



Learning about uni: Students (back row, from left) Jackson Woolley, Dennis Turpin, Christopher O'Reilly, Graham Jacobs, Paul Nurzenski and Eric Hofmeister, (front row, from left) Grant Patterson, Doug Robins, Kiel Neal, Angelica Maffey-Stumpe, Katrina Lynch and Nancy Grealy.

Picture: MIKE WATT

Disability no bar to uni study

THE option of university became a distinct possibility for 12 disabled high school students who visited James Cook University's Cairns campus.

JCU held its third annual Options Program last week, attracting students with a range of mobility and other impairments from Mossman, Innisfail, Kuranda and Cairns.

Regional disability liaison officer Robert Pyne said the day was designed to give

students a taste of university and included a tour of the campus, library, research facilities and talks on financial matters, study skills and mentoring.

"It's for people thinking they may be interested, but also for others who may not have considered it as an option," Mr Pyne said.

"I mentioned to them how when I was at high school, I never had an OP that could get

me into any tertiary institution in Queensland, but I've gone on and got degrees."

He said students attending past programs had gone on to study at JCU in Cairns, Townsville and at Griffith University.

Smithfield State High Year 11 student Doug Robins, confined to a wheelchair with muscular dystrophy, said the day was well worthwhile and opened his eyes to how accessible the university was.