# QUARTER 3 REPORT 2026




## REACH

# CEO UPDATE



## ALISON WRIGHT
## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This quarter focused on building momentum following Reach's integration with The Youth Impact Foundation achieving an above budget result for Q1 in Reach school sales. This is a huge achievement so early in our merger with The Youth Impact Foundation and evidence that collaboration in the sector can get greater results for young people.

Our teams are establishing a stronger operating rhythm across shared services with greater visibility of each other's business practices and how we can support each other across the whole of The Youth Impact Foundation. More importantly our team have been curious, thoughtful and embracing of the change and that's given rise to new relationships and support, which is really great.

The quarter included working with the AFLW x Worawa Leadership Program, thanks to the partnership with the Melbourne Football Club and Jim Stynes Foundation.

Thousand Faces Camp was another highlight, with our young people and adult campers experiencing the immersive work of brilliant Reach facilitators. Josh, Reagan and Maggie led the weekend with Jana Christodoulou returning to Reach to support as program trainer. A number of young people came straight out of camp and joined new crew, and it is great to continue to support them.

We finalised Deakin University's independent research into Reach's long-term impact. The findings provide compelling evidence that the effects of Reach endure well beyond participation and give us a stronger foundation for how we communicate, develop and evaluate our work.

We applied to the South Australian Government Wellbeing Directory, a tool widely used by all primary and secondary schools and a positive pathway to broadening our footprint into South Australia. Together, these developments reflect a quarter focused on strengthening our foundations while continuing to evolve how and where Reach creates impact.

So, it has been a quarter of going from strength to strength, and we are grateful to our team, schools, supporters and community for always backing the great work of Reach.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Reach Foundation respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work, and play – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We honour their enduring connection to land, skies, and waterways, and pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present. We recognise that these lands have never been ceded, and acknowledge the strength, resilience, and continuing culture of First Nations peoples.

# DEAKIN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH: THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF REACH

## WHAT WE SET OUT TO UNDERSTAND

The research sought to understand the extent of Reach's impact and how far that impact extends once a program concludes. It also examined whether deeper engagement with Reach leads to deeper impact, and whether that impact is experienced equally by participants regardless of their background.

## OUR APPROACH

Reach partnered with Deakin University to undertake an independent evaluation of the organisation's long-term impact.

Past participants from programs delivered between 2015 and 2025 were invited to share their experiences and reflect on how Reach has shaped their lives since, combining quantitative measures with qualitative insights drawn from lived experience.

Survey ratings and personal reflections were analysed together to provide a complete picture of both the measurable and the felt impact of Reach.

The research focused on three core areas: connection, belonging, and wellbeing.

## WHAT WE LEARNT

The findings indicate that the Reach experience does not end when the program concludes.

Participants reported that Reach continued to shape their lives for years afterwards, contributing to greater confidence and resilience, stronger relationships, and deeper self-understanding.

This impact extended across many areas of participants' lives, including their friendships, careers and communities, and the way they support those around them.

Importantly, the impact was not limited to any one group, with no significant differences identified by age, gender or sexuality.

Three themes emerged most strongly: personal growth, belonging, and lasting change.

**84%** felt more accepted, respected and connected to others after taking part in Reach

**83%** built meaningful relationships and a lasting sense of belonging through the program

**80%** grew in confidence, self-awareness and resilience as a result of Reach

# QUARTER 3 AT A GLANCE

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**4,397 YOUNG PARTICIPANTS**

- 4,393 SCHOOLS
- 4 COMMUNITY/RAMP

**223 WORKSHOPS**

- 115 SCHOOLS
- 25 COMMUNITY/RAMP
- 32 TRAINING/JUNIOR CREW
- 51 FIT/FAC



# SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Reach expanded delivery into New South Wales this quarter, reaching schools on the South Coast, in Sydney's South and in Avalon, while continuing delivery across metropolitan and regional Victoria. Workshops prompted strong engagement with the issues most affecting students, with conversations exploring male mental health, shared experiences across genders, social pressure, reputation and the fear of judgement among peers. Feedback from schools highlighted both the complexity of these challenges and the value of creating a safe space for students to explore them openly.

## REGIONS WORKSHOPS WERE DELIVERED TO

VICTORIA RICHMOND ORMOND CROYDON ROCHESTER KEILOR EAST MICKLEHAM FRANKSTON ECHUCA ST KILDA POINT COOK WODONGA MELBOURNE WERRIBEE HAWTHORN EAST GLEN WAVERLEY KURUNJANG EPPING BEAUMARIS WARRNAMBOOL MOUNT WAVERLEY

NSW DAPTO MORUYA MAROUBRA AVALON BEACH

**4,393** YOUNG PEOPLE IMPACTED

**115** WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

**102** SECONDARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

**13** PRIMARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

## STUDENT OUTCOMES

**90%** of students would recommend the workshop to others

**89%** of students felt the workshop was a safe space

### FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP

**91%** improved their empathy

**84%** reported increased self-awareness

**83%** increased confidence

**87%** improved their confidence to make positive choices

**84%** felt more accepted

Note: These insights are drawn from 1,105 surveys completed across 1,161 individual Q3 program participants (surveys due 1 July – 17 September 2026).

# FEEDBACK

I found the sessions really engaging and felt it created a space where our cohort could openly share their feelings without judgement, thanks to the guidelines we were given at the start. It reminded me to be more understanding of what others might be going through and to respect people, knowing we don't always see what's happening in their lives outside of school.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL PARTICIPANT**

Reach consistently creates a safe and supportive environment where Year 8 students feel comfortable sharing, listening and reflecting with their peers. Students describe the workshop as a highlight, while teachers value seeing a different side of their students through their openness, reflections and personal stories.

**TEACHER, BRENTWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE, VICTORIA**



# COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Thousand Faces brought together 16 adults and 20 young people, with recruitment successfully attracting participants from across the community. The cohort connected particularly well, forming a strong bond over the course of the program and fostering a positive environment for participation and engagement

The program also incorporated a redesigned approach aimed at making the experience more engaging and creative. The facilitation team comprised largely new team members, with more varied and creative roles introduced to support delivery. Ex-Senior facilitator Jana participated as a Program Trainer, contributing to both the delivery and development of the program.

RAMP continued to build a strong sense of community, with self-consciousness and respectful relationships emerging as shared experiences among participants. Workshops encouraged young people to challenge personal barriers and step outside their comfort zones.

RAMP continues to provide a consistent community and sense of belonging, supporting participants to build confidence and determine how they want to show up in their lives.

> I was told it would be a life-changing weekend, and now I understand why. I walked away having learnt so much about myself and others, inspired to make positive changes in my life. I'm incredibly grateful to Reach for an experience that will have a lasting impact.

**ADULT PARTICIPANT, THOUSAND FACES**



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (REACH CREW)

Training explored the practical craft of facilitation alongside themes including peer dynamics, personal biases, shame, pride, and vulnerability. Crew developed their use of tone, storytelling and humour, learning to adapt their approach to the room and draw on personal experience to explore universal themes. This development supported the accreditation of three new Facilitators and six Facilitators-in-Training, strengthening the pipeline of Crew progressing into program delivery.

**54** NEW CREW

**40** INSTANCES OF PARTICIPATION FOR JUNIOR CREW

**50** INSTANCES OF PARTICIPATION FOR FIT/FAC

**If you know a young person aged 15 or over who may be interested in joining Reach's training program, please contact Bri at bri.lalley@reach.org.au**





# PARTNERS UPDATE

This quarter, Reach welcomed new support from three funding partners.

The Danks Trust is supporting our work with disengaged young people in Casey and Frankston, helping them reconnect with learning.

Manningham Council has committed to a four-year partnership that will bring our programs into local secondary schools, and the Joe White Bequest is enabling the delivery of Reach Local in Ballarat, bringing a full week of programs to the region's young people.

We also extend our appreciation to DM Property, whose support has brought Reach programs to young people in Colac and Greater Shepparton. This work has laid strong foundations for a place-based approach to community impact, and we look forward to coming back to those communities soon!

The quarter provided valuable opportunities to spend time with funding partners, including at the Jim Stynes Foundation's inaugural Play It Forward Luncheon, the launch of Manningham Council's community grants and the Anthony Costa Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration.

We were fortunate to benefit from some wonderful fundraising initiatives. A heartfelt thank you to McLardy McShane, who once again selected Reach as a charity beneficiary of their Annual Conference, and to Jules Lund and Catriona Rowntree, who raised an incredible $18,000 for Reach on the charity special episode of Tipping Point.

We are honoured that Julia Baird nominated Reach to receive a donation of royalties from her new book, *Becoming a Man: On Courage, Decency and Character – Letters to Young Men*. This generousity will help strengthen our programs supporting young men as they navigate their formative years. It's a special book that originated with Julia and her son and includes some wonderful contributions including Harry Garside, a longtime supporter of Reach.



# THANK YOU

**As we move into the final quarter of the year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our partners for their ongoing support. In particular, we acknowledge our Major Partners – the Harris Family Foundation, the Highland Foundation and Villawood Properties – whose generosity continues to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of the young people we work with.**

### MAJOR PARTNER

- Harris Family Foundation
- Highland Foundation
- Victoria State Government
- Villawood Properties

### PARTNER

- AIS International Group
- Altus Group
- Andrews Foundation
- Anthony Costa Foundation
- Australian Association Of Graduate Employers
- Bastion
- Danks Trust
- DM Property
- Geelong Community Foundation
- Joe White Bequest
- Manningham City Council
- McLardy McShane
- Melbourne Football Club
- Mick Fanning Golf Day
- Mosaic Private
- NAB
- Newsboys Foundation
- Perpetual
- Retailors
- Riverlee Foundation
- The Deloitte Foundation
- The Pierce Armstrong Foundation
- Thomson Geer

### RESEARCH PARTNER

- Deakin University

### COMMUNITY PARTNER

- Berry Street
- Carer Gateway
- Centre For Multicultural Youth
- Foundation Learning Centre
- Heavy Metal Chopper
- Jim Stynes Foundation
- Kids First
- Kinglake Forest Adventures Camp
- Little Dreamers
- Minus18
- Operation Newstart Victoria
- The Mirabel Foundation
- Very Special Kids
- Youth Activating Youth

## GOT QUESTIONS?

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REACH

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