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Teaching scholarships to attract the state's brightest

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth has today announced applications are now open for the 2010 NSW Government *Teacher Education Scholarship Program*.

Ms Firth said the program offered high-achieving school leavers, university students and those seeking a career change with incentives to take up teaching.

"This year an additional 70 scholarships will be offered under the program, with a total of 300 scholarships now on offer for talented students to train as secondary teachers in mathematics, science and English, or in primary or secondary special education.

"Of these scholarships, at least 80 are available for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people to train as primary teachers or in any secondary teaching area.

"The feedback from current scholarship holders and potential university students indicates that money to assist them as they study is more beneficial than the payment of their university fees," Ms Firth said.

"This year's successful scholarship recipients will receive a \$5,000 annual training allowance for each year of full time study and a further \$3,000 grant when they commence teaching."

Ms Firth said as in previous years, successful scholarship graduates will also have the assurance of a guaranteed permanent job as a NSW public school teacher.

"Keen maths and science graduates and undergraduates, in particular, could take advantage of the opportunity to train as a teacher and reap the rewards of a permanent career in their subject area.

"The program addresses projected teacher shortages in specific subject areas and geographic locations and provides opportunities for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to train as teachers."

In addition, students may receive further benefits announced by the Commonwealth Government for education students employed as teachers in the form of a HECS-HELP benefit of up to \$1,560 each financial year.

Further information, including application packages, can be accessed online at www.teach.nsw.edu.au/scholarships or by calling 1300 301 435.

Applications close 2 October 2009.

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