



Program meets high hopes

ROCKHAMPTON Girls' Grammar School graduate Valencia Gilbert had never heard of boarding schools when she was growing up in Kowanyama on the west coast of Carpentaria.

She was part of the Cape York Institute's Higher Expectations Program, which reached a significant milestone, with the first cohort of students graduating from

Year 12.

Valencia will study Early Childhood at Cairns TAFE.

"My first day at Rockhampton Girl's Grammar was a big change for me but I thought to myself, 'If I give up now I will never have this opportunity again,'" she said.

"Higher Expectations was the best thing that ever happened in my life. It gave me pathways to

achieve my goals."

Currently, only 6% of students from Cape York complete Year 12. The Higher Expectations Program was established in 2005 to enable the region's top indigenous students to attend Queensland's leading boarding schools. It is funded by the Macquarie Group Foundation.