

### **Exercise First Look gives students an insight into ADF careers**

From Friday 28 to Saturday 29 August, 13 AIEF Scholarship students in Years 10, 11 and 12 participated in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Exercise First Look at the Royal Military College – Duntroon and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA).

Students and supervisors from seven AIEF Partner Schools participated in the exercise alongside AIEF Alum and ADFA graduate Lieutenant Thomas Boase, who shared his experience of study and training and accompanied the group at a luncheon with the Commandant of ADFA, Air Commodore Alan Clements.

Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM, Chief of the Australian Army said the program – which was developed in partnership with AIEF and included team building activities and a tour of ADFA – was designed to give students an insight into careers in the ADF.

“Through Exercise First Look, our hope is to highlight the importance of Indigenous youth completing their secondary education, showcase opportunities for an Army career and demonstrate the tangible benefits which a military career can contribute to Indigenous communities,” he said.

“Indigenous Australians have been valued members of our Army for over 100 years, our Army being Australia’s first equal opportunity employer.

“Indigenous soldiers fought and died on the Gallipoli Peninsula in World War One, and they continue to serve in our Army with pride and distinction, and we are committed to building on this heritage.

“We want to increase Indigenous participation at all ranks in our Army, and Exercise First Look seeks to demonstrate that an Army career is not only rewarding but also an achievable option for young Indigenous men and women.”

Several students said the experience strengthened their desire to pursue a career in the ADF, through enrolment at the Royal Military College – Duntroon, ADFA, or general entry. One student said the experience showed him “there are so many jobs in the military, and not just through ADFA” as well as “the amazing benefits which come with the job”.