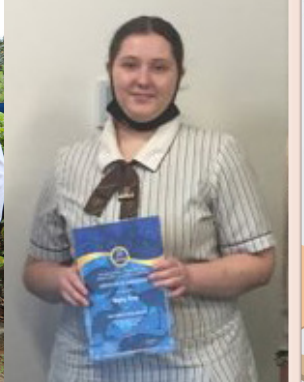




Thank  
you







# Letters from Bowen State High School Graduates

Dear QATSIF,

I would like to thank you for granting me the QATSIF Scholarship. This money helped to buy the things that I needed to finish senior schooling, such as uniforms, school shoes, socks and a graduation ticket. I am grateful for this money as I know it came from our Elders before us and their hard work.

I will be sure to let younger Indigenous students know about the QATSIF Scholarship encourage them to apply.

Thank you, Au Esso Au, Koeyma Eso, Harry Pitt-Pilot

Dear QATSIF,

I would like to say thank you to QATSIF for providing me with the QATSIF Scholarship. This money has helped my family out to pay for things to help me finish Year 12. Thanks QATSIF.

Kind regards, Dom Zaro

Dear QATSIF,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your scholarship. This money helped take the stress from my family in purchasing my uniforms and a graduation ticket.

Thank you, Kyisha Sturt.

Dear QATSIF,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me by the QATSIF Scholarship. It has helped my family in that it has helped me to purchase school shoes and pay for school fees. This has helped to take the financial burden away from my family.

I understand and respect that this money comes from our Elders who had their wages stolen. I will make sure that in future I will promote to other students to apply for this scholarship as it is a great opportunity.

Thank you, Cygnet Tamwoy

Dear QATSIF,

Thank you so much for approving myself to be part of this scholarship. It has truly helped my parents financially, to get through 2021 without having to stress. Some things that the scholarship could afford for myself were stationery, Bowen State High School formal uniform, paying school fees and a graduation ticket.

Hopefully my positive role modelling to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will make them want to better themselves and be a part of the QATSIF Scholarship. Once again, I would like to thank you for helping me graduate without any hassle.

Thank you, Haley Lammon







On behalf of Rochedale State High school, the proud QATSIF graduating students of 2021 would like thank Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Scholarship Board for their generosity and commitment to supporting Indigenous students achieve their personal best.

We acknowledge the sacrifices of our Elders and the injustice of the Stolen Wages. We wish to extend our thanks for the benefits we are now receiving.

The scholarship not only helps our families financially but being a part of QATSIF unites all Indigenous scholarship students, to come together to celebrate our culture, past, present and future.

The 2021 Rochedale QATSIF recipients have utilised the funds on school fees, vocational qualifications, equipment, uniforms and stationery to name a few.

We will be forever grateful for the opportunities that have been given to us.

Jade Maher, Indigenous Leader 2021 (Rochedale State High School)

Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name is Ely-May Girard, I'm a year 12 student at Beaudesert SHS. I wish to thank you as the patron of QATSIF. My family and I are so grateful for this opportunity to thank you for always encouraging everyone to "dream big".

My aspiration is to be a qualified plumber, I have completed a certificate in warehouse operations which will enable me to look for a brighter future.

I want to thank you for sharing your life and stories with us is much appreciated.

Elly-May Girard (Beaudesert State High School)



Dear Aunty Ruth and The QATSIF Board,

On behalf of the Indigenous Girls here at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School who have received a scholarship, we would like to say thank you for motivating and giving us the opportunity to further our education. We are very much grateful and blessed. We acknowledge our Elders who had made sacrifices for our generation to go far and make something of ourselves and our Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible. We thank QATSIF for supporting us in our senior years and opening pathways for all Indigenous students and generations after us.

From IGGS QATSIF Students





## Letters from St Patrick's College (Townsville) students



Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board Members,

I am writing this letter to thank you for supporting me through my high school endeavours by way of my Round 12 QATSIF Scholarship. I am extremely appreciative to receive this scholarship and I would like the opportunity to express my gratitude.

I am currently approaching the end of my secondary school studies and I am beginning to think about the career path I would like to embark on. As a child I was involved in a variety of sports and enjoyed staying active as best I could. My love for sport has led to me becoming an accredited gymnastics coach and judge. This has influenced a possible career in the sports industry, as a Sport and Exercise Physiologist or Sports Psychologist. However, I am still unsure as to if this will be my final decision.

The money I have received from this scholarship has always been put towards my schooling fees, and to allow me to better extend my academic education without financial pressures. It has also provided me with opportunities and encouraged me to continue exploring my cultural identity. I understand the hardship our people suffered and acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors; whose Stolen Wages made this scholarship possible.

Once again, I would like to express my utmost gratitude, your generosity is greatly appreciated, and I am very thankful to be a recipient of your scholarship.

– Brianna Stanley

Dear Aunty Ruth,

Thank you for allowing me a chance at this program, as this has helped me in considering what my and other's futures might potentially look like.

With this scholarship, I hope to inspire others into the program so that they might have some guidance into the right direction. For this, thank you!

– La'Shauna Nathaniel

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

Thank you for giving me the privilege of being one of the QATSIF scholarship recipients for 2021. I am deeply grateful for the ongoing financial support you have given to not only myself but to Mob all over the state. I acknowledge the many sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible. This scholarship has been a tremendous help to both my parents and I and has encouraged me to continue to work hard on my academic studies. I wish you all the best and may God bless you!

– Bethany Savage

Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board,

Hi, my name is Olive-Rose Pearson and I'm a proud Torres Strait Islander woman and am grateful for the opportunity of the QATSIF Scholarship. I was very happy when I got the Scholarship because it gave me more motivation to strive better in my daily life, especially school.

The scholarship even gave me the opportunity to even strive as a leader. When it comes to stepping up into the world of leadership, this very scholarship motivated me to step up and be a leader in school, to my family and in the community.

I would like to say thank you, for giving me the opportunity to strive better, not just with school, but with myself as a person.

– Olive-Rose



Wadda Mooli, This is a letter of appreciation to the QATSIF Board and Aunty Ruth on behalf of the Northern Beaches State High School QATSIF students.

Through the entirety of grade 11 and 12 our scholarships have been incredibly useful and we are so grateful for them. Without this scholarship many of us would have had to miss out on a lot of opportunities that make the last couple of our schooling years worth it.

My scholarship has helped me to set goals such as ensuring I maintain an attendance that is above 90%, achieve grades well above the average and the ability to go to my grade 12 formal. At Northern Beaches it is mandatory to have all school fees paid to be eligible to attend formal. Again, without my scholarship I would not be able to attend my year 12 formal.

I am very grateful and have tremendous respect for our past Elders and Traditional Land Owners for the sacrifices they were made to take in order for our people to be where we are today. The history behind these funds is simply inhumane and absolutely disgusting.

I believe I speak for all of our people when I say that we are beyond lucky to be able to now access those funds and put them to the best use we can. Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can make the most out of their education means a lot to me and without the help of QATSIF many students, including myself would not have the opportunities and experiences most children take for granted.

Thank you for all of the support!

Ellie Fazldad, Indigenous Leader 2021 (Northern Beaches State High School)



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board Members,

Galangoor Djali. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during my senior schooling years at St Mary's College. Being awarded a QATSIF Scholarship has provided me with opportunities to successfully complete a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways, Certificate III in Sport and Recreation and a school-based apprenticeship to achieve a Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade. I successfully passed my subjects at St Mary's College and received my Queensland Certificate of Education.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made QATSIF Scholarships possible. As a proud recipient of the QATSIF Scholarship I will be forever grateful for the opportunities this funding has provided.

Many thanks, Seanna Jones (St Mary's College, Maryborough)



Dear Aunty Ruth,

On behalf of my Mother and my family, I would like to show my appreciation and thanks for the support that you have provided myself and other students. With this support I have been able to continue and complete my high school studies.

The QATSIF Scholarship has allowed me to study the subjects of my choice without the stress of finances and has also allowed my Mum to be able to purchase the new senior uniform and subject materials needed.

Along with the mentoring, this has made my senior years enjoyable.

Appreciatively, Alex Briggs (Kawana Waters State College)





## Letters from St Rita's College (Clayfield) students

Dear Aunty Ruth & the QATSIF Board,

As a recipient of the Round 12 Scholarships, I wanted to say a very sincere thank you for this opportunity.

I am a student at St Rita's College, and I am already enrolled at the Mater Hospital studying a Certificate III in Health Assistance. The scholarship will really help me realise my dream to become a Registered Nurse.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity!

Warm regards, Chloe Grant



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to begin by acknowledging the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors that have made the QATSIF scholarship possible. Not only have their Stolen Wages forged new opportunities for the emerging generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, but their sacrifices have made a difference to the quality of education and development of individual strengths and talents within the young Indigenous community.

I would like to specifically thank Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board, as my scholarship has made it possible for me to participate in the 'TAFE at School' program and I am undertaking a Certificate III in Acting at TAFE Southbank. This certificate has assisted me in preparing for university applications and auditions for 2022, while perusing my passion for acting and performing, and it would not be possible without the QATSIF Scholarship program. The certificate has allowed me to broaden my performance skills, while also focusing on my education and attaining my ATAR and QCE.

I hope the QATSIF program continues for many years to come and continues to help make a difference in other young Indigenous people's lives. It encourages them to continue their education and have cultural pride in their Indigenous identity.

Thank you and kind regards, Madeline Ramsay

Dear Aunty Ruth,

I would like to take this time to thank you and all other Elders who have sacrificed and enabled others like myself to be where we are today. It is a privilege to accept the QATSIF scholarship as I know it would not be possible without the Stolen Wages and other hardship Indigenous Peoples have suffered.

Kind regards, Loren Wood



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I am writing to you today to express my appreciation and gratitude for this scholarship, it has been extremely beneficial as an Indigenous student to my studies at San Sisto College. This has helped me conclude my schooling years and complete my QCE as well as influencing my future career path as a police officer.

Once again, thank you for your support and everything you have done for me and many other Indigenous students around the state.

Caitlin Storck (San Sisto College)





Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I truly appreciated being awarded this scholarship as it has aided me in completing my last year of high school, with the financial assistance to pay for school fees and the support from our schools support team. QATSIF has opened my eyes to the importance of our culture and has solidified that it isn't where you came from but where you're going. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Mackay Northern Beaches SHS student



Dear Aunty Ruth,

The first time I wrote to you and your team looking after the QATSIF scholarships I was a Year 10 student who had just arrived at my new school, Mt. Alvernia College in Kedron after living for many years in Toowoomba.

It was hard to change schools and cities midway through the year and there were times when I thought that finishing year 12 with a new community was too hard. But I knew I had to keep trying...both of my Nanna's didn't get the opportunity to complete their education due to their Indigenous heritages and they had made so many sacrifices to support their kids (including my parents) and us grandkids with our schooling. It was important that I just kept trying. I'm also a big sister and aunty, so I had to make a good impression on my sister and nephews.

I was proud when my teachers at Mt. Alvernia encouraged me to apply for a QATSIF scholarship. I was sad and angry to learn that my Elders were treated so unjustly by successive government policies and not remunerated fairly for their hard work. I was also shocked to learn that so many in my school community and wider circle of friends don't know about this stage of our nation's history.

I applied for a scholarship and was successful. My Nannas especially were so proud of me.

For the past two years I have worked hard at school and received passing grades for all subjects. I have also managed to complete a Certificate II in Health Support Services and a Cert III in Allied Health Assistance with the Mater Hospital. I am currently completing a Cert III Child Care worker qualification as a Traineeship and will be finished mid this year. Also, the manager of the childcare centre where I am training offered me a job for this year. That was great news as I love working with the little kids and a couple of them started calling me Aunty so now they all do! Even those migloo kids haha!

I have so many options for my future and I wanted you and the QATSIF team to know that my scholarship has really supported me with school and boosted my self-esteem. I also know that you and the team would have spent many many hours working on the scholarships and giving you own time, so thank you.

I'll be finishing high school as a confident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman and emerging leader and will continue to spread awareness of the QATSIF program in community for those who follow. Thank you Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Team for believing in me.

Georgia Dreise (Mount Alvernia College - Kedron)

Dear Aunty Ruth,

I would like to thank you for your wonderful contribution to the QATSIF program which has helped me so much. QATSIF's program has helped me significantly with my learning and I couldn't be more grateful to the Elders who created and made this program possible. It has helped me afford uniforms and essential school supplies to make my learning easier.

Thank you, Morgan Shillington (Australian Christian College - Moreton)



**AUSTRALIAN  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**



# Letters from Proserpine State High School students



**Back Row:** Arthur Gabey (CEC), Kymani Brimble-Jacobi, Reon Grant-Iramu, Justyce Costello, Kimmy Tobin, Kirralee Elies, Saskia McDonald. **Front Row:** Luke Handley, Zara Braun, Nadia Cummings and Bree Mackay.

Dear Aunty Ruth,

My name is Luke Handley, I am the Indigenous Leader and School Vice-Captain for Proserpine State High School. On behalf of my fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at PSHS, I would like to say thank you for the amazing support that you have given us. It has helped in so many ways to push us forward in our education.

The QATSIF scholarship has helped us to achieve the goals that we have been working towards. Some of us, will be the first person in our family to graduate from high school, this will enable us to pursue future careers in many fields that we thought were not possible.

Without this scholarship, this may never have happened.

Although I have never met you, I have seen many online videos with regards to what you do for schools around Queensland. I am deeply thankful for what you have done for me and I am extremely happy to see the number of candidates increasing every year. This would never have been possible without your help, so thank you again for everything Aunty Ruth. Thank you!

Luke Handley, Indigenous Leader

Thank you Aunty Ruth for the QATSIF scholarship and support. It has helped my education in so many ways 😊  
- Justyce Costello

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support. I would not still be at school if it wasn't for QATSIF so thank you.  
- Beau Sales

Hello Aunty Ruth,

As someone who understands why Indigenous people deserve this money I am very grateful for it. Thank you very much.

- Sam Jeffcoat

Dear Aunty, thank you for giving me this opportunity and support the QATSIF scholarship gave me.

- Macauly Wake





Dear Aunty Ruth and  
QATSIF Board,

As a graduating senior student of Charleville High school in 2021, I have had to overcome many obstacles in achieving my goals each

year. Goals have changed and achievements have been made but the achievement that I was most proud of was being chosen to receive the QATSIF scholarship. In applying for this scholarship, I really had no idea how much help it would give me in working towards my goals both before and after graduation. In receiving the scholarship, I have worked with my mentor and started a Certificate III in Business studies and have just applied for a Certificate II in Veterinary studies through TAFE.

My main aspiration in life is to become a qualified Veterinarian with my own vet business whether that be a clinic in a remote town or travelling around from station to station to see the country whilst still servicing the rural stations through my passion for helping animals. From a young age I've known exactly what I want to do, I want to be a Vet and service the rural communities of Australia and this scholarship has made that dream come so much closer.

This scholarship has given me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and experience new adventures that have brought me several steps closer to my dream career. I would like to thank you so much for all the work you've put in to support senior students with this scholarship. I appreciate it so much and will forever be grateful for the opportunity you have given me and many other students to better our education I hope to be accepted into either University or TAFE Queensland in 2022 and in the coming years to achieve my goal, a big thankyou to this scholarship for making that happen.

- Nikita Chadderton

Dearest Aunty Ruth,

I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity you have given me through my 2 years of senior schooling. Without your most generous support I would have never been able to afford the equipment I have needed. A part of my heart goes out to you, out to the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible.

- Laura Russell, Indigenous Ambassador



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunities the QATSIF Scholarship has provided me. The scholarship has given me the privilege of completing my final years of schooling at St Mary's College and broadening my education whilst guiding me towards careers once I graduate. Without the scholarship I would not be the same independent and strong woman I am today. This has given me the opportunity to explore different subjects and find my strengths within subjects while helping me financially towards my health certificate and gaining me entry into university. This scholarship has provided me the opportunity to complete Year 11 and 12, without this privilege I would never have considered going to university and further study after high school to complete study in nursing to help people who struggle.

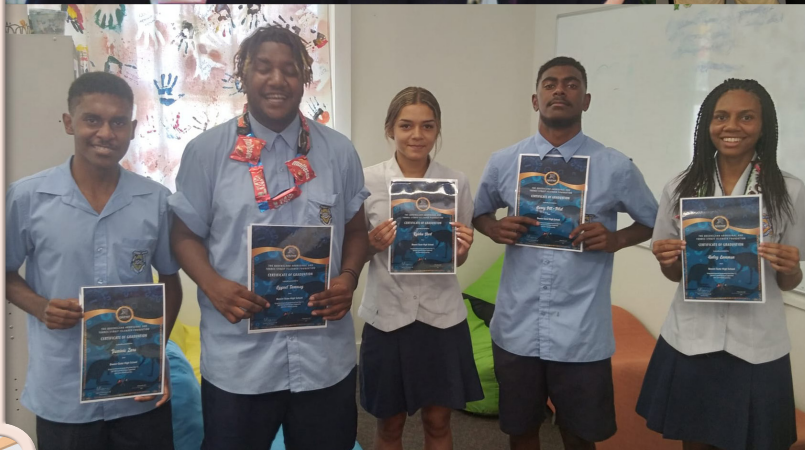
Kind regards, Keely Morrison

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you and the QATSIF Board for the scholarship which opened many pathways for me while helping me in my schooling journey. The QATSIF Scholarship really helped me during my final senior years in so many ways as well as my family. Coming from a large family it was able to relieve stress with my parents knowing that I had everything I needed for school. The scholarship also helped me stay on track with my studies, gave me motivation and helped me decide on a career path. The scholarship encouraged me to work hard for my goals in the future and showed me that I can achieve things if I really put my mind to it. Once again thank you for all your hard work and support during my schooling journey and providing this opportunity for not only me but also many young Indigenous students to achieve their goals in school and after school. I am very grateful for the opportunities that I have been given in result of the scholarship and all your hard work and would like to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made it possible for our scholarships to be provided to us

Kind regards, Olivia Wilson









*Thank you  
Aunty Ruth*