



MEDIA RELEASE

22 July, 2019

New education program gives locals a hand up

Vinnies is hoping its new Scholarship Program in Toowoomba will help more locals like Theresa Thicthe to achieve their educational aspirations.

The new scholarship program which is jointly funded by Vinnies and the Sisters of Mercy aims to support Toowoomba residents 18 years or over who are looking to enter post-secondary education or training and offers up to \$1500 for education expenses.

Successful applicants for the scholarship will also receive regular support from a Learning Partner and peer support to help them complete their study on top of guidance from the Education Coordinator from the charity.

Theresa, who graduated from Vinnies' Clemente education program in 2017 before going on to begin a Diploma of Creative Art at the University of South Queensland, encouraged others to consider applying for the new scholarship.

"Trust me education can really change your life," she said.

"Programs like this build your confidence and assist you to believe you can study at University and opens up a big door where the possibilities are endless.

"If you're wanting to get back into study, Vinnies can help you do it. They helped me greatly through Clemente and I can't thank them enough."

Vinnies Toowoomba region Executive Officer Kathie Brosnan said the scholarship offered locals a unique chance to put themselves in the best position to secure employment, whether that be through University, TAFE or other education providers.

"The best aspect of this scholarship program is the applicant can take a number of different education pathways, all of which can improve their chances of landing a great job."

"Our motto at Vinnies is a hand-up not a hand out and we truly believe this scholarship is a great example of that."

Vinnies is also on the lookout for locals from the Toowoomba community keen to give back by providing 1- 2 hours a week/fortnight to support and encourage scholarship recipients.

"If you are in a position to commit and have passion and want to help support others in the community with their educational goals this would be a great program to get involved in," Ms Brosnan said.

Vinnies will launch the program on 5 August at Emerge Café in Toowoomba with Toowoomba Mayor Paul Antonio, a number of local education providers, service providers and locals who

have been helped by Vinnies in attendance with scholarships applications opening from the same day.

More information on the application process is available at: carly.middap@svdpqld.org.au.

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