

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

QATSIF Queensland Certificate of Education Scholarship Support 2010-2011

About QATSIF

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) is an independent public foundation established in 2008 to provide educational and developmental opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland.

QATSIF was established with \$25.8m, consisting of \$10.8 million from the former Aborigines Welfare Fund and \$15 million unspent from the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme. The annual interest earned from the \$25.8m principle investment will be used to fund the scholarships and bursaries. More information on QATSIF can be found in the attached Fact Sheet.

About the Queensland Certificate of Education Scholarships

QATSIF recognises the vital role that successful completion of schooling and the availability of opportunities through higher education have in building a foundation for employment and better quality of life and that education is a resource not easily accessed by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The proportion of Indigenous young people achieving the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is significantly lower than their non-Indigenous counterparts. QATSIF has therefore decided to focus some of its initial efforts to assist Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students complete their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and by doing so, assist in closing the education gap.

QATSIF will provide 2 year scholarship funding to a small number of selected secondary schools across Queensland to support students commencing Year 11 in 2010. QATSIF will fund successful schools that will then provide scholarships to individual students.

The intent of the funding is to provide scholarship support to individuals and their families.

The schools will be responsible for the selection of successful scholarship recipients and the administration of the scholarship funds according to their schools' processes and the QATSIF Trust Deed conditions (i.e. included in the eligibility criteria).

Guiding Principles

- The intention of the funding is to increase Indigenous student retention in years 11 and 12 not simply sustain existing retention rates.
- The funding is to provide necessary holistic support for Indigenous students. Funding should therefore be used to complement and build on existing school programmes and support for Indigenous students.
- The funding can be used to fully or partially fund a scholarship for an individual.
- The funding is not intended to replace but rather complement and enhance other core funding responsibilities for the school and parents.
- The funding cannot be used to pay for support staff wages;
- Funding is aimed at the highest performing schools not necessarily those schools with the highest performing students academically. Therefore applications are encouraged from schools with alternative programs aimed at 'disengaged' youth.
- All secondary schools are encouraged to apply.

- This is QATSIFs first allocation of scholarship funding. Availability of and process for continuing support beyond this initial program will be considered and decided by QATSIF prior to completion of the two years.
- The program will be independently monitored and evaluated to inform QATSIFs considerations.

How can my school apply?

Schools¹ who believe they meet the minimum criteria below should submit an expression of interest to their sectoral head offices; State, Catholic and Independent.

The expression of interest needs to contain the following information:

- A completed application form
- A response to the QATSIF criteria for scholarship administration below
- An outline of how the school will use the funds. Schools should outline what individual strategies will be used to support individual students and if appropriate, the process the school will use to award scholarships to individuals
- An indicative budget.

The expression of interest must be no more than 5 pages (including budget). Additional supporting information may be provided in attachments.

Short listed schools will be contacted by QATSIF.

Funding under this initiative will be provided to successful schools and not to individual students. Successful schools will be responsible for selecting successful scholarship recipients and for the administration of the scholarship funds. Schools will be required to have developed a process for determining scholarship recipients consistent with their school policies and the QATSIF funding criteria.

Eligibility criteria

Schools will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander retention and completion rates of QCE
- Evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander year 10 enrolments in 2009
- Evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educational activities including initiatives such as Indigenous specific curriculum activities (i.e. embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools), Indigenous cultural awareness and capability training and strategies for teachers and staff, employment of Indigenous teachers and staff, developing or completion of a Reconciliation Action Plan, holistic life and academic support mechanisms
- Evidence of Aboriginal and Strait Islander parental participation and community involvement
- Compliance with the QATSIF Trust Deed:
 1. that the organisation is an organisation whose objects include the granting of scholarships or bursaries to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children or young persons in Queensland² who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia
 2. any payment to the organisation, will only be used to award a scholarship or bursary to promote the recipients' education in either an approved Australian education course or educational institutions overseas, by way of study of a component of an approved Australian education course

¹ 'Schools' means secondary schools and other educational institutions offering Queensland Certificate of Education or its equivalent.

² For this process, QATSIF defines the following as:

- *Young Person* - means a person aged 5 - 35 years
- *Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* - means a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which the person lives.
- *Queensland Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* is an Indigenous person
 - born in Queensland and living in Queensland; or
 - a resident of Queensland for at least three years.

3. the scholarship or bursary must be awarded on merit or for reasons of equity; and
4. the scholarship or bursary is only given to a recipient with suitable character.

Note 1 education course has the same meaning as in *A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) ACT 1999*.

Important: Only those schools that can address **all** the criteria should submit an expression of interest.

What is the process?

The heads of each sector will manage the dissemination of the Expressions of Interest package to their respective schools and then make a preliminary assessment of submissions in accordance with the criteria for the Steering Committee to review prior to submission to the QATSIF Board.

The Steering Committee with representatives from the QATSIF Board of Advice (QATSIF Board), Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Department of Education and Training, Independent Schools Queensland and the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will shortlist the Expressions of Interest for consideration by the QATSIF Board. The Steering Committee will:

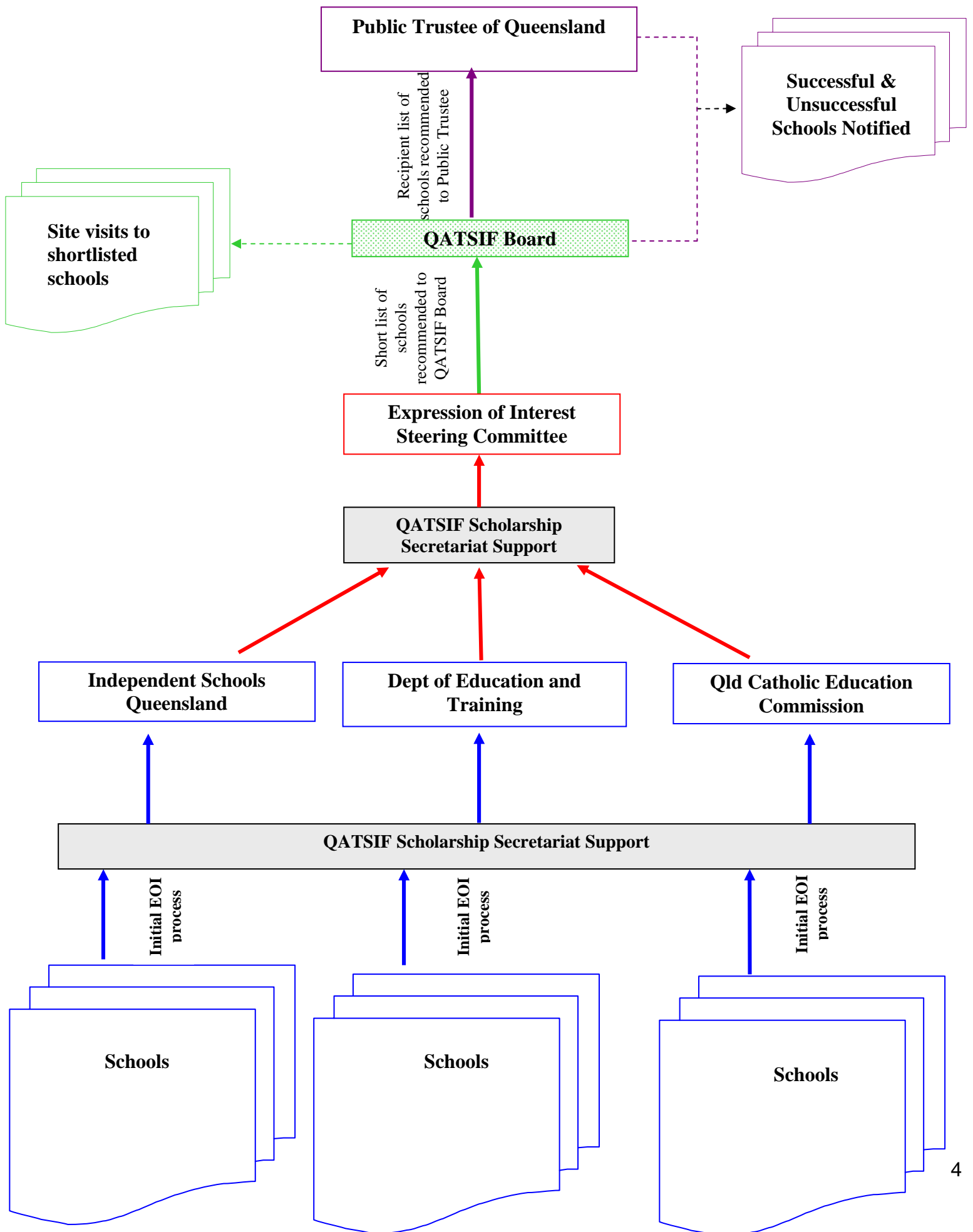
- (a) oversee the expression of interest process;
- (b) further refine the shortlist provided by each sector;
- (c) make recommendations of successful schools to the QATSIF Board

Expressions of Interest close 29 May 2009. Late expressions of interest will not be accepted. Submissions are to be made in writing to the Project Officer (QATSIF Scholarship Secretariat Support), Indigenous Projects PO Box 15033 CITY EAST QLD 4002. Electronic submissions can be sent to lynda.adamson@deta.qld.gov.au

Enquiries from schools should be directed to the respective sector contacts listed below:

<p>Queensland Catholic Education Commission</p> <p>Ms Jane Ceolin, Executive Officer Indigenous Education Email: director@qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au To discuss your application phone (07) 3336 9306</p>
<p>Independent Schools Queensland</p> <p>Mrs Jenene Rosser, Manager (Education Services) Email: jrosser@aisq.qld.edu.au To discuss your application phone (07) 3228 1515</p>
<p>Department of Education and Training</p> <p>Steve Armitage, Executive Director, Indigenous Reform Email: sophia.peyroux@deta.qld.gov.au To discuss your application phone (07) 32371350</p>

Selection process





FACT SHEET

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation

What is QATSIF?

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) is an independent public foundation established to serve Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by providing a secure funding source for bursaries and scholarships. The foundation will fund educational and developmental opportunities for generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

QATSIF has been created to give Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families increased educational choices and life opportunities. A higher education is the foundation for employment and better quality of life; it is a resource not easily accessed by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

By providing support QATSIF will contribute to turning around the inter-generational legacies of past policies and practices, and help close the gap in educational and employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

QATSIF will stand as a permanent and positive legacy for the future.

Income generated from the Fund will be distributed annually under the terms of the Trust Deed, and as recommended to the Public Trustee by the Board of Advisors.

QATSIF's initial \$25.8 million capital consists of \$10.8 million from the former Aborigines Welfare Fund (AWF) and \$15 million from the remaining unspent funds from the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme (IWSR).

Aborigines Welfare Fund

The Aborigines Welfare Fund (AWF), a statutory fund established in 1943, was frozen on 1 February 1993 and has been accumulating interest since that time.

In March 2008, the Queensland Government agreed to wind up the AWF and place these funds in the Indigenous Queenslanders Foundation, to provide scholarships for Aboriginal children and young people.

Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme

In 2002 the Queensland Government made a reparations offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose wages and savings had been controlled under previous 'Protection Acts'. It included:

- A monetary amount of up to \$55.4 million
- An apology
- A Parliamentary Acknowledgment and statement in the House
- Government protocol to acknowledge traditional owners.

By 2007, payments totalling nearly \$20 million had been made to over 5,500 claimants under the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme (IWSRS), leaving a residue of \$35.87 million.

In March 2008 the Queensland Government agreed that a further \$14.64 million be paid out to eligible claimants and the remaining \$21.23 million form a separate sub-fund of QATSIF.

In August 2008 the Queensland Government agreed to reopen the Reparations Scheme to new applications and set aside a further \$6 million out of the unspent funds from March for this purpose.

How does QATSIF work?

The goal of QATSIF is to increase educational and related opportunities available to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

QATSIF will work in partnership with the philanthropic and private sectors, as well as schools, TAFEs, academies and universities, to contribute toward the costs of education and tuition and related expenses.

Income generated from the Fund will be distributed wherever possible, through matching grants – dollar for dollar– to other organisations and schemes offering scholarships and like support. In this way, QATSIF will complement, rather than replace, existing initiatives.

The Foundation will also seek to attract other donations, bequests and investments to grow the funds available for investment and distribution and work to build the capacity of other organisations to offer scholarships and other educational and vocational support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

The QATSIF Board of Advisors

This Board is comprised of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people who are experts and leaders in their fields of youth, education, government, corporate, philanthropy, community affairs and finance.

The Board has seven members including five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Queensland: Cindy Shannon (Chairperson), Sione Fa'Aoso (Deputy Chair), Nereda White, John Goddard, Thelma Gertz, Leann Wilson and Kerrin Anderson.

The Board recommends allocation and prioritisation of QATSIF funds to the Public Trustee; has a strategic role influencing Indigenous social and economic development in Queensland; and a leading role partnering with community, private sector, philanthropic organisations and educational and financial sectors to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share the same quality of life as other Queenslanders.

A small secretariat manages the day-to-day operations of the Foundation and supports the Board of Advisors.

For further information on QATSIF and or the Board of Advice, please contact QATSIF Secretariat on freecall 1800 215 589 or at PO Box 15420, City East, Brisbane Q 4002.