



Scholarship students Gabriella Gaidan, Ethan Hodder, Lau Umbagai, Kelly Tucker and Jasmin Barunga enjoy Sydney Picture: Anthony Reginato

Faces of great future

SO, \$40 million down, and another \$200 million to go.

That's the goal for a charity that aims to secure prestigious boarding school scholarships for 7000 indigenous students from some of Australia's most remote and disadvantaged places.

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation brought

some of its 250 students to Sydney this week for a boat trip on Sydney Harbour.

Gabriella Gaidan, who hails from tiny Dauan Island — population 153 — in the Torres Strait, is studying Year 10 at Townsville's Cathedral School and hopes to be an Army officer.

Since its inception in a Sydney living room in 2008, the Foundation

has raised \$20 million from the business community to match a government grant.

Its patron, former Governor-General William Deane, told the Foundation's annual report launch in Sydney that the next target is to raise another \$50 million to \$100 million in federal grants, again to be matched by big-business donors.