



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

December 12, 2017

Stanthorpe's Grace Menahan awarded prestigious New Colombo Plan scholarship

FROM Stanthorpe to Singapore, Grace Menahan was announced as an undergraduate student from the Granite Belt to be awarded a Federal Government scholarship to live, study and intern in the Indo-Pacific region, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

"Grace, a former St Joseph's School Stanthorpe student, has won one of only 120 prestigious 2018 New Colombo Plan scholarships awarded across Australia to support our nation's best and brightest to engage with our region," Mr Littleproud said.

"She's currently studying a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Government and International Relations at Griffith University and will study international law at the National University of Singapore.

"During the almost six-month internship, Ms Manahan plans to undertake a research internship in Singapore and an internship with an international law firm in China.

"Grace is a wonderful role model, proving great opportunities are available in regional communities and all you have to do is set your goals."

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Federal Government to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and intern in the region.

"New Colombo Plan scholars are among Australia's most talented emerging leaders – they have demonstrated academic excellence, exceptional leadership in their communities, and a firm commitment to engaging with the Indo-Pacific region," Mr Littleproud said.

"During their scholarships, they will build connections with their peers, get real-life work experience and boost their employability in the graduate job market. They will return to Australia with a deeper understanding of our region and form part of an Indo-Pacific literate, next-generation workforce".

New Colombo Plan 2018 scholars were recently announced by Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, and Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham.

"The 2018 New Colombo Plan scholars represent the diversity of the Australian community. They include Indigenous Australians, recent migrants, students from rural and regional Australia, those with English as a second language and who are the first in their family to attend university," Minister Bishop said.

In its first five years, the Government has awarded 434 New Colombo Plan scholarships for exceptional students to undertake study and work-based placements in up to 40 locations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The New Colombo Plan is a long-term investment in the future of Australia. The connections it supports underpin Australia's engagement with the Indo-Pacific, a region fundamental to our nation's future – a driver of economic growth and of strategic importance.

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