



MEDIA RELEASE

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Enriching lives through study assistance

Hastings Co-op has continued its support for local students wanting to follow their dreams, this time awarding two scholarships to Charles Sturt University (CSU) students through the university's foundation trust.

Paramedics student Peta Ashby said she embarked on her CSU course in the hope of "improving our future" for her husband and son, who live more than 400 kilometres away while she studies.

"To be reminded that local business still supports the community through direct action, reaffirms that 'a fair go' still exists in Australia and our society encourages education for all," she said.

"This assistance will remove some of the financial stress and burden of tertiary education, so I can focus on my studies."

Fellow scholarship recipient Leanne Carrick explained that she works hard to fit work, study and family commitments into her busy schedule.

"The financial burden of having one income in a household with nearly teenage children is immense," she said.

"I currently have three jobs, one part-time job that I work regularly and two casual jobs that I mainly do in the university breaks, to help to support my family financially.

"The scholarship will allow me to study without feeling the pressure to work more to support my family."

At last week's presentation ceremony, Hastings Co-op chief executive officer Allan Gordon reinforced the Charles Sturt University Foundation Trust philosophy that: "there's no greater gift than education".

"We are very proud to be able to help these very deserving students and wish Leanne and Peta the best of luck with their studies and their future career paths," he said.

"Hastings Co-op has been a long-time supporter of local students pursuing their dreams and initiatives like this, and the Hastings Education Fund, allow us to give back."

Since establishing in 1982, the Charles Sturt University Foundation Ltd has awarded more than 4000 scholarships to CSU students, totalling more than \$13 million.

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