

December 5, 2006

## MEDIA RELEASE - SA WATER

# WATER INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIPS ON OFFER

In 2006 SA Water marked 150 years of providing water and waste water services to South Australians. In conjunction with a strategic workforce planning initiative, and in order to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, SA Water has established a scholarship program to provide educational opportunities to young South Australians.

As well as leaving a lasting legacy of this long period of public service, the program will also provide pathways for young people into SA Water's future workforce and the wider business community.

The SA Water scholarship program is to be launched at the SA Water House on Monday, December 11, 2006.

Available to students from primary school and university across a wide range of categories, the SA Water Scholarship Program aims to foster the talent of young students in a number of ways. By working in partnership with our South Australian Universities, Tauondi College, TAFE and The Smith Family, SA Water is supporting the State Strategic Plan target objective of expanding opportunity. Education is the key to the State's growth and the scholarships will improve access to education and improve Aboriginal wellbeing.

SA Water Chief Executive Anne Howe said the program has been developed to support learning opportunities for disadvantaged young people, indigenous people, people with high academic potential and young women pursuing study in non-traditional roles.

"We have designed high-value scholarships which include a work experience component with SA Water," Ms Howe said.

"These scholarships will provide access and opportunities to South Australia's future leaders. It is envisaged that the program will encourage students to apply for SA Water's ongoing graduate program at the completion of their studies.

"As well as focusing on the traditional scholarship area of universities, we have also extended the scholarship program to include Tauondi College, TAFE and The Smith Family as partners. Each partner provides a development pathway for people from a variety of backgrounds, ensuring that our community develops its potential to the fullest. SA Water is happy to support this important educational initiative as it not only provides for those students who demonstrate passion and excellence, but also for some who may have been limited in their opportunities in some way."

Scholarships on offer for 2007 are:

- Six undergraduate scholarships in business (University of Adelaide and UniSA)
- Six undergraduate scholarships in engineering (University of Adelaide and UniSA)
- Two undergraduate scholarship in civil engineering for women (University of Adelaide and UniSA)
- Two undergraduate scholarship in civil engineering (University of Adelaide and UniSA)
- Two undergraduate indigenous scholarship (University of Adelaide and UniSA)
- Two x four-week paid work placements at SA Water for business students from Tauondi College
- Two x four-week paid work placements at SA Water for IT students from Tauondi College
- 30 junior primary school scholarships (Adelaide, Eudunda, Elizabeth, Christies Beach, Port Pirie, Whyalla) to be administered by the Smith Family
- 34 secondary school scholarships (Adelaide, Eudunda, Elizabeth, Christies beach, Port Pirie, Whyalla) to be administered by the Smith Family

- Two scholarships for skilled migrants enrolled in Advanced English programs at TAFE
- Flinders University is in the final stages of discussions with SA Water in relation to undergraduate scholarships.

People interested in applying for the scholarships should contact the relevant organisation in the first instance, as each scholarship has its own criteria.

The scholarship program for 2008 will further build upon the program inaugurated in 2007.

**Where to find out more information on the scholarships:**

**University of Adelaide:** Applications will be open and advertised once they have confirmed all details and both parties have signed off. Closing dates will also be determined once sign-off has occurred. Notice will be on the university scholarships website, with SA Water's logo and a link. Students will be able to access them electronically and they are also advertised within the faculties involved.

**University of South Australia:** UniSA has published scholarships and a grants flyer which drives school leavers, current students and graduates to search for relevant scholarships on the SA Water website ([www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)). The SA Water scholarships will be advertised in the UniSA website (undergraduate scholarship information) from the end of the month once the final SA Water Undergraduate Indigenous Scholarship is approved.

The information will also be promoted on the home pages for each school/division and program lecturers and coordinators will address students in the New Year.

**The Smith Family:** The Smith Family will administer the scholarships through its current process and structure.

**Tauondi College:** Students at the college will be advised through notice boards and through teachers addressing the students in class.

**TAFE:** Course coordinators will disseminate information of scholarships and application forms to students.