New foundation to support public education in NSW

Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, today announced the launch of a not-for-profit foundation to support public education and help students reach their full potential.

Ms Firth said the Public Education Foundation will help ensure all NSW students have the same opportunities to learn and excel at school.

“The Public Education Foundation will help ensure that every student, regardless of their background, needs or circumstances, can make the most of their education,” the Minister added.

“It will achieve this by establishing links with industry, commerce and the community to fund scholarships that will enable individual students to maximise their educational outcomes.

“The scholarships will be targeted at students who, for individual reasons such as financial hardship, may not have access to the opportunities they deserve.

“The scholarships will focus on a range of different subject areas and will provide students, as well as teachers, with various resources to improve learning outcomes, such as equipment, mentoring and educational extension programs.

“Through the Foundation, the community will be able to donate money to public education and by doing so invest in the education of thousands of students across the State.

“NSW has one of the best education systems in the world, and through this Foundation it can only get better.”

At today’s launch, Ms Firth also announced the Stellar Astronomy Scholarship for Girls – the first round of scholarships to be made available through the Foundation.

Up to ten scholarships will be awarded to Year 10 public school girls who want to study Physics next year. They will each be given a telescope and valuable lessons and mentoring in astronomy.

“I am very excited about these scholarships, which will support girls in government high schools to study and excel in physics, particularly in the area of astronomy,” Ms Firth said.

“I am confident these scholarships will help stir an interest and passion in science – a subject in which girls in our secondary schools are underrepresented.

“That is why the NSW Government will match the scholarships dollar for dollar.

“Primary school teachers are also set to benefit with the announcement of scholarships from the Henry Parkes Foundation.

“These scholarships will allow teachers to study effective models of Civics and Citizenship Education and in doing so, carry on the work started by Sir Henry Parkes so long ago.

“I commend the Public Education Foundation on these initiatives and its support for public education in NSW.
“These scholarships, and the further work of the Foundation, will complement the excellent work of our teachers and students and enrich the education of public education students across the State,” she added.