

Don't sit around, students told



'DON'T sit around waiting for things to happen, go out and get what you want'.

That was the message that Ralph Norris, the retiring chief executive of the

Commonwealth Bank, gave to four young Indigenous students recently.

The students from St Peters Lutheran College in Brisbane, flew to Sydney for the lunch with Mr Norris, as part of the Food for Thought program.

They discussed career options and the Rugby World Cup during their lunch in the board room at the Commonwealth Bank.

The program is a series of board room lunches that bring Indigenous students together with chief executives and senior managers from businesses that have partnered with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF).

It is part of the AIEF Post-School Pathways Program, which offers a wide range of work-readiness activities and support to help students' transition from school into further study and careers.

The aim of the program is to build the students' networking skills, inform about career options and provide one-on-one support to develop and achieve their career goals.

The Post-School Pathways Program complements the AIEF Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for Indigenous students in financial need to attend boarding schools and residential colleges at universities across New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

It is hoped that through these interconnected programs, Indigenous students will leave school well-educated and with important life and work skills ready to take responsibility for their own future and become leaders and role models.

Mr Norris, who is also an ambassador for AIEF, encouraged the students to be pro-active and make the most of the opportunities presented to them.

● **RIGHT: From left, Eddie Wasaga-Thompson, Moses Sorovi, Ralph Norris, Jemmason Power and Latiesha Dunbar.**

