



*Thank  
You  
Aunty  
Ruth*









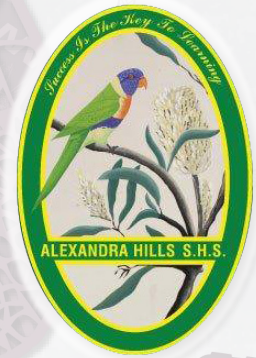


Dear Aunty Ruth,

I will forever be grateful for the sacrifices made by our Elders, which has immensely benefited our youth in following their dreams. Over the past two years, my QATSIF scholarship has helped me in many ways, financially, culturally, and the view for my future.

This scholarship has paid for my school fees, school necessities, my hospitality bundle, my first aid course, and my formal ticket. The generous amount given to me has allowed me to work hard, as well as keeping my grades high. Not only has it helped me in the aspect of my school finances, but it's helped me improve myself culturally. In previous years I didn't really participate in any Indigenous activities, however since I received this prestigious achievement, I have been more active in my role as an Indigenous man. I have since started to speak during NAIDOC Week, which has also helped me become more confident with speaking in public, and I don't think I would have found the strength to look into my culture as well as affording my extra school expenses with the help of QATSIF and the sacrifices endured by my Elders.

Sincerely, Harry Barton (Alexandra Hills State High School)



Dear Aunty Ruth,

I am forever grateful for the Elders and Ancestors who had their wages stolen, allowing us to earn the QATSIF scholarships. Over the past two years, the QATSIF scholarship has helped me in many ways, financially and culturally. Financially, this scholarship has paid for my school fees, school necessities (calculators, pens, etc), my formal ticket, diploma of Business and much more. This scholarship amount had given me the ability to work hard, keep my grades high, and hopefully, get into the course of my dreams; the Bachelor of Advanced Humanities at UQ. This scholarship has helped me discover my passion for education and learning, as I constantly want to learn new things, and now, I want to share my passion with others.

Additionally, this scholarship has helped me more than just financially. It has helped me get in touch with my culture, something I was embarrassed about for so long. It showed me that there is a wide support network for First Nations people and that I wasn't alone. The scholarship has encouraged me to explore my identity as a First Nations person. I have never felt more supported, more at home, since receiving these experiences. Without the QATSIF scholarship, I don't think I would have found the strength to look into my culture nor afford extra expenses at school. I am eternally grateful for the sacrifice from my Elders and the opportunities that the QATSIF scholarship has provided me.

Yours sincerely, Nicci-Maree Wolski (Alexandra Hills State High School)

Dear Aunty Ruth,

I want to start by saying a huge thanks from me as this scholarship has allowed me to get through school with all the hardship, I am facing at home. After moving out at the ripe age of 16 and leaving my family to become a better me and help my mental health, Mr Hume and the whole Indigenous support team at Alexandra Hills State High have helped remind me how much I have going for me and how generous this scholarship has been to help me get through these last two years.

I want to say a huge thank you to the whole team behind the scholarship, and a huge thanks to having supported me through school, I have achieved so much because of this, such as three certificates to back me after I graduate, and just continuous support from those around me. I have also had four jobs and gained incredible experience that will forever follow me on my journey.

If this reaches anyone thinking about applying for the scholarship, I highly recommend it as it is one of the only reasons, I have been able to graduate Year 12. A big thank you to the whole team.

Thank you, Willow Middleton (Alexandra Hills State High School)





Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF board,  
My name is Lewis Brown, and I am a student at Padua College who was fortunate enough to be granted one of your scholarships.  
My heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for aiding me in my educational path and ensuring my opportunity to obtain an education. I appreciate and am truly grateful for all the Elders and Ancestors sacrifices, whose stolen wages have made the scholarships even possible in the first place.  
I am grateful for all the work and effort that has gone into establishing a brighter future for us and our generation. I do not intend to let this opportunity go to waste as I am aiming to go to university and study Paramedicine.  
Once again thank you so much for allowing for me to be a part of this program and thank you for everything that you have done for me.



Dear Aunty Ruth Hegarty,  
My name is Bailey Green. I want to write this letter to thank you for my QATSIF scholarship. I am so honoured to be chosen for QATSIF. I want to thank you for all of the hardships you've had to endure as an Indigenous woman whilst starting an organization such as QATSIF.  
I hope to go to QUT for a Business degree in marketing. I really value my education and hope to further it as I become an Indigenous Man in the community.  
When I was a younger man, I felt ashamed of my culture and hated the negative attention that it brought. But I am so proud and honoured to be a *Waneroo* man because of Elders like you.

You have inspired me to want to be a more engaged person within the indigenous community. Aunty Ruth thank you so much for everything you've done I will eternally be grateful.

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I am writing this letter to share my appreciation for Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF Board Members for their dedication and efforts they have put in to helping fund my education at Seton College. I would also like to extend my thanks for all the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors. Their Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible which helped in the funding of my school fees. As a result, my schooling has helped equip me with the skills and knowledge in my aspiration to become a social scientist. I want to become a social scientist to help people find work and help in the research for people like me who have ADHD.

Regards, Luke Gilbert (Seton College, Mount Gravatt East)

I am writing this letter to share my appreciation for the QATSIF board members, Aunty Ruth, and Professor Shannon for their dedication and efforts they have put in supporting my education at Seton College and to stay and succeed at school. I would also like to extend my thanks for all the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors. Their Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible which helped in the funding of my school fees. As a result, my schooling has helped equip me with the skills and knowledge in my aspiration to become a mechanic once I finish school. I am very grateful.  
Kind regards, Connor Young (Seton College, Mount Gravatt East)





Dear Aunty Ruth,

Having the opportunity to be a QATSIF Scholar over the past few years has opened so many doors for me to achieve success. This funding has supported many different avenues and pathways, enabling me to discover interests and engage in beneficial activities. Applying for the QATSIF program was an exciting opportunity for myself and my family. My parents were grateful for the extended support available during my senior studies which established a sense of community and gratitude. Being fortunate enough to receive this support reinforced my gratitude for the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose stolen wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible. It is a life-changing opportunity to live in a world where education and educational support is achievable which inspires me to take every opportunity that comes my way. The quote "*we are our Ancestors wildest dreams*" remains as we journey from school into our chosen work/study areas and tackle challenges on the road to success. These experiences were simply not possible for our ancestors and some members of our families which reiterates the importance of the QATSIF funding and community. Celebrating the achievements of my classmates and other fellow QATSIF students has made the experience enjoyable and worthwhile. It has been a nice journey to see my friends decide on their chosen careers paths and engage in employment opportunities. The QATSIF funding has contributed to opening the doors for success and encouraging each student to try their best. QATSIF is also a great foundation that creates and raises awareness for students to understand the financial struggles some may face during their senior studies. QATSIF provides security for people experiencing these hardships and reinforces the importance for advancements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education programs. This program has given rise to so many opportunities for students and supported many students and families each year. Your continuous support and contribution to the QATSIF foundation has had a great impact on the lives of Indigenous students during their senior studies and does not go unnoticed and unappreciated. We thank you for striving to solidify the bonds in our community and for giving each QATSIF student the opportunity to succeed.

Ella Dedaunton, College Captain (Ryan Catholic College)



To Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I wanted to say thank you for the scholarship I have received over the last two years. Having this scholarship cover school fees, uniforms, excursions and sporting competitions I have played in has helped myself and my family out a lot and has meant I have been able to participate in all activities at school. I also have Dyslexia and I just wanted to let you know I have passed all my subjects and will graduate grade 12 in a good position to find a traineeship/apprenticeship for my future.

I would like to acknowledge the sacrifices and the sadness around the stolen wages my Ancestors and Elders made so I could have this opportunity. Thank you!

Cooper Moore (Rochedale State High School)





Dear Aunty Ruth,

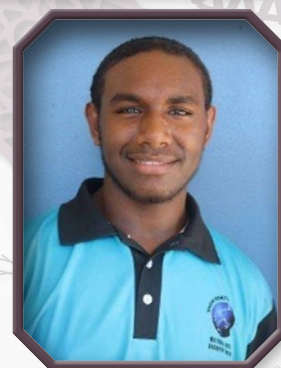
I want to take the time to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the QATSIF Scholarship. With the funding, I have always had the correct uniform and proper equipment to help me with my senior schooling years.

QATSIF also, gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my Elders in the community. Ever since yarning with my Elders, it made me appreciate all the things and sacrifices they made for us. All the technology we have today and how easy it is to get simple things like water, food and electricity and even been able to get an education, whereas my Elders had to struggle back in their days.

Today, I am ever so grateful for their hard work, dedication and all their sacrifices that they have made to make a better life and education for me.

Thank you once again Aunty Ruth for this amazing opportunity, I will definitely encourage other students to apply and be a part of the QATSIF family. Big *Eso* and God Bless!

Kailu Luffman, School Captain (Tagai State College Secondary Campus)



Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to take the opportunity to say *Mina Big Eso* (Thank you) for your generosity in funding the QATSIF scholarship that I received this year as part of my financial aid for the last year of my senior schooling. I'm truly grateful to have been chosen for this opportunity.

My educational pursuits would have not been possible without your generous donation. You've allowed me to focus on my schoolwork and not worry about financial burdens for me and my family.

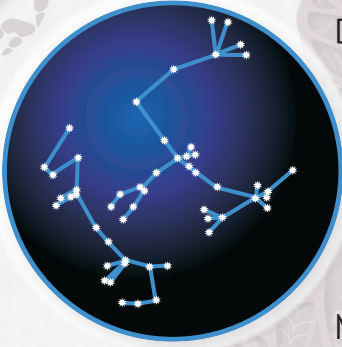
After graduating from high school this year, I plan on attending James Cook University and obtaining a degree of Bachelor of Nursing Science and a Bachelor of Midwifery. I hope to pursue a career in health care as a Nurse/Midwife working in the community and making a difference in people's lives, the same way you have made a difference in mine.

Again, *Mina Big Eso* for the generous contribution that you all have made possible.

Nina Lui, School Captain (Tagai State College Secondary Campus)







Dear QATSIF,

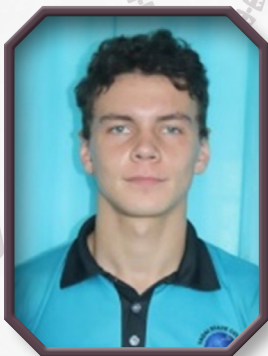
Thank you for the scholarship opportunities offered to me over the past 2 years of my senior schooling at Tagai State College Secondary Campus, academic and non-academic.

I was surprised to hear that I was awarded a QATSIF Scholarship for Round 12. I appreciate the support provided from when it was awarded to me in Year 11. I was also surprised when it was announced at our Awards and Speech Night in 2021 that I was selected as one of the Vice Captains for 2022.

Throughout this year, my fellow school leaders and I have achieved so much here at school. Such achievements include meeting the Prime Minister, the Queensland Premier and Minister of Education. We attended many community and cultural events as Master of Ceremony and other important roles, but my favourite highlight was when we got to go to my island home Masig Island (Yorke Island in English) to attend and be a part of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for The First Councillor's Meeting.

The QATSIF Scholarship has supported and assisted me in purchasing the equipment I needed for my senior schooling, academics and I thank you very much for this scholarship and support. Thank you QATSIF!

Maivanga Mosby, Vice Captain (Tagai State College Secondary Campus)



Dear QATSIF,

I am a proud *Koey Buwai* man from Boigu Island. Over the past two years of my final schooling at Tagai State College Secondary Campus, I have accomplished and obtained quite a vast number of achievements both in and out of school, academic and non-academic. At the 2021 awards night for Tagai Secondary it was that night that I was awarded subject awards for Industrial Skills and Technology, English, Hospitality etc. It was also this night that it was announced that I was going to be one of two Vice Captains for the school. The other captains and I have achieved a lot here at the school such as meeting the Prime Minister, The Queensland

Premiere, Minister of Education and have attended a number of events and cultural events as master of ceremony and other roles and have even been given the chance to go to Masig Island to attend the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the first Councillor's meeting.

The scholarship is indeed appreciated as it has assisted me in purchasing the equipment needed for my academics and responsibilities and I thank you very much for the support. Thank you!

Jai Lewin, Vice Captain (Tagai State College Secondary Campus)



I would like to give a big thank you to Aunty Ruth for providing senior students within the Indigenous community the chance to receive the amazing benefits of the QATSIF scholarships. Although these scholarships originate from a very upsetting history of the Stolen Wages, it is important to acknowledge that both Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF foundation have taken a significant step forward in the reparation process for our Ancestors that have suffered and for Indigenous peoples that continue to suffer from systematic disadvantages. Thank you, Aunty, for helping us break the cycle.

Much love from a very grateful senior student.

Jannali Laing (Toolooa State High School)



Dear Aunty Ruth,

Thank you for being part of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) Team and Patron for many years. We appreciate your time, knowledge and wisdom which you share with schools in Queensland. On behalf of the student, staff and families here at Proserpine SHS, we like to thank you personally for your inspirational speeches to Indigenous students to inspire them towards attending school and getting a good education. Below are some kind words from our Year 12 students who will be leaving this year 2022.

Warm regards, Arthur Gabey (CEC, Proserpine State High School)



To Aunty Ruth,  
Thank you so much  
for all the opportunities  
I was able to have &  
experience with QATSIF.  
Thank you for everything  
- Zara.

Dear Aunty Ruth, for us  
Thank you for being a part  
of QATSIF, I am extremely  
grateful. I have had many  
academic and leadership  
opportunities that have made  
this year valuable.

Regards,  
Saskia McDonald

Dear Aunty Ruth,  
Thank you for all your  
support + help us  
get through year 12  
Love Kirralee Elies,  
Indigenous student  
leader.

To Aunty Ruth,  
Thank you for  
everything. You've  
helped me alot  
in my final year  
- Anayah

To Aunty Ruth,  
Thankyou for Everything  
you have done for us.  
You've made year 12  
so much easier  
Love always  
Emily & Layla

To Aunty Ruth,  
Thankyou for All you  
have done and  
supporting us All xx  
- Destany.

To Aunty Ruth  
Thankyou for all  
your support  
- Love  
Reon

To Aunty Ruth  
thankyou for  
all the things  
you have done  
for us we all  
appreciate it.  
- Ky

Dear Aunty Ruth,  
Thank you for all  
the support thru  
year 11 & 12  
- Kimmy

Dear Aunty Ruth  
thank you for  
your support you  
made it more  
easier for me  
thank you.  
Kymani

Dear Aunty  
Ruth, thank you for  
all your efforts  
this year, your  
support has helped  
us all in our  
final year of high  
school. Murr low  
Bee +oto





**ST MARY'S**  
COLLEGE MARYBOROUGH

Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF Board Members,

*Galangoor Djali.* I wish to take this opportunity as I countdown my final week of Year 12 to thank you for your support during my senior schooling years at St Mary's College (Maryborough). Being awarded a QATSIF Scholarship has provided me with opportunities to successfully complete a Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education. Recently I was informed that I successfully received early entry into University of the Sunshine Coast to undertake a Bachelor of Social Work. I successfully passed my subjects at St Mary's College and will receive my Queensland Certificate of Education.

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

*Jade*

Many thanks, Jade-Elle Brown (St Mary's College (Maryborough)).

Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and QATSIF Board,

On behalf of the Indigenous students at Arcadia College (Robina), we would love to thank you for your contribution to helping our dreams and education possible. Without your support and the sacrifices that many of our Elders and Ancestors had to make, this would not have been possible.

Our QATSIF scholarships helped us achieve what many Indigenous peoples were not able to. We appreciate the opportunity to represent all Aboriginals who wanted more but could not due to oppression and prejudice. The Stolen Wages of our Ancestors and Elders help fund our future so we can carry on their legacy.

As someone whose family constantly struggled with paying fees and expenses, this scholarship helped me to continue my education without worry and stress. This scholarship helped many Indigenous students at Arcadia feel equal and acknowledged. In the future I would love to help educate foreign cultures about Aboriginal culture, as many people don't understand or know about the rich and deep roots that Aboriginal people have in Australia. Thank you on behalf of the students at Arcadia.

Katana Khan (Arcadia College)





Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to say a big thank you to both parties (Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board) for allowing me and helping me to achieve this scholarship. This scholarship was a huge honour for me to have, as it is my Elders and Ancestors that helped make this possible. Their undying sacrifices they made is inspiring and it was their Stolen Wages that allowed for their descendants, like me, to have this QATSIF scholarship opportunity.

The QATSIF scholarship has helped pay for my school fees and has also encouraged me in a way that reminds me of the huge support I have.

So, thank you once again for all the time and sacrifices and work that you have all put in to make this scholarship possible.

Sincerely, Shanae Corowa (Mackay Christian College)



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF board,

Thank you for supporting me through to Year 12. I would also like to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made our QATSIF scholarships possible.

I liked my year 12 experience, I loved Mock-tail and I'm looking forward to graduation.

Next year I hope to have a job editing and maybe if I want, I'll go to university. Thanks again!

Kind regards, Jack Woodley (Mackay Christian College)

Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF Board,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support through the QATSIF scholarship program. As a result of the support I have received, from many sources, including QATSIF, I am proud to say that I have now completed Year 12 and will graduate this coming week. Upon leaving high school I will have attained my QCE and will receive an ATAR when the results are later released.

Whilst my goal for my senior years at school was to do my best, I was never sure about what I wanted to do after I finished grade 12. This year, however, I have found an interest in Allied Health Services and have now applied for university. I wish to complete a degree in Physiotherapy at either the Australian Catholic University or the University of Queensland and in doing so, will endeavour to apply myself in all subject areas. I believe a degree in Physiotherapy will lead to a rewarding career where I will have a meaningful job that helps improve people's quality of life. I have a keen interest in sports medicine and would like to one day specialise in this area.

Specifically, the QATSIF scholarship provided great encouragement to do my best and aspire for more, whilst also relieving financial pressure on my parents. In thanking you for the support provided, I wish to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made the QATSIF scholarships possible. I am truly grateful.

Thank you again, Logan Walsh (St John's School, Roma)







Dear QATSIF and Aunty Ruth,

I would like to say *'Thank You'* for providing me and the other recipients' the opportunity to receive the QATSIF scholarship. My mother and I are enormously grateful for the scholarship which has helped us out financially. It had allowed me to concentrate on my studies at school and reduced the financial burden on my mum, who is a single parent.

I acknowledge the significance of where this money has come from. Many of our past Elders had not had the opportunity of getting a good education. It saddens me to know how their wages were stolen but from that negative has come a positive through QATSIF and giving back to the next generations. My family values education and it is an important tool to make our future brighter. My family and I want to thank you for the support you have provided me.

Yours sincerely, Akala Carter-Green (Rosewood State High School)

Dear QATSIF and Aunty Ruth,  
I would like to say a massive *'Thank You'* for providing me the opportunity to receive the QATSIF scholarship. This scholarship has supported my mum and I immensely. It allowed me to participate to the fullest in extra-curricular school events, widen my knowledge on Indigenous specific topics and provided the financial support which eased the strain on my family. For that I am very thankful to you all.

I acknowledge the significance of where this money has come from. It was very sad learning of the hardships our Elders went through so that we can have a better start in life. In my family, I have been fortunate to be guided by very strong, and deadly woman who have helped shape me into the young woman I am today. I know that the knowledge gained from our Elders, our CEC and family will go a long way in my life.

On behalf of my family and I, thank you for the support you have not only provided me but for the future generations to come.

Yours Truly, Kearna Semple  
(Rosewood State High School)





Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board,

I would like to acknowledge that without our Elders and Ancestors fighting for our civil rights to be treated equally amongst all, the opportunities that I have been given and educational experiences that I have been involved in would not have been possible. The sacrifices our Ancestors made is something I will forever be grateful for.

My name is Brook Lacey, I'm a proud *Ewamian* woman and I'm currently completing Year 12 at Flagstone State Community College. This year I was fortunate enough to be voted by my peers to be selected as one of the Indigenous Captains for 2022. I feel I am an active leader for my school and for other Indigenous students and I will continue to grow as a leader throughout the rest of my high school journey and continuing after school.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for the QATSIF support that I have received to help me with the last two years. This scholarship has enabled me to achieve great things in my schooling.

The QATSIF scholarship has allowed me to attend TAFE where I have completed my Cert III in Health Assistance. This has opened up my pathway to university where I hope to study my Diploma in Nursing to be qualified as an EN (Enrolled Nurse). From there I'm striving to join the Air Force to complete my Bachelor Degree in Nursing to become a RN (Registered Nurse) in the force.

This scholarship has helped pay for my school fees, TAFE fees, leadership camp, my formal, and uniforms. By providing financial support, it has enabled me to take more opportunities which may not have happened which out the support from QATSIF.

Once again, I would like to send my gratitude to Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board for enabling me to reach my potential while at school.

Kind regards, Brook Lacey (Flagstone State Community College)

Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

My name is Traceese Hamilton and I'm currently a Year 12 student at Flagstone State Community College. My schooling years have been challenging where I have struggled in some of my learning areas. I have been diagnosed with a learning problem but that has not stopped me in giving things a go.

I would like to acknowledge the Elders from our past and also our present Elders for their fight to ensure that we have a better life and more opportunities. I'm aware that there were many sacrifices that was made to ensure that I have been given the opportunities that I receive today.

The QATSIF Scholarship has helped my family with the financial burdens with school. Before I joined QATSIF my mum was barely able to afford my excursions and school equipment but now that QATSIF has helped pay for most my school stuff. Mum has enough money to afford more stuff like food and pay bills.

I would like to take this opportunity to send my thanks and gratitude for the QATSIF support that I have received over the past two years. This has made a big difference to my life and my education.

Kind regards, Traceese Hamilton (Flagstone State Community College)

**FLAGSTONE**



**State Community  
College**



Dear QATSIF,

I would just like to share my gratitude and appreciation to thank you for this scholarship. Being in the years of 11-12, I found it less stressful thinking about school supplies and school bills to worry about.

My focus was then to be aimed at my school subjects and studying. So, to show my appreciation, I would like to say how thankful I am and was to be a part of this and how much it has given me.

I am so happy that you had offered me this scholarship and am looking forward to showcasing this opportunity to younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to show them the benefits of this amazing foundation.

Thank you for benefitting me and choosing me, so my future can be accomplished.

Yours sincerely, Ciara Cora (Bowen State High School)



Dear QATSIF,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to gain a QATSIF Scholarship. I was successful in gaining this scholarship at the beginning of Year 12 and it allowed me to use this money to buy stationery, shoes, socks, school bags, my White Card, Certificate III fees and as well as my graduation ticket. I was able to focus on my school work without stressing about paying for my grad etc. Thank you again for being a major support for me and my family.

Kind regards, Kathleen Matheson (Bowen State High School)

Dear QATSIF,

I would like to thank you for the QATSIF Scholarship that I received for the past two years of my schooling. This scholarship has helped me and my family financially and independently throughout the last two years of my Year 11 and 12 senior schooling. It has been less stressful for me buying school supplies, paying school fees and to buy uniforms. This scholarship has helped me aim to focus on doing school work, which helped me improve my schooling a lot over the two years.

I am grateful and thankful to have had the QATSIF Scholarship as I come from a big family and it has helped me in a lot of ways. Thank you for benefitting me and choosing me for this.

Kind regards, Zion Prior (Bowen State High School)

Dear Aunty Ruth,

I just wanted to write to thank you for the wonderful opportunities the QATSIF scholarship has given me, i have had 8 great years at All Hallows', made life long friends, learnt lots and have been able to participate in elite level sport. This is all because you campaigned to get it in place and have always encouraged us to dream big. I am really grateful.

Thankyou, Mieischa Couchy





Dear Aunty Ruth, Professor Shannon and the QATSIF board,

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages enabled the QATSIF scholarships. Secondly, I would like to give a big thank you for giving me an opportunity to excel in my education, and ultimately giving me a chance to follow my dreams of being an architect in the near future.

Leaving my home in the Torres Strait as a 12-year-old with little knowledge of English, it was hard for the first few years. Fortunately, with the help like QATSIF that surrounded me, I was able to recognise and understand the support I had, and I was able to study, graduate high school, and now focus on a career that was made possible for me, by you. You should know that even though I don't know any of you personally, I'm forever grateful of and appreciate QATSIF and their support, and I know that past and fellow QATSIF graduates does as well.

Thank you, Shaenee Pearson (Clayfield College)



Dear Aunty Ruth and the QATSIF Board,

On behalf of the Indigenous students at Centenary Heights State High School, as well as on behalf of myself, I would like to thank you for the work you do each year. The QATSIF scholarship program is an important example of reconciliation put into action, rather than just confined to words and promises. Your work is a significant step towards bridging the gap made by policies such as Stolen Wages, the effects of which still impact many communities and families. I have met some people among those still impacted by the intergenerational effect of these past policies, and it is both inspiring and heart-warming to know that programs such as this one exists to help provide these kids with the education denied to their ancestors.

The QATSIF scholarship was a great foundation for my senior schooling. With the many stresses of work, school and beyond, it was a great benefit to know that I would always be able to obtain the materials I need for my education. I know it was the same for the other students who obtained this scholarship, and we are very grateful for your dedication to equipping the next generations with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

On a personal note, this scholarship program, taking practical steps to acknowledge the wrongs suffered by our Elders and providing the young generations with the tools they need to right them, is a great inspiration to me. I have been offered a place in the law program at the Australian National University, and I aspire to dedicate my future work in this field to improving the lives of our most vulnerable communities. Community is humanity's greatest strength, though it is far too often forgotten, so I hope to be able to apply your wisdom and the wisdom of our ancestors to show empathy and compassion for those in my community.

I hope that this program will continue for many years to come, making amends for the brutality of the Stolen Wages system by inspiring the next generations of First Nations leaders. I cannot wait to see what the other students in this program accomplish, and I hope to live up to the very high standard you and all our Elders set. With sincerest thanks, Caiden Bartholomew (Centenary Heights State High School)





Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board members,

As 2022 graduating Year 12 QATSIF students, we would like to send you this letter of appreciation. We deeply value your time and effort into making these scholarships possible from year into year out. We each have individually taken time to write you how each of us valued and appreciated QATSIF's support in our senior schooling.

We hope in the near future QATSIF, and all Indigenous leaders can continue to inspire other young people. The scholarship has assisted us to have the opportunity of a good education and we look forward in embarking on our future goals.

Thank you, From 2022 Mt Maria's graduating QATSIF Students, Maxwell, Cameron and Taylah.

I am thankful that I had the opportunity of the QATSIF scholarship throughout my senior years of schooling. The sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages is what made our QATSIF scholarships possible. Thank you to all the Indigenous leaders who have helped me along the way to graduation.

Taylah Zealey (Mt Maria College, Petrie)

Throughout my two years of senior school, I am proud to say that I have successfully embarked on this journey with QATSIF. The way that QATSIF is able to put together these scholarships year into year out is an amazing opportunity to give back to the younger generations, from the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors effected by the stolen generation. I say thank you to Aunty Ruth and all the QATSIF board and members who make my scholarship possible.

Cameron Letondeur (Mt Maria College, Petrie)

I am thankful that I had the opportunity of the QATSIF scholarship throughout my senior year of schooling. This scholarship opened up many ways to different career pathways that I wasn't aware of. This wouldn't be possible without the sacrifices from the Elders affected by the stolen generation. As this scholarship gives back to the next generation and allows them to have a chance to get the best out of their secondary education or continue it after completing high school.

Maxwell Kooreman (Mt Maria College, Petrie)





Dear Aunty Ruth,

Thank you for your generosity in granting us the opportunity to receive the QATSIF scholarship over these past two years. You are an inspiration and a role model that all Indigenous people can look up to. You've turned the challenged you have faced throughout your life into something that is bettering the future for other First Nations youth, which is admirable and something we will be forever grateful for. The work you and the rest of the QATSIF team put into this program is truly helping to foster the oncoming generation of Indigenous people. Thanks to you, so many of us are being given an equal opportunity to go out into the world and make something of our futures that can have an everlasting impact on both ourselves and others.

This year, three out of the four Indigenous students in our cohort were granted a leadership position, which included: a House Captain, a Mercy Captain and a College Vice-captain. Your story has been a factor in our inspiration to step up and take these roles, as you've taught us the importance of amplifying our voice and making a difference.

Your hard work and dedication will forever be in our hearts.

Kindest regards, Kaylee, Violet, Estelle and Ace (St Mary's College, Ipswich)



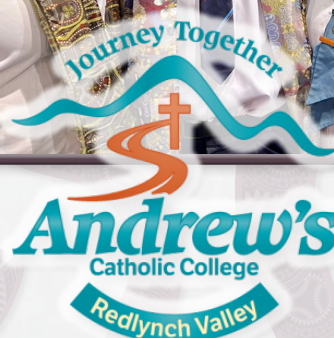
Dear Aunty Ruth and QATSIF Board Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude in receiving the QATSIF Scholarship and the opportunities it has given us during our senior years at St Andrew's Catholic College (Redlynch).

As our senior year comes to an end, we reflect on those who have supported us through the good and bad times, the memories of our younger years along with the wonderings of our future beyond the school gates. We will be forever grateful to those who supported and stood by us as we continue our journey after graduating high school. We come together to acknowledge the sacrifices of the Elders and Ancestors whose Stolen Wages made the QATSIF Scholarships possible and accessible for students such as us.

Being recipients of this scholarship has been a significant help financially but has also encouraged us to stay focus on our future aspirations and contributing to a strong foundation that has supported us academically.

With great appreciation, Lewis Miles, T'Wetha Stephen and Kiara Wren  
(St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch)













*Thank*



*you*