

## A POSITIVE FOUNDATION FOR A PARTNERSHIP

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) is introducing its Indigenous scholarship model to Western Australia, thanks to a new, 10-year partnership with BHP Billiton.

BHP Billiton has committed more than \$4 million to the partnership, which will be matched by AIEF with the support of the Federal Government.

The partnership will ensure a minimum of 70 Indigenous secondary students from Western Australia, including 35 from the Pilbara, will receive a quality education at some of Perth's leading secondary schools.

The new partnership will see AIEF working directly with participating schools, enabling scholarships to be managed more efficiently. This process will streamline the management and allow the network of participating schools to expand over time.

Since 2007, AIEF has provided scholarships for Indigenous students at the country's best boarding schools and residential university colleges.

The non-profit has also offered pathways for productive and meaningful careers, positively influencing the lives



Synarah Murphy, Zanamarica Bodey and Lisa Pitt... students of La Salle College in WA courtesy of the AIEF scholarships.

of over 200 Indigenous young Australians in New South Wales and Queensland.

AIEF Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Penfold says he is

excited to expand the Foundation's work to the west coast.

"AIEF partners with the nation's leading companies to deliver real and tangible results in Indigenous education and

### FAST FACTS

- The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation is a private sector led non-profit organisation that provides boarding school and university residential college scholarships and career pathways for Indigenous students.
- AIEF was established in 2007 and has assisted over 200 Indigenous students in New South Wales and Queensland.
- BHP Billiton has signed a 10-year partnership contributing \$4.275 million to provide secondary scholarships for Indigenous students in Western Australia.
- AIEF has matched this sponsorship creating a total pool of \$8.55 million.
- A minimum of 70 Indigenous Secondary Scholarships (with over 50 percent from the Pilbara) will be awarded for the completion of Year 12.
- For the past three years, BHP Billiton has partnered with the Catholic Education Office and Scotch College, managing a host of Indigenous education scholarships.

careers and BHP Billiton has an incredible commitment to making a difference to Indigenous kids' futures.

"Through our partnership with BHP Billiton, we are growing the AIEF education network and helping to increase Year 12 attainment for Indigenous students across Australia.

"This is a truly historic partnership."