Lions to Help Wellington Girl Through High School

A unique bursary, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, will help a young Wellington aboriginal girl through her first three years of high school.

She is Pauline Ah See, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ah See, of Nanima.

Pauline was 12 in January.

The bursary has been given by the Wellington Lions Club.

The Lions Club decided to make the bursary available after a recommendation by Lions International that clubs "provide the opportunity for coloured children in necessitous circumstances to take their place in High School where it is considered such aid is warranted."

The Wellington Club is the first to act on this recommendation.

It was decided that the bursary would assist the chosen child in the supply of essential clothing, such as school uniforms, the provision of text books, payment of necessary fees and the provision of any other items of clothing or equipment considered essential for the child to derive full benefit from attendance at high school.

The selection of Pauline as the bursary holder was made on school record, application to work, general overall interest, and academic achievement, in conjunction with consideration of family background and circumstances.

Nanima School headmaster (Mr. J. Cahill) told the Wellington Times that he thought Pauline "a very good initial choice."

"I think the project as recommended by Lions International is unique, and I believe this is the first such bursary in Australia."

Mr. Cahill added that Pauline had shown keen interest in her schoolwork at Nanima, and, in fact, had been sorry to see school finish for the year.

"Pauline hasn’t missed a day at school for more than two years . . . she has always insisted on attending, no matter what the weather conditions."

Wellington Lions Club President Mr. Frank Quirk, commenting on the bursary, said: "We are very pleased to be able to do this, on the recommendation of Lions International.

"We fully support the International body’s recommendations, and are very happy to put it into practical operation."

Member Development Chairman of District 201E, Mr. John Kelly, speaking on behalf of District Governor, Graham Lord, of Orange, added: "The District congratulates Wellington Lions on their splendid project.

"We may hope, perhaps, that this will be an example that other clubs throughout Australia will follow in the near future."