



Mount Gravatt Tafe students Hsiao Lan Hyieh of Sunnybank, Caterina Sbeghen of Wynnum and Abimbola Jimba of Cannon Hill.

**SOUTHEAST**

## Mount Gravatt Tafe fashion students' Gold Coast Commonwealth Games glory

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TAFE Queensland fashion students have been working around the clock in secrecy for the past three months designing and producing nearly 200 swimsuits for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

After winning approval from Games organisers late last year to create the look for the spectacular beach segment, a team of graduating Diploma of Applied Fashion Design students and their teachers swung in to action for what was 500 hours of combined work.

Only now, after the GC2018 Opening Ceremony was enjoyed by millions of viewers around the world, are the students able to talk about their success and contribution to the Games.

TAFE Queensland's Fashion Manager Helen Stanley said the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony organisers were "blown away" with the designs and production quality of the swimwear. So impressed in fact, that it led to two of the students being offered immediate full-time work in the costume department for the Games.

"TAFE Queensland is known for its specialist work in swimwear and activewear," Ms Stanley said.

Graduating fashion student, Abimbola Jimba, said the experience had taught her how much effort went in to producing costumes and clothing on a large scale on a tight timeline.

"There were so many body shapes to work with and get right," she said.

"And having to perform and produce costumes under real-life conditions was an incredible and very valuable experience."

The swimwear for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will be showcased at an upcoming mid-year fashion parade in June at TAFE Queensland's Mt Gravatt Campus.