

Dear All,

Part of what makes Sydney Institute such an outstanding organisation is its relationships with industry and community. For more than 200 years, we have worked closely with the government and our business partners to service the needs of industry, and to provide our students with professional training – training that allows them to make significant changes to their lives. But as a large organisation we have great influence, influence beyond jobs.

In the past few weeks I have heard some wonderful stories about our colleges and their engagement with community in support of various projects and issues, and I would like to take this opportunity to mention some of the students and teachers who have shown extraordinary passion, dedication and commitment to our greater community.

Last week, 27 March, **The Apprentice and Hospitality at Ultimo College**, hosted the **Sudan Orphan Education Support Inaugural Benefit Dinner**.

The Sudan Orphan Education Support Project was created by one of our young Sudanese students, Zacharia, and other representatives from the Sudanese refugee community. With the support of his TAFE teachers, and community workers from the Adult Migrant Education Service, Zacharia has worked tirelessly to bring attention to some of the issues facing young people in Sudan.

Zacharia came to Ultimo College in 2007, and while grateful for the opportunities and support Sydney Institute has provided him, his ambition is to provide education materials and to build a school for orphans in the refugee camps that have been created in his home county Cuiebet, within Bahr el Ghazal region of southern Sudan.

The Apprentice's Anna Cloumassis and Restaurant Supervisor Tony Fonti, along with Commercial Cookery Teacher Christofe Elhorga, and hospitality student Chefs Alison Potts and Rachel Baik, worked with great enthusiasm to stage the benefit dinner. Through their efforts, and those of teachers from Ultimo College's Adult Basic Education area, more than \$1,000 was raised.

Sydney Institute is a great advocate for change. I am sure there are many more inspiring stories to be told, and I encourage you to keep me informed of the work your teaching sections are doing.

In meantime, congratulations to all who have been involved in some of these wonderful community projects.

Pam Christie

Director

Sydney Institute of TAFE