

Updated Information for AIEF Scholarships

The AIEF Scholarship Program has continuously improved its results since it began 10 years ago

As AIEF's Class of 2018 join the ranks of nearly 500 Year 12 graduates who have come before them in the last 10 years, Indigenous community demand for AIEF Scholarships continues to grow. An AIEF analysis shows that the AIEF Scholarship Program has continuously improved since it began 10 years ago.

Each year AIEF publishes its Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate in its Annual Report for that year to provide a real-time measurement on how the success of the AIEF Scholarship Program is tracking from one year to the next. This shows all the scholarship students who completed that year at school (retention and Year 12 completion) compared to the scholarship students who left the school without completing that year (attrition). Measuring retention and Year 12 completion rates annually this way enables AIEF and its partner schools to identify any issues and discuss improvement strategies in real time, and give stakeholders the information about what happened in the year covered by the Annual Report.

Table 1 below shows the full 10-year summary from (2008-2017) of the information published by AIEF in its Annual Reports and on its website, showing that AIEF has had over 90% of its scholarship students stay at school or complete Year 12 in each of the last 10 years since AIEF started, except for 2011 when it was 89.3%. The 2018 information will be published in AIEF's next Annual Report after the audit for 2018 has been completed.

Table 1: Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate

Summary of data reported in published AIEF Annual Reports on AIEF Website AIEF secondary school scholarship program								
Year of published Annual Report	2011**	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Published Annual Reports on Website 10-Year Cumulative Total
Retention (Continuing Students)	161	234	302	342	367	374	342	342
Year 12 Completion (Graduates)	50	32	68	68	93	85	94	490
Total Scholarships Retention and Year 12 Completions	211	266	370	410	460	459	436	832
Attritions	29	29	28	36	36	29	26	213
Total Students	240	295	398	446	496	488	462	1045
Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate	88%	90%	93%	92%	93%	94%	94%	80%

** 2011 Annual Report includes figures for cumulative first four years from 2008-2011
(Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate was 100% in 2008; 100% in 2009; 95.1% in 2010; and 89.3% in 2011)
Source: <http://www.aief.com.au/news/annual-reports/>

In AIEF's fifth year in 2012, Education Minister Peter Garrett said, "Federal Education Department statistics show AIEF has the highest rate of Year 12 completion of any federally funded program". Table 1 shows how AIEF has continued to improve its Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate since 2012, from 90% in 2012 to 94% in 2017.

In the last five years this improvement in AIEF's Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate has also had a significant impact on lifting AIEF's cumulative success rate.

In the last five years AIEF has made substantial changes in the AIEF Scholarship Program, including publishing and sharing the *AIEF Compendium of Best Practice for Achieving Successful Outcomes With Indigenous Students in Australian Boarding Schools*. As well as this, in recent years AIEF has changed the composition of the partner schools involved in the AIEF Scholarship Program, and implemented an annual performance evaluation system which informs improvement targets, action plans and monitoring frameworks agreed with partner schools in the highest quartile for attritions each year.

Another contributing factor to improved results in the last five years has been the evolution of the Indigenous education programs at partner schools, based on feedback they have received from Indigenous students, their families and others, building on their learnings from early experiences, more sharing of experience among partner schools and learnings from AIEF's best practice research.

Table 2 below shows the impact of these improvement measures. This table includes the same data as published by AIEF on its website and Annual Reports as shown in Table 1 above, but displaying the five year Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rates at the AIEF partner schools where AIEF is funding scholarships in 2019. This shows information about the program as it looks now rather than as it was up to 10 years ago.

Table 2: Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate (2019 Partner Schools)

Data reported in published AIEF Annual Reports on AIEF Website						
AIEF secondary school scholarship program (2019 Partner Schools)						
Year of published Annual Report	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Published Annual Reports on Website 5-Year Cumulative Total
Retention (Continuing Students)	248	294	323	337	328	328
Year 12 Completion (Graduates)	53	58	80	70	86	347
Total Scholarships Retention and Year 12 Completions	301	352	403	407	414	675
Attritions	16	23	28	26	25	118
Total Students	317	375	431	433	439	793
Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%	85%

Source: <http://www.aief.com.au/news/annual-reports/>

In addition to the above, looking at the same 2019 partner schools and their retention and completion rates over the most recent three-year period covered by AIEF's Annual Reports, as shown below, 56% of the schools have a cumulative retention and year 12 completion rate above 90%:

- 26% of the schools have a cumulative retention and year 12 completion rate of 100%
- 30% of the schools have a cumulative retention and year 12 completion rate between 90%-99%
- 33% of the schools have a cumulative retention and year 12 completion rate between 80%-89%
- 11% of the schools have a cumulative retention and year 12 completion rate below 80%

Attrition rates at a partner school do not imply underperformance as students may leave a school for a variety of reasons including changes in personal circumstances such as family migration interstate, personal or family health issues, or moving to a school that is more suited to the needs or interests of the student.

In AIEF's entire 10 year history to the end of 2017, 10% of total scholarships distributions in dollar terms have been distributed to students who have left the AIEF scholarship program before finishing Year 12 (i.e. attritions). This means 90% of total scholarships distributions have been spent on students who are graduates or continuing, resulting in a 10 year cumulative historical attrition rate of 10% in dollar terms.

Of all the Year 12 graduates AIEF has funded in its 10 year history up to 2017, (their annual scholarships distributions times all their years on scholarship), the average total scholarship spend by AIEF is less than \$55,000 per Year 12 graduate. AIEF's funding model is 50/50 partnership where AIEF is required to match the Government funding from non-government sources.