

Educator paves way for change

INDIGENOUS: Andrew Penfold knew the idea of providing school and university scholarships to indigenous children could work on a massive scale, if only he could find the money. So he did both.

The creator of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation has become known in the education sector as a man who makes things happen, a facilitator.

Mr Penfold, who has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia this Australia Day, said the honour made him realise the privilege he had in changing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lives. "Awards I've always been a bit ambivalent about; I'm a much more nuts and bolts and getting things done person," he said. "Every day I'm really privileged to see the benefits of our work, when we see what students are achieving at school, at university and in their careers.

"We speak to families and mothers and parents who remind us how much of a difference it has made in the lives of children. I'm one of the very, very few Australians who has the privilege



Andrew Penfold

of being completely inspired every day."

The AIEF set out to educate 2000 indigenous students, raising \$40 million in the years since it was founded in 2007. It has since doubled that amount of money.

RICK MORTON