

Tea and selfies: PM makes their day



ROSIE LEWIS

After a day touring Parliament House and meeting politicians, teenager Matthew McDonald picks his highlight: when Malcolm Turnbull poured him a cup of jasmine tea.

The 17-year-old from Scotch College in Perth, along with Wyatt Cook-Revell, from Ipswich Grammar School in Queensland, met Mr Turnbull yesterday after winning the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation's competition, "If I were Prime Minister".

Their entries reveal an ambitious list of promises if they were to win the top job, including improving education and safety for Aboriginal children and greater indigenous representation.

The teenagers spent about 30 minutes with the Prime Minister and discussed constitutional recognition, AFL teams — Matthew is a Fremantle Dockers fan, Mr Turnbull goes for the Sydney Swans — and swapped tips on



RAY STRANGE

Indigenous students Matthew McDonald, left, and Wyatt Cook-Revell meet Malcolm Turnbull yesterday

how to take a good selfie. "He took the first one then showed me how to take a selfie on the next one," said Wyatt, 16.

"He listened to us, which was good, that's what I really wanted out of the whole trip. For politicians to listen to us and he did."

Matthew, who began boarding school in Year 9 on an AIEF-BHP Billiton scholarship, is interested in a career as a tradesman, but was thrilled by the day at the house on the hill.

"They're way nicer, friendly," he said. "The Prime Minister pouring me a cup of tea. Where do you see that happening? I reckon that was awesome. When he was my age he still didn't know

what he wanted to become. So maybe one day I could possibly become the prime minister."

The teen, from Geraldton in Western Australia, said he would take home a message from Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion: that Aboriginal children have a greater chance of success if they get a good education.

The boys also met Opposition Leader Bill Shorten, deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek and indigenous affairs spokesman Shayne Neumann, had lunch with indigenous MPs Nova Peris and Jo Lingdren, sat in on question time and capped off the day meeting indigenous MP and Assistant Health Minister Ken Wyatt.