



SVA VENTURE PARTNER

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)

They say that the path less travelled is the most rewarding. A small group of Australians numbering just over 100 – the AIME staff Team – trod that path. Against history, against expectations, against a system of disadvantage, this small group has dared to dream of something brighter, and had the youthful audacity to chase that dream: an Australia where Indigenous children finish high school at the same rate as all Australian students, and a world where everyone will have a mentor to turn to.

AIME is a unique, for-purpose business that has a proven track record in dramatically improving the chances of Indigenous children finishing school for four years running. The approach fuses coaching principles and mentoring to engage over 2,000 Indigenous high school students and 1,000 university students across Australia. AIME has a team of 100 staff partnered with 16 Australian universities and the likes of Google, Atlassian, Virgin Australia and Coca Cola. It is envisaged that by 2016, we will work with 10,000 Indigenous kids and see them finish school at the same rate as every Australian child.

The Problem

The report 'How young Indigenous people are faring' ¹ highlights how Indigenous youth face multiple disadvantages in relation to educational participation and educational attainment. When compared with their non-Indigenous peers, Indigenous youth are almost five times more likely to have no engagement in study or work and this lack of participation increases with age.

In addition, the Bradley Review ² reported that Indigenous Australians are vastly under-represented in higher education and that addressing access, retention and success for Indigenous students is a matter of the highest priority.



FOCUS AREAS

- ✓ Indigenous
- ✓ Secondary Schools
- ✓ Graduate development
- ✓ Metro and Regional
- ✓ NSW, QLD, VIC, WA and SA

"I kept coming because I knew that every session would benefit me in some way. Out of this year I have gained the ability to stand among strangers and present a speech. This place was the best."

Tyson Field, AIME North West Sydney Year 10 Mentee, Northmead High School 2011

How does it work?

AIME operates a Core and Outreach Program. The Core Program targets local Indigenous high school students located within 30 minutes of a partner university campus. The Outreach Program extends the AIME experience to Indigenous high school students within 2-3 hours of a partner university campus.

Year 9/10 Programs

The Year 9 Interactive Program covers topics such as Art, Drama, Respect, Aboriginality and Pathways to Success. The Year 10 Leadership Program includes sessions on Racism, Year 11 and 12 Subject Selection, Résumé Building and Writing your First Speech as Prime Minister. These are delivered through 15 x 1-hour workshops in the Core Program, and 3 full-day sessions in the Outreach Program from May to November.

"Since coming to university, AIME has been one of the most influential extra-curricular programs I have done."

Tawands Biti, Mentor, Bond University, 2012

Year 11/12 Leadership and Development Program

Three high-impact, full-day sessions delivered at the local university campus over terms two and three, in both the Core and Outreach Programs. The focus is Year 12 completion and future pathways to university, further education or employment.

AIME Tutor Squads

Squads of university students who travel to schools during the 15-week Program period. Each site may host up to 5 squads of 5 university students, giving up to 25 Indigenous students per week access to one-on-one academic support (Core Program only).

"I could not feel more proud of any initiative or project with which I have an association. It is a dream becoming reality."

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO

Governor of New South Wales, Chancellor of The University of Sydney

Impact

The AIME Program was featured on ABC's Australian Story in May 2012 and was mentioned as a best practice model in the Gonski Review.

The AIME Program results are painting a different picture to the national statistics. AIME students are turning the tide, achieving higher school completion and university progression rates than non-participants for four years running. In 2012:

- The year 9 to 12 completion rate for AIME students was 71.2 percent – exceeding the national Indigenous average of 38 percent and approaching the national non-Indigenous average of 79.2 percent.
- The year 9 to university progression rate for AIME students was 22.1 percent – nearly six times the national Indigenous average of 3.8 percent and approaching the national non-Indigenous average of 36.8 percent.

¹ Long, M, North, S and Burke, G (2009). How young Indigenous people are faring: Key indicators 1996–2006. Dusseldorp Skills Forum. ² Bradley, D, Noonan, P, Nugent, H and Scales, B (2008). Review of Australian Higher Education: Final Report, Canberra: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

SVA support

- Provide operational project support including facilitating workshop to review the outreach resourcing model
- Provide ongoing relationship management and support to the CEO and AIME leadership team
- Develop an SVA fundraising plan and assist with attracting new funders to AIME.

Interested in finding out more or being involved? Please contact :

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