$7 MILLION IN TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AREAS OF NEED

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, today announced applications were open for 300 NSW Government teacher scholarships worth a total of almost $7 million.

The Teacher Education Scholarship Program for 2011 will provide up to $23,000 each to students who agree to teach in hard to staff public schools for at least three years.

Ms Firth said the scholarships attract some of the State’s most talented students to teach in areas like Western Sydney and regional NSW.

The scholarships, which were first introduced in 2002, train teachers in special education, secondary mathematics, science and English for NSW public schools.

“We support the scholarships because we know they get results.

“After completing their three year commitment, more than half of the scholarship winners stay in our hard to staff public schools.

“Scholarship holders receive financial assistance of up to $5,000 a year throughout their full-time studies, plus an additional $3,000 one-off grant when they begin their teaching career.”

Over four years (the normal duration of study) this amounts to around $23,000.

“This is significant financial support for students committed to a future in our public schools as they work toward their teaching degree.

“Successful scholars are also guaranteed a permanent public school teaching position in an agreed location when they graduate.”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will get priority for up to 80 of the 300 scholarships.

“This is part of the NSW Government’s ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to pursue teaching qualifications and to take up a career in NSW public schools.”

More information about the Teacher Education Scholarship Program can be found at www.teach.nsw.edu.au/scholarships or by calling the scholarship information line on 1300 301 435.