many unique opportunities, including a Griffith University STEM experience day, and forge valuable relationships that I would not otherwise be able to. Through these opportunities I have realised that I can achieve anything, if I put my mind to it and work hard. Through this experience I am on my way to realising my dream of becoming an engineer. With the support and encouragement from both QATSIF and the scholarship, I have been able to strive towards one of my goals to attend the engineering course at the Australian Defence Force Academy. I am both happy and grateful to say that I am in the final stage to fulfil this goal. Thank you for this once in a lifetime experience, not only for me, but for everyone that has been able to better themselves as a part of this program.

Kind regards, Angus Lindsay



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

My name is William Allan, and I am the 2020 Indigenous leader for Proserpine State High School. On behalf of all the graduating students of the QATSIF scholarship, I would like to say thank you. Since receiving this scholarship it has made my life and all our lives a little bit easier. It has given us a better chance and opportunity at trying to focus on our studies at school. Also, since receiving the scholarship it has taken the pressure off trying to afford school bills, uniforms, and many other things. As well as through this journey with the QATSIF scholarship we have found all your videos and short clips very inspiring, which helped us push to achieve and do better as students. Once again, on behalf of all the graduating students of the QATSIF scholarship, Thank you.



Sincerely, William Allan



Zada Berghero, William Allan (ISL), Jack Handley (2021 ISL), Jack Abbott, Jasper Braun. Luke Handley did his first Welcome to Country speech for the ceremony.

Arthur Gabey (CEC) with graduates Zada Borghero, William Allan (ISL), Jack Abbott, Jasper Braun.

Dear QATSIF Board,

On behalf of the St Patrick's College Townsville community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank for your continued support of our QATSIF Scholarship recipients. The opportunities the scholarship enables for students is of such benefit to them, their families and their communities.

We look forward to many more years of continued collaboration in support of our emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women, who we know will leave this College, ready to make a difference in the world.

Yours sincerely,
Amber Hauff (Principal)

Lauren Newman (Cultural Support Program Leader)



Dear Aunty Ruth,

Our family would like to say a huge thank you for the support we received for our daughter Abbey Morcom. Abbey attends Sunshine Coast Grammar and is currently completing exams for Year 12. We are proud that Abbey has been offered early entry to the Australian Catholic University to study Midwifery. She will reside at Durack College where she has been offered a scholarship from Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC). Congratulations QATSIF. Tanya Morcom (Parent)

Letters from Craigslea State High School Graduates

The QATSIF Scholarship has provided me with the extra funds needed to complete my Visual Art Subject and create a portfolio which I will submit to Griffith University. My goal is to spread awareness of Indigenous Issues through my Art. — Danika

The Scholarship has given me the opportunity to complete my Senior High School years without the constraint of money issues. I have enrolled to do a Cert 111 Early Childhood Education and Care and am excited to see where that will lead me. Thank you for your continued support, good wishes and words of encouragement. — Macey

Thank you QATSIF for the scholarship which has enabled me to complete year 12 and allowed me to have all the necessary equipment which has helped me focus on schooling. My goal is to pursue a career in Criminology and Law and to focus on our culture and work towards helping our community and culture get justice and recognition within Australia. — Kaneesha

Thank you for your generous financial support towards my education. I was very happy to receive the news that my twin and I were both recipients of the QATSIF scholarships. It has been extremely helpful with paying for school resources and events and so many textbooks. Next year I have applied to go to university and would like to explore a career in Forensics. — Nyoka

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity of winning this scholarship. It has genuinely improved my year 12 experience, as I was able to buy and afford art supplies (which are quite expensive). Without this scholarship our financial situation would have been very different — especially due to COVID. I also would have worried about how I'll afford the supplies needed for my assignments. By easing the financial stress with school supplies, I was able to therefore have more free time — meaning more study and art making. I have bought Art material which will last for many years and will help me pursue a career in Art at university. — Kymora

I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to you Aunty Ruth and to all connected to QATSIF network. I have just completed my year 12 and without the financial support for school fees, uniforms and resources I would not have been able to enjoy and complete my schooling. At present I am doing work experience at Jabaru College, Zillmere which is a fantastic learning space for disengaged students. I want to study Youth Work next year at TAFE and share my unique culture and heritage with everyone. — Jasmine

Many thanks to QATSIF for offering this opportunity of financial assistance during my senior years. The funding has provided me with much needed resources to complete my studies without having to find casual work and therefore concentrate on my studies. I hope to get an Indigenous Apprenticeship with Qld Public Service or the Brisbane City Council working in Administration as I have completed a Cert !!! in Business with Sarina Russo this year. Thank you once again for your hard work in continuing this Scholarship — Jayla

QATSIF's grant enabled me to pay and attend various events that I otherwise would not have been able to. I greatly appreciate their contributions for furthering my access to extra-curricular activities, especially music, and providing for other essential equipment, including a laptop. Next year, I hope to complete a Bachelor of Technical Production part time, while completing work experience as a technician; QATSIF's support has allowed me to pursue this. I greatly appreciate the opportunities QATSIF provided me with the grant, and everything else that resulted from it. — Tighe







Thank you
Aunty Ruth