

Big end of town rallies for indigenous students

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation is about to pick up momentum after announcing last night that it had completed a \$20 million deal with the federal government.

Funded until now largely from the resources of wealthy benefactors, the foundation got some serious cred among commercial types at the Business Council of Australia annual dinner last year when Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** announced plans for a \$20 million contribution.

Former investment banker **Andrew Penfold** has developed the AIEF from the very successful St Joseph's Indigenous Education Fund into a scheme that hopes to place 200 indigenous students in boarding schools around the country by the end of next year.

Last night at Commonwealth Bank in Sydney's Martin Place, he gathered a blue-chip cast, including patron and former governor-general **William Deane**, former High Court chief justice **Anthony Mason**, P&O Australia chief **Ann Sherry** and BCA head **Katie Lahey** to share the good news about the federal funding.

The serious task of raising matching donations from the business community, a big theme with our Kev, is about to get under way.

No doubt Penfold will have some expert assistance on that front, given the number of bankers past and present in the room, including AMP chairman **Peter Mason**, Goldman Sachs JBWere's **Charles Curran**, Morgan Stanley's **Steve Harker**, Credit Suisse investment banking chief **John Sullivan**, **Ross Grant** from Grant Samuel, UBS Wealth Management's **Liz Cacciottolo**, BT chief **Rob Coombe** and Lazard Carnegie Wylie's **Jeremy Mead**.