



QAL NEWS

19 June 2020

Local industry provides a helping hand for students returning to school

Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL), Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) and Rio Tinto Yarwun have donated \$24,000 to assist local students returning to the classroom after many weeks learning at home due to COVID-19 isolation measures.

The three Rio Tinto sites have partnered with neighbouring schools to support important initiatives that assist school students and families with the challenges and adjustments following COVID-19.

These include a sound system to support children with hearing impairments, the purchase of additional lockers to assist social distancing measures, and learning material to help students transition and re-integrate back into a group environment.

At Toolooa State High School, the funds have gone towards preparing and distributing winter care packs for families that are struggling financially. The packs include necessary items for returning to school, such as school jumpers, books, pens and more.

Toolooa State High School Principal, Justin Harrison said “The return to school after remote learning can be difficult for some students and these uncertain times can bring unwanted pressure on families.

“The donation provided by QAL and Rio Tinto has allowed the school to help students and families who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. With their help, Toolooa State High School has been able to provide identified students with the necessary resources to allow them every possible chance of success.”

QAL general manager, Pine Pienaar said “These unprecedented times have presented many challenges for Gladstone’s community, which has highlighted the importance of community collaboration.

“QAL is pleased to be able to support our local schools to deliver these initiatives and assist local students and families during the COVID-19 isolation measures.”

The school investments are part of Rio Tinto’s Partnering for Progress program, which includes a \$US25 million commitment to support communities around the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

~END~



Toooloa State High School and Queensland Alumina Limited partnering to deliver winter care packs for school students in need.

*From left to right:
Youth Support Worker Josh Hicks, Inclusion Assistant Chanise Grealy, Chaplain Geoff Parnell, Rio Tinto Gladstone Communities & Communications Manager Kylie Devine-Hewitt, Community Education Counsellor Ambrose Coolwell*