Executive Office  
Education and Training Committee, Parliament of Victoria  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne, Vic, 3002

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the Education of Gifted and Talented Students

We write in support of the submission made to your Inquiry by the Aurora Project regarding their "The Aspiration Initiative".

The Minerals Council of Australia represents Australia’s exploration, mining and minerals processing industry, nationally and internationally, in its contribution to sustainable development and society. MCA member companies produce more than 85 per cent of Australia’s annual mineral output. The MCA’s strategic objective is to advocate public policy and operational practice for a world class industry that is safe, profitable, innovative, environmentally responsible and attuned to community needs and expectations.

The Victorian Division of the Minerals Council of Australia represents the interest of members with operations or interests in Victoria.

We are a supporter of the Aurora Project programs and a major sponsor of the Indigenous Australians Engineering Summer School held each year in NSW. We are also a partner with the Commonwealth Government in programs to increase Indigenous employment and enterprise development in remote Indigenous communities that are in the neighbourhood of mining operations. Apart from our association with the Aurora Project programs and the Indigenous Australians Engineering Summer School our focus has traditionally been on improving the literacy and numeracy and job readiness skills of Indigenous Australians for entry level jobs in the minerals sector.

We are enthusiastic about The Aspiration Initiative and have undertaken to support it. We believe it is a viable program that has the potential to encourage talented Indigenous high school students to complete secondary school and make a successful transition to university. That is, it has a focus on fostering high achievers. It is for this reason we commend The Aspiration Initiative to your Committee and to the Government of Victoria so that it can successfully commence operating in Victoria in September this year.

Should you wish to discuss this program with us I can be contacted as below.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Fraser  
Executive Director, Victoria