



Media Release

MACQUARIE GROUP FOUNDATION COMMITS ANOTHER THREE YEARS' FUNDING FOR CAPE YORK INSTITUTE'S HIGHER EXPECTATIONS PROGRAM

Australia, 15 July 2008; The Macquarie Group Foundation has announced a further three years' funding commitment, totalling \$2.6 million, for the Higher Expectations Program (HEP).

HEP, an initiative of Noel Pearson's Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, provides scholarship and case management support for students from remote indigenous communities to pursue secondary education at top boarding schools.

The funding will enable the Program to strengthen the support it offers to existing participating students, families and schools as well as grow the participant base.

Additionally, the funding will support a National Indigenous Education Development Officer, who will work with other regions of Australia to support the development of "Higher Expectations Programs" beyond Cape York.

The Cape York Institute's Higher Expectations Program (HEP) has been in partnership with the Macquarie Group Foundation since 2005. Since this time, 54 students have been granted scholarships and last year, the first cohort of students graduated from year 12. These students are all either in employment or pursuing further education in business, criminology, law, politics and early childhood studies.

Cape York Institute Director, Noel Pearson, says that Macquarie Group Foundation's support has underpinned the Program's success: "This Program is supporting the future generation of Cape York leaders. It is deliberately aimed at providing the very best secondary education possible for our most gifted students. Make no mistake: getting our children into the best schools of this country is a key part of our strategy to lift our people up. My heartfelt thanks goes to the Macquarie Group leaders: this Program would not exist without their tremendous support."

HEP National Indigenous Education Development Officer - John Wenitong, added that the Higher Expectations Program has been supported on many levels and in particular, the community. "Parents of the HEP students in the Cape York indigenous community are strong advocates of the Program, which has been critical to its success."

According to Macquarie Group Foundation Head, Julie White, the Higher Expectations Program provides a pathway for those young people who will be future leaders for Indigenous Australia.

"It is important that indigenous students are offered educational choice. With strong public and government focus on the need for quality indigenous education opportunities, HEP is leading the way for programs focused on tertiary education outcomes.

"After a successful three and a half years demonstrating compelling student outcomes, HEP is now poised to consolidate and strengthen educational opportunities for remote and regional indigenous students around Australia," said Julie White.

ENDS

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Higher Expectations Program Student, James Backo (Weipa)

James Backo is a Higher Expectations Program scholarship student currently completing Year 10 at Marist College Ashgrove in Brisbane. Prior to signing up for the Higher Expectations Program, James, while living with his parents, completed his primary school studies in Weipa.

He loves sport, particularly rugby league, does very well in his school studies, has many good friends at Marist College and according to the School, is a wonderful and proud student.

For more information on James Backo – his community, schooling life and ambitions please contact Agata Kenna on 0400 305 767.

Interviews are also available with Cape York Institute Director - Noel Pearson, HEP National Indigenous Education Development Officer - John Wenitong and Julie White from the Macquarie Group Foundation.

EDITOR'S NOTES

About the Higher Expectations Program

The Higher Expectations Program (HEP) in Cape York is a partnership between the Cape York Institute, the Macquarie Group Foundation, Griffith University, a small number of Queensland's most academically successful boarding schools and the Federal Government, through the ABSTUDY program.

HEP, an initiative of the Cape York Institute, was established to give academically gifted students in Cape York the opportunity to attend Queensland's top-tier boarding schools and pursue tertiary education.

Macquarie Group Foundation

The Macquarie Group Foundation – the philanthropic arm of the Macquarie Group – has been providing support to community programs for More than 35 years. In the year to March 2008, the Macquarie Group Foundation, together with Macquarie Group staff efforts, contributed more than \$23 million to over 800 community organisations around the world.

Macquarie Group Staff involvement with HEP

Macquarie's support of HEP is both in a funding and advisory capacity. Macquarie staff are intimately involved in many aspects of the program including serving on the HEP Advisory committee, offering pro bono assistance around accounting processes and budgeting, training of staff in financial management and reporting plus marketing.

About the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership

The Cape York Institute is public policy and leadership organisation that champions reform to overcome Indigenous disadvantage. Led by Noel Pearson, the Institute is a partnership with Griffith University and the people of Cape York.