

# Educating Australia about Indigenous potential

**MARIA BERVANAKIS**

TAKE a group of kids from regional and remote Aboriginal communities, give them the chance to study at some of the country's elite boarding schools and universities and you have the making of Australia's first Indigenous prime minister.

That's the view of Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt, in the new Sky News documentary *Changing Our Nation* that un-

derlines how equal access to education can propel people from any background to the top.

Over the past 10 years, the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) has been helping First Nations youngsters pursue their dreams with scholarships in the nation's top schools.

The program started in 2008 with one student in NSW and now supports nearly 400 students in every state and territory.

Mr Wyatt, who appears in the

show, hails the scholarship program a game changer.

"Ultimately, out of these programs will come the next set of leaders, of which one will become the first Indigenous prime minister of this country," he said.

Scholarship recipient Aspen Moore, of Dubbo, is in Year 8 at Sydney's Pymble Ladies' College.

"It's definitely opened my eyes a lot that anything is possible and I can achieve whatever I want to achieve," she said.



Indigenous scholarship holder Aspen Moore.