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Corey Payne visits Sarah Redfern students

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Bulldogs player Corey Payne visited students at Sarah Redfern High School on Friday, April 23.

Payne, 25, played for the Wests Tigers from 2007 to 2009 and for the St George Illawarra Dragons before that.

But in the past 18 months, he has been busy talking to school students in south-west Sydney about the importance of having a university education.

Payne completed a commerce degree at the University of Sydney in 2007 and is now studying for his Master of Commerce.

"I have been in the process of setting up a program for the past six months that aims to help high school students in south-west Sydney not only consider going on to university, but also actually engage in it," he said.

"The initiative has been registered as the Future Direction Network and is made up of a group of young professionals from south-west Sydney, who have all gone on to university after growing up in the region.

"We plan to raise university attendance rates from south-west Sydney by challenging kids attitudes as to the importance of attaining tertiary study, through mentoring programs. We will also offer, financial assistance in the form of scholarships and career pathway planning."

The University of Sydney has taken the initiative on board and included it as part of their Master of Management Program semester one studies.

Channel 7 news anchor Chris Bath and Federal Prospect MP Chris Bowen have both agreed to come on board as ambassadors of the program.



Visit: Bulldogs player Corey Payne visited students at Sarah Redfern High School on Friday. Picture: Mike Sea



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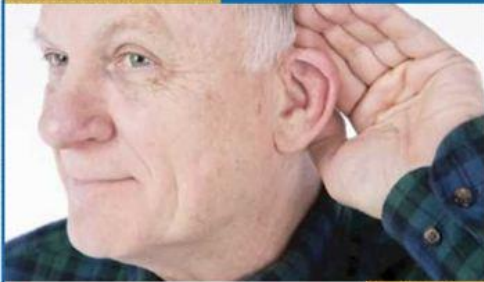
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Bulldogs player Corey Payne is inspiring more young people to go to university.

Picture: TIM CLAPIN

Bulldog inspiration

MELISSA MATHESON

INSPIRATION is rarely far from reach at Westfields Sports High School.

But former student and current Canterbury Bulldogs team member Corey Payne visited the school on Friday to help inspire the students to study at university.

Payne brought with him students from around the world who are studying the Masters of Management program at the University of Sydney.

The group is preparing plans for Payne's scholarship and mentoring program to get more students from southwest Sydney going to university.

"It's a real world case study for them to work on," he said. "The ultimate dream is to see more kids from southwest Sydney go to university."

Westfields principal Roger Davis said former students like Payne were a great source of inspiration.

The school has five former students playing in this year's soccer World Cup.

three are members of the Matildas and four have made the Commonwealth Games athletics team with another three in the training squad.

One academic challenge facing many students is their perceptions of university.

"For the students, many of their parents haven't been to university and it's a real step up," Mr Davis said.

"Sydney Uni attracts students from the affluent suburbs. Their parents went there and that expectation has been built in."

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Corey Payne encourages students to go to university

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NEWS > LOCAL NEWS 09 MAY 10 @ 01:02AM | BY MELISSA MATHESON



Corey Payne gives advice to students about university. Picture: TIM CLAPIN

BULLDOGS player Corey Payne isn't wasting time while recovering from his shoulder surgery.

He visited Revesby De La Salle, Westfields Sports and Sarah Redfern high schools recently to encourage southwest Sydney students to aim for a university degree.

Payne is working with students from around the world who are studying the masters of management program at the University of Sydney, and they will prepare the strategies for a scholarship program Payne hopes to create.

"It's a real world case study for them to work on," Payne said of the masters students.

"The fact that it's not-for-profit and it's in its establishment phase, there's a lot of challenges and issues for the students to work through."

"The ultimate dream is to see more kids from southwest Sydney go to university."

One academic challenge facing many students is their perceptions of university.

"Sydney Uni attracts students from the affluent suburbs - their parents went there and that expectation has been built in," Payne, a former Westfields Sports High student, said.

"University is for everyone and you can actually achieve it."

The students will present their strategies in late May and Payne hopes to have the scholarship up and running by the end of the year.