Former James Ruse Agriculture High School student wins Man Booker Prize

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, today congratulated former James Ruse Agriculture High School student, Aravind Adiga, on winning the 2008 Man Booker Prize.

Ms Firth said the Man Booker Prize is the most prestigious literary award in the world and Aravind is only third debut novelist to win it.

“His first novel, The White Tiger, was chosen over 120 other entries, including books by well known authors Salman Rushdie and John Berger,” Ms Firth added.

“Aravind is the youngest of the finalists and the second youngest to ever win the award.

“He was born in Madras, India and attended James Ruse Agriculture High School from 1990 to 1992, studying in Year’s 10, 11 and 12.

“When Aravind sat the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in 1992, he came first in the State in Ancient History and third in English.

“Aravind is reported as saying the four or five years he spent growing up in Sydney, where he attended James Ruse Ag High School, had an important impact on his work.

Ms Firth said James Ruse Agriculture High School has produced many outstanding students.

“It is a school that continually tops the state in the HSC, with 215 students on the 2007 HSC Distinguished Achiever’s List – scoring over 90 in at least one course,” she said.

“Students at James Ruse Agriculture High School have consistently gained outstanding results in public examinations and in State, Australian and International competitions in a variety of intellectual pursuits.

“The majority of students proceed to university with considerable success in a broad range of tertiary studies including Agricultural Science, Law, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Science, Engineering, Economics, Information Technology and Computing.

“James Ruse is selective, co-educational high school in Carlingford, North West Sydney, surrounded by a 5 hectare farm.”