

2025

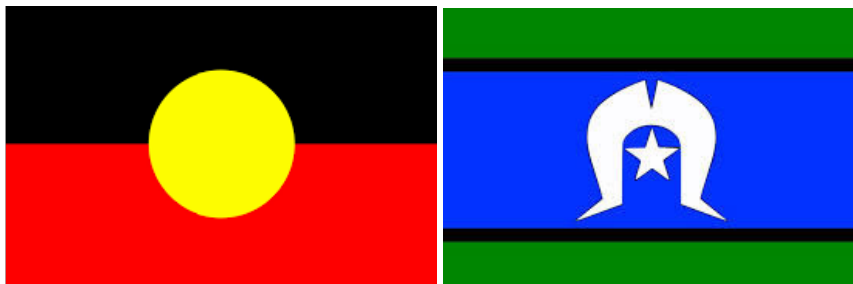
QUARTER 2 REPORT



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.



FOREWORD



ALISON WRIGHT CEO

Quarter Two has been a time of strong momentum at Reach. At the heart of this progress were two of our most powerful community programs: Heroes Day and Thousand Faces Camp. With the generous support of key partners including The Highland Foundation, The Anthony Costa Foundation, Joe White Bequest, and donors Mim Bartlett and Sharon Landy, these programs created deeply transformative moments for 400 young Victorians.

Over the past few months, our team has engaged 7,695 participants through school-based workshops, community programs, and workplace initiatives. The feedback from participants and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the lasting difference Reach is making in the lives of young Australians.

Behind the scenes, we have strengthened our facilitator training, and secured new grants and donations. This is laying the groundwork for future program delivery, and putting on rails a bold new impact research partnership. These advances not only consolidate our financial position, but also expand our capacity to deliver our mission at scale.

Looking ahead, we are energised by what is to come: the delivery of our Ramp Camp in July, the next Thousand Faces Camp in September, and our Annual Fundraiser Event in October, a key moment to celebrate our shared commitment to young people.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are empowering the next generation to face the future with resilience, confidence, and purpose.



QUARTER 2 AT A GLANCE

**7,695 workshop
participants**

161 workshops in the following regions:

Campaspe

Mansfield

Colac

Strathbogie

Buloke

Metro Melbourne

Geelong

Metro Sydney

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

**STUDENT PARTICIPANTS
REACHED: 7080**

This quarter, our Reach facilitators worked with young people across 11 primary schools and 26 secondary schools. While the majority of our delivery took place in metropolitan Melbourne, we were also privileged to connect with regional communities.

The team's commitment to excellence has been evident in every session delivered. The feedback from students, teachers, and school partners this term has been incredibly affirming, reflecting the strength of our facilitators and the impact of our programs in both metro and regional settings.

TOTAL WORKSHOPS: 150

SECONDARY WORKSHOPS: 101

PRIMARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS: 49

STUDENT OUTCOMES...

92% WOULD RECOMMEND THE WORKSHOP TO OTHERS

89% FELT THE WORKSHOP WAS A SAFE SPACE

FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP...

90% IMPROVED THEIR EMPATHY

84% FEEL MORE SELF-AWARE

83% FELT MORE ACCEPTED

83% ARE MORE CONFIDENT

"We absolutely love having Reach work with our students! In fact it is one of our absolute priority programs we organise for students. Your team is always an absolute pleasure to work with and we are in awe of their skills when working with our young people."

Beaconhills College, Berwick - Teacher



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Heroes Day was a standout success, bringing together 400 Year 9 students from five different schools at the Geelong Arts Centre for a powerful day of storytelling, self-discovery, and connection. The event was delivered by a dynamic team of more than 20 Reach facilitators and Crew Members, creating a transformative experience that left a lasting impact on participants, with over 80% of students reporting their empathy to have improved.

In May, we held Thousand Faces Camp, welcoming 20 young people and 20 adults from diverse backgrounds to a three-day, two-night experience in Eastern Victoria. Originally designed by Reach founders Jim Stynes and Paul Currie, this flagship program continues to deliver deep personal insight and intergenerational connection in a setting that fosters authenticity, growth, and empathy. Following the program, 100% of participants reported an increase in empathy and self-awareness.

Expressions of interest are open for the next Thousand Faces Camp (September 19-21, 2025) – for adults and young people.

For any enquiry, please contact Paul Duboc: paul.duboc@reach.org.au



HEROES DAY

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES...

90% WOULD RECOMMEND THE WORKSHOP TO OTHERS

87% FELT THE WORKSHOP WAS A SAFE SPACE

FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP...

89% FELT THEIR EMPATHY IMPROVE

83% FELT MORE CONFIDENT

83% ARE MORE SELF-AWARE

78% FELT MORE ACCEPTED



"To be honest I don't have a favourite part, the whole weekend was my favourite and amazing, loved it so so much, the team were amazing and I have learnt so much more about myself."

**Thousand Faces Camp - Young Participant,
May 2025**

THOUSAND FACES CAMP

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES...

100% WOULD RECOMMEND THE WORKSHOP TO OTHERS

100% FELT THE WORKSHOP WAS A SAFE SPACE

FOLLOWING THE CAMP...

100% FELT MORE ACCEPTED

100% FELT THEIR EMPATHY IMPROVE

100% ARE MORE SELF-AWARE

92% FELT MORE CONFIDENT



WORKPLACE WELLBEING

Workplace Wellbeing continued to focus on building meaningful connections and supporting mental health and wellbeing across our client base.

Exemplifying this, two new workshops were developed this quarter. One titled 'Wellbeing 101' which gives participants an experience learning, connecting and building their personal wellbeing toolkit to manage stress personally and professionally. The other, titled 'Communication in the Workplace', enhances participant's listening and presenting skills and was delivered virtually to great success.

Our team remained committed to listening to the challenges of early career young people and adapting our offerings to ensure relevance and impact. To support this, our facilitators received training in tailored workplace wellbeing content and delivery styles, enhancing their ability to meet the unique needs of each group.

If you know someone who would be interested in a workshop, get in contact with Head of Workplace Wellbeing Programs, Natalie Klenner (natalie.klenner@reach.org.au)

Our Quarter 2 clients:

Bastion Collective

Deakin University

The George Alexander Foundation

Kmart Australia

Stockland Corporation

Integral Diagnostics

"I think a highlight for me is how vulnerability and authenticity were made the main factors that created a comfortable space for all of us to share, learn and connect on a deeper level"

"The time taken outside of work to reflect and change your mindset is really nice, especially on topics that are relevant to work and your personal life"

"[A highlight was] some team members opening up about their experiences and vulnerability. This was facilitated in an extremely professional and respectful way."



CREW DEVELOPMENT

Training provides a safe environment where young people enrolled in Reach Crew (from age 15), can develop their sense of self, as well as their emotional and social intelligence. Through regular sessions, they explore their identity, and build foundational skills of facilitation. This yearly and fully subsidised program that has been referred to by various leading organisations as the best youth leadership program in Australia.

In the first quarter of the year, our training focused on building connection and strengthening relationships among Crew members. The past three months, the focus shifted to developing self-awareness by placing Crew members in situations outside their comfort zones. Training emphasised on storytelling, active listening, deciphering intentions between the lines, and reflecting this on their peers and themselves.

This quarter, we were also pleased to welcome Reach Alumnus Tayah Carr as a Lead Trainer, whose extensive experience and knowledge will nourish our Crew training and facilitator development.

The Reach Personal Development Training is currently supported by The Highland Foundation, The Amaroo Foundation, AIS International and Erdi Group.



MEDIA COVERAGE



Western Heights students Ruby Flett and Noah Chandler with Melbourne AFLW players Saraïd Taylor, Georgia Gall, Megan Fitzsimon and facilitators Fearn Hope and Reagan Morel at the Playhouse Theatre for the Heroes Day event. Picture: Brad Fleet

Students excited to meet heroes

Lucy Crock

AFLW players Saraïd Taylor, Georgia Gall and Megan Fitzsimon all headed to The Playhouse Theatre on April 1 for Heroes Day alongside 378 Geelong students.

Heroes Day is The Reach Foundation's largest workshop, bringing together year 9 students from different schools, suburbs

and socio-economic backgrounds.

The Reach Foundation chief executive Alison Wright said the day was a great success.

"Heroes Day is an extension of what we do in schools from year 5 to 12," she said. "All of our workshops are about mental health prevention and supporting young people to

become the best versions of themselves.

"A Heroes Day is a large-scale, fun, festive and energetic way to experience something you don't get at home or in the classroom and it inevitably builds empathy."

Ms Wright said while usually the tickets cost \$50, this year thanks to a grant from the Anthony Costa

Foundation, the event was run entirely free.

"This was really important because I spoke to a number of school principals, teachers and wellbeing support staff who said that families are really struggling with the cost-of-living crisis so this was a chance for us to do something important for those families and the school community."

The workshop is designed to have "the atmosphere of a high-energy music festival" and seeks to help students find their voice, strengthen emotional intelligence and benefit students' long-term mental health.

It aims to equip them with the tools to navigate life's challenges and encourages them to think beyond everyday assumptions.

No life lessons on a screen

Alison Wright



I am surprised the great debate is still whether to work from home.

In an age of teams meetings and calendar overload, the office has become easy to dismiss – especially for those with years of experience, home offices, and well-established networks.

But for young people, the physical workplace remains one of the most powerful environments for learning, growth, and connection. And right now, they need it more than ever.

At The Reach Foundation, we work with thousands of young Australians each year and see the impact of isolation, anxiety, and a world that often tells them to "figure it out" alone. Many of them are entering the workforce not just during an economic downturn, but where hybrid work is the norm and "working from anywhere" is a celebrated ideal.

But a young person cannot learn the rhythm, nuance and confidence of professional life through a screen. They can't overhear how to handle a tricky client call, how to navigate a team disagreement, or how to read the mood of a room if they're never physically in one.

Working in the office is about much more than productivity. It's about proximity to opportunity.

It's about watching and absorbing the unspoken parts of work – the 'soft skills' we hear so much about, but rarely teach explicitly.

It's about someone turning their chair and saying, "Jump in this meeting – I think you'll learn something." That's not just work experience. That's life experience.

At Reach, we're in the business of mental health prevention – helping young people build emotional and social literacy to navigate a complicated world.

But even with those tools, they need environments that give consistent practice. A well-led office is a place of mentorship and belonging.

Of course, flexibility matters but it shouldn't come at the expense of development, especially for the youngest in our workforce.

To employers, I say: don't apologise for enforcing young staff into the office. Make it worth their while.

Build spaces where people want to be because they see the value. Invest in culture. Prioritise mentoring.

The next generation deserves more than a login and a task list.

They deserve to see what leadership looks like and to feel that they, too, belong at the table.

PARTNERS UPDATE

This quarter brought several important developments on the partnerships and fundraising front.

Reach was awarded funding through the Perpetual Grant Program to support the delivery of our community programs and Personal Development Training over the next 12 months.

Another significant milestone came through a generous donation which will enable us to initiate a new research project examining the long-term impact of Reach's work. This is a crucial step forward, with our last university-led research conducted over ten years ago. Evidence-based insights from this project will improve our ability to evaluate and communicate the lasting outcomes of our programs.

In June, Reach featured in two major fundraising appeals. The Officeworks Make a Difference Appeal raised over \$40,000 across eight Sydney stores to support Reach school workshops. In parallel, our End of Financial Year Appeal raised \$19,318 thanks to the generosity of our community. We are deeply grateful to Officeworks and to everyone who contributed to these campaigns.

On May 27, Friends of Reach hosted a fundraising breakfast, Reach Out, at our East Melbourne headquarters. The event featured an open and courageous conversation on mental health and masculinity, featuring Neil and Will Balme, and brought together supporters who share our commitment to youth wellbeing.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the return of our Annual Fundraiser Event on 2 October at the stunning Ormond Hall. This flagship fundraising evening will feature an immersive Reach experience in a vibrant and refreshed format. More details will be shared soon, and we look forward to welcoming our community for a night of celebration and impact.



PARTNERS

Reach extends its heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their continued support. We are also thankful to those donors who choose to remain anonymous. It is through your collective belief in our mission that we are able to continue empowering young people across Australia.

Major Partners



Partners



Community Partners



REACH TEAM UPDATE

New to Reach:

Tom Bergin

Role: Partnerships, Fundraising and Engagement Manager

Work Overview: Over the past seven years, Tom has worked in management consulting across a range of industries, with a focus on operations strategy and project management. His experience includes extensive work with operational leaders to improve delivery and execution, as well as significant involvement in the not-for-profit sector through fundraising, strategic planning, and community engagement initiatives.

Favourite Holiday: Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road.

Fun Fact: My three siblings all have red hair!



Farewell:

In June, we farewellled Program Lead and Senior Facilitator Jana Christodoulou, who concluded an extraordinary 13-year journey with Reach.

Jana leaves behind an indelible legacy. From delivering hundreds of workshops and impacting tens of thousands of young people, to mentoring the next generation of Reach facilitators, her contribution has shaped the very fabric of our programs and culture.

We are deeply grateful for Jana's unwavering commitment, compassion, and leadership. While we will miss her presence at Reach, we are excited to see what this next chapter holds for her as she continues to share her gifts through new ventures.

To stay in touch or send your well wishes, you can contact Jana via LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jana-christodoulou-888755175/>



THANK YOU

Your support empowers young people and enables us to create lasting impact. We look forward to continuing this journey of growth, transformation, and connection in the next quarter.

You can scan the QR code on the right to donate and support our mission.



For more information, please contact:

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