

BEATTIE GRANT SMARTENS UP FAR NORTH EDUCATION EXPORTS

The Queensland Government will award a Cairns-based education group \$63,500 to attract more international students and boost the export education industry.

Premier Peter Beattie said Study Cairns would receive 11 grants totaling \$63,500 from Queensland Education and Training International.

“The funding will cover activities related to study tours, a roadshow, marketing materials and multilingual web pages,” he said.

“Study Cairns will also undertake a strategic review of the region’s education products and services, a student survey and workshops.”

Member for Cairns Desley Boyle welcomed the funding, which will boost the Far North’s burgeoning education export industry.

“Overseas students are an increasingly important part of our cosmopolitan region,” Ms Boyle said.

“They generate jobs and income for the people of Cairns and the Far North, and return home as ambassadors for our region.

“Some of these bright young people will no doubt become influential leaders in their own countries, and their endorsements will improve our international image and lead to more students, tourists and business,” Ms Boyle said.

Mr Beattie said the funds for Study Cairns are part of a new \$1.4 million program, comprising \$796,832 from the government and \$597,975 from industry.

“Exports of education from Queensland universities, schools and colleges are a Smart State success story,” Mr Beattie said.

“Since late 2001 when the government established Queensland Education and Training International the value of these exports has risen by 82%, from \$500 million to \$912 million.

“We are ahead of our schedule of achieving \$1 billion in exports by the end of next year.

“An extra 3000 Queenslanders have found jobs in this industry – at least 8000 are now employed, compared to 5000 in 2001.”

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