





CHAIRMAN LETTER

OVERVIEW - 26 MAY 2020

2019 has been a remarkable, challenging and important year for AIME.

In addition to delivering the Australian Mentoring Programme (with some 5,702 Mentees), the application of tools, values and approach to the Global Programme has been very significant to achieving the goal of being a global leader in mentoring and a powerful force in fighting for a fairer world.

Although the deficit for 2019 was impacted by global endeavours, it should be noted that this financial investment has been within the budget set by the board.

This year has brought with it organisational and process changes for which the organisation will benefit as we move into implementing the 2020-25 Strategic Plan.

The scaffolding for our organisation is provided by our board, and as such we owe a great deal of gratitude to three of our long-serving board members who resigned during the year: Jeff McMullin, Paul Chandler and Emma Hogan. Thanks also goes to Taryn Marks and Maria Phillips. Joining us in 2019 has been Chris Wirasinha, Helen Wiseman and Ben Jones - all wonderful additions to the board. Also of note, and gratitude, goes to Christopher and Barbara Bartlett who are directors of the US entity.

Our staff have been amazing, with their talent, commitment and enthusiasm. Particular thanks goes to Ben Abbatangelo who, under the guidance of the CEO, has made noteworthy contributions during his time at AIME.

Continued thanks and recognition go to the Founder, Chief Motivator and Imagination Chief Jack Manning Bancroft.

Many governments and members of the public see the need to fix "the problem" of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders - AIME sets out to demonstrate that they, in fact, may provide the solutions, and not be the problem, as evidenced by the remarkable IMAGINATION Platform developed for marginalised Australians and globally.

Tom Dery AO
Chairman



<< BACK

CEO LETTER

26 MAY 2020

In 2019 we experimented, we opened up the model to the USA, we tested whether 5 program days could be brought down to 3 in Australia, we explored tutor squads being led by schools to build a vision of AIME's values being embedded in the schools, and we looked at what the model could be like if it was delivered by volunteers just how I started it at Sydney University.

This led to huge innovations in creation, experiences, and imagination, and it also meant that we engaged fewer students because we created confusion with our Australian schools by moving a touch too quickly into the world of innovation. 2020 we have taken what we've learned and fused that with what we knew and are set to engage 6500 Indigenous kids in Australia a year.

Our results in 2019 with our Australian Indigenous programs, in collaboration with 17 Universities and 251 schools, were:

- 10,704+ volunteer hours of mentoring delivered
- 152 program days run
- 1970 tutor squads run
- 5702 Mentees participated in program & 3511 Mentees engaged in program
- 738 Mentors participated in program & 361 Mentors engaged in the program
- 96.2% Average year-on-year transition rates

^{1.}Due to COVID-19 disruption, AIME was unable to obtain supporting documentation from Schools to complete the audit of the 2019 student participation, engagement and transition data.

^{2.} The transition data for school completion & post-secondary pathways represents the total cohort of mentees engaged and excludes those who could not be contacted.



<< BACK

NEXT >>

We still achieved exemplary results with the large cohort of kids we worked with, including for our Year 12 cohort of 283 kids, who achieved school completion rates of 98.1% and identified successful post-secondary pathways (into University, Employment or Further Training) at 85.3% closing the education gap & beyond.

We also delivered Outreach experiences to Indigenous kids working with close to 215+ Indigenous kids in the following regions - Alice Springs, Palm Island, Emerald, Woorabinda, Moree and Taree.

We concluded our third year of our global expansion with Uganda and South Africa completing their 2nd full year of the program and AIME commencing in Nigeria. Our African Australian program in Melbourne also grew from strength to strength in its second year of existence.

Our results for our Global programs for 2019, working in partnership with 4 Universities & 13 schools, were:

- 2,430+ volunteer hours of mentoring delivered
- 17 program days run
- 98 tutor squads run
- 886 Mentees participated in program & 393 Mentees engaged in program
- 307 Mentors participated in program & 134 Mentors engaged in program

A significant investment went into our USA expansion to open up the opportunity for impact in one of the biggest markets in the world, a country that influences popular culture and trends on mass, a country with significant funding potential, and mass inequality. We believed if we could crack the USA open we would set AIME up to be able to be a global leader, to have access to funding and influence, and then to amplify AIME's stage for our Indigenous kids in Australia.

I was so incredibly proud of our team. We did something big and bold. We chartered an international plane - to give college kids the chance to come to Australia to learn our model of mentoring. We used the plane as a tool to then mobilise 0.5M worth of in-kind media through our partnership with Initiative globally and had the chance to work with brands like Spotify, Pandora, iHeart Media, Converse, VICE and a suite of global leaders.

On August 1, when our big campaign launch happened, the advertising didn't work - so our team came together and hit the ground in the US driving door to door to uni campuses - we called it the Hooded Hustle.

In the end, we managed to fill the plane with a mixture of our young Indigenous leaders from Australia who had 48 remarkable hours of imagining in LA and then over 50 universities from across the USA were represented.

<< BACK

NEXT >>

We have now established formal relationships with almost 10 US universities. In one year, we reached 50% of the universities that AIME has reached in Australia in sixteen years.

In September, we let that singular force be unleashed as 1,000+ mentees lined up to sign the Imagination Declaration in our different locations worldwide, and made pledges of their own to build a fairer world and tackle problems in their worlds.

While the kids were finding solutions for their communities, we had a challenge of our own to tackle. On AIME Apparel's 4th birthday, we launched RECLAIMED, dissatisfied with the billions of tonnes of waste created by the fashion industry each year. We gave new life to dead-stock that would have ended up in landfills or incineration, and we continued to push AIME apparel to be the most ethical clothing label on the planet.

It was a wild and bold adventure.

Throughout the year my vision has been to create a global stage for Indigenous kids to rise - and to imagine new realities. This has culminated in our creation of the IMAGINATION DECLARATION with kids at the Garma Festival (included at the conclusion of this report).

AIME has landed after our three years with a base to be a global leader in mentoring to fight for a fairer world and with the chance to deliver the strongest Australian program in 2020 and beyond.

We have got a fair way to go, but we have transformed from a local Australian operation to a global setup, we have transformed our internal systems and behaviours, refined our work over the 16 years, and there is a huge few years ahead of us to bring this to life.

Changing the world has never been easy and it shouldn't be - and we are up for one of our most challenging years in 2020 to bring our global pilot expansion into life to enhance and turbo charge our work in Australia and beyond.

Yours in Imagination,

Jack Manning Bancroft

AIME CEO & Founder

<< BACK

IMAGINATION DECLARATION >>

IMAGINATION DECLARATION

To the Prime Minister Education Ministers across Australia,

In 1967, we asked to be counted. In 2017, we asked for a voice and treaty. Today, we ask you to imagine what's possible. The future of this country lies in all of our hands. We do not want to inherit a world that is in pain. We do not want to stare down huge inequality feeling powerless to our fate. We do not want to be unarmed as we confront some of the biggest problems faced by the human race, from rising sea levels, which will lead to significant refugee challenges, to droughts and food shortages, and our own challenges around a cycle of perpetuated disadvantaged.

It's time to think differently.

With 60,000 years of genius and imagination in our hearts and minds, we can be one of the groups of people that transform the future of life on earth, for the good of us all.

We can design the solutions that lift islands up in the face of rising seas, we can work on creative agricultural solutions that are in sync with our natural habitat, we can re-engineer schooling, we can invent new jobs and technologies, and we can unite around kindness. We are not the problem, we are the solution. We don't want to be boxed. We don't want ceilings. We want freedom to be whatever a human mind can dream.

<< BACK

When you think of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander kid, or in fact, any kid, imagine what's possible. Don't define us through the lens of disadvantage or label us as limited. Test us. Expect the best of us. Expect the unexpected. Expect us to continue carrying the custodianship of imagination, entrepreneurial spirit and genius. Expect us to be complex. And then let us spread our wings, and soar higher than ever before.

We call on you and the Education Ministers across the nation to establish an imagination agenda for our Indigenous kids and, in fact, for all Australian children. We urge you to give us the freedom to write a new story. We want to show the world Aboriginal genius. We want to show the nation Aboriginal leadership and imagination. Over the coming months we'll be sharing the declaration with thousands of Indigenous kids across our nation and together we'll stand to say, "set an imagination agenda for our classrooms, remove the limited thinking around our disadvantage, stop looking at us as a problem to fix, set us free to be the solution and give us the stage to light up the world. "We want the Imagination agenda in every school in the nation, from early childhood learning centres through to our most prominent universities.

To our Prime Minister & Education Ministers, we call on you to meet with us and to work on an imagination plan for our country's education system, for all of us. We are not the problem, we are the solution.











