Hello Kids,

I have just read a letter written by Esther Kinchela, of Narrabri, thanking the Aborigines Welfare Board for the bursary awarded to her in 1960, when she was in sixth class at primary school. Now she has finished fifth year at high school and hopes that her letter (reprinted here) might encourage other students to study hard so that they too can apply for such a bursary.

A bursary pays for school books and fees. If you get one it means that your parents will not have to pay for these things, and you will be able to stay at school for a longer time. I guess some kids will be saying that they don’t want to stay at school for longer than they have to, but they are the foolish ones.

Kids, if you want to get a good job, where you do interesting work and get well paid for it, you must study. And study hard. If you don’t, you will end up in a poorly paid job where you do only boring and very tiring work.

I know that most people find studying a hard thing to do, and many give it up, but you must keep at it till you have obtained a good basic education. Only then will you be able to pick the kind of work that you want to do.

Read Esther’s letter, and try to follow her good example.

'Bye for now,

See you next time,

Pete

Esther’s letter, to Mr A. L. Thomas, Area Welfare Officer, Moree.

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the help that you have given to me over the last five years. I was a candidate for a bursary in 1960 and, being successful, I obtained financial aid which helped me to complete my studies to fifth year.

I now have completed my secondary studies to fifth year and I hope by this letter I might encourage other students from sixth class onwards to work hard at school and apply for one of these bursaries offered by your Board. With this help they may further their education to university level, obtaining many of the rights and benefits owing to them that they at present are not aware of.

In gratitude to you and the Board,

I remain,

Esther Kinchela.

29-11-65.

Sydney: V. C. N. Blight, Government Printer—1966