



Empowering young people to build their own future

Quarterly Report

Term 1, 2020

Message from the founder

I hope this report finds you safe and well. Communities around the world are facing significant challenges and uncertainty due to the impact of COVID-19. Whilst some may be resilient to the virus, none of us are immune from the effects it is having on our society.

TRACTION helped 59 participants in our Bicycle Build program **finish powerfully and positively** this term. Whilst we completed programs slightly earlier than usual, our **Mentors completed the finishing touches of participants' bikes and delivered them to schools** so the students could celebrate their achievements and enjoy their bikes over the holidays. Our school partners are **extremely grateful for our efforts in 'closing the loop' for participants** and it's been wonderful to see participants thanking us personally and online.



On behalf of the rest of the Ipswich State High School kids, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make and design our own bikes. We loved every minute of it.

Term 1 participant

We fear **the impact** of COVID-19 will be especially hard **on the most vulnerable**, and lead to more young people being isolated, subject to trauma, disconnecting from schooling and ultimately finding it harder to build their own future.



With this challenge squarely in front of us, we are getting ready. We are **working hard so TRACTION can get back to helping young people** as soon as it is declared safe to do so.

We are already working with school partners and referral agencies to **understand how we can best support** them.

We are seeking to **retain our core strength - our team** and using the time we have now to **improve**

processes, find **new ways to deliver** and to stay in touch with young people through different mediums.

We are also intent on **continuing to communicate** with you, our most valued supporters.

We already know **if young people are disconnected, they are isolated** and can be exposed to difficult, and in some cases, dangerous situations. For many, school can provide an anchor, and just maybe an **opportunity to break the cycle** and build their own future. However, school is not always easy, so TRACTION seeks to help them **rediscover the joy of learning**, to re-engage and build their own powerful futures.

With disruptions to schooling, we see challenges for vulnerable youth only increasing. Therefore, **we need to be ready to help**.

In this report we **celebrate the achievements of the 59 participants we supported this term**. With the support of **Hand Heart Pocket** – the Charity of Freemason's Queensland, we were able to provide scholarships for at-risk youth referred by new partners, including **Queensland Pathways College** (Brisbane), **Project Booyah** in conjunction with the **Queensland Police Service** (Logan), and **The Spot Academy** (Logan). In partnership with **RSL Queensland**, we delivered our first program for students from **Mt Maria College** (Mitchelton), our first step in supporting the **Australian Defence Force** community. We also expanded our reach into the Ipswich region,

delivering programs for students onsite at **Ipswich State High School**. It was a delight to work with the wonderful staff from **Nursery Road Special School** and create a safe place of learning and inclusion for their students in our Alexandra Hills workshop.

Special thanks to the **Scenic Rim business community** for attending our second Supporter Dinner. In 2019 our inaugural dinner was attended by 34 committed community members. This year over 90 people joined us and in doing so helped raise \$41,000. Funds raised from the dinner will provide access for local youth to programs delivered at our Beaudesert workshop.

We are delighted to welcome new partners, including the **St George Bank Foundation** and Queensland's **Department of Communities**, who will be supporting our efforts over the next 12 months.

Like many others, we've had to postpone fundraising events, however we hope to hold our **Joyride** and **CEO Bike Build** events later in the year. In the meantime, we are opting for physical distancing, rather than social isolation, and will keep the communication lines open. Stay tuned!

Heartfelt thanks to our donors and supporters. In these uncertain times, we fully understand it may be difficult to directly contribute to TRACTION. If you can, please do, however if you cannot, please **stay with us on the journey** and help spread the word about the work we

are doing, keep abreast of our progress through our e-Newsletter and Quarterly Reports, and stay connected on social media **@tractionbuilds**. It's the support community behind TRACTION that makes the significant difference, keeping fuel in the tank so we can help some of the most vulnerable young people in our community to build their own powerful future.

Heartfelt thanks,



Sandy Murdoch



There are a number of disengaged students that aren't being catered for and we need TRACTION to help support those young people. We are particularly concerned that students who are already disengaged from school that may struggle to return after the holidays, and if this current climate persists, a more prolonged period of isolation. Trauma will increase for many kids that are stuck in homes where challenges such as addiction are an issue. **We're going to need programs like TRACTION more than ever.**

Danielle Dryburgh, Head of Department - Middle School, Pimpama State Secondary College

2.

Progress to date

Term in review

59	Participants (young people) engaged, including:
23	From the Redlands region
12	From Brisbane's Southside
6	From Logan region
6	From the Scenic Rim region
6	From the Ipswich region
6	From Brisbane's Northside
-	Through Outreach, Mobile or Holiday programs
98%	Program completion rate
96%	Program attendance rate
59	Bicycles donated to vulnerable young people to encourage active, healthy lifestyles
10	Referral agencies supported – including schools, community groups, and other agencies
1	Types of programs delivered: All programs delivered this term were our Bicycle Build program
6	Program delivery locations

Cumulative to date

1,094	Participants (young people) engaged, including:
444	From the Redlands region
232	From Brisbane's Southside
93	From Logan region
93	From the Scenic Rim region
6	From the Ipswich region
6	From Brisbane's Northside
20	Through Outreach, Mobile or Holiday programs
>950	Bicycles donated to vulnerable young people

Term 1 highlights



The smiles on the faces of students from **Nursery Road Special School** as they rode bikes at the workshop. Our Mentors adapted some bikes to suit and allow all students to experience **the joy of riding.**



Starting the delivery of our new **"Gear Up"** initiative in conjunction with Bicycle Queensland, supported by the Queensland Transport and Main Roads department. The initiative helps more young people cycle safely, with a focus on riding skills and road safety awareness.



Delivering programs onsite supporting new school partners in the **Ipswich** region and on **Brisbane's Northside.**



“ I have nothing but positive feedback for this great program. TRACTION helped my son start enjoying school and his need to learn. Being part of TRACTION has given him the confidence to know he can achieve. This has followed through into his life outside of school. He has stepped up to take initiative to complete tasks, even helping with his Dad's work. He's done such a great job they have asked him to return in the holidays. He played softball for 8 years even at a representative level but stopped this season. He now wants to pick it back up again. TRACTION has made such a positive impact on his life.

Parent of Term 1 participant



Partnering with **Project Booyah** to provide pre-vocational and experience for their program graduates.



“ We've had really strong outcomes individually and collectively with the boys. Please pass on our appreciation to the TRACTION team.

Tom Fields, Youth Support Coordinator, Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association

Term 1 highlights (cont.)

Students from **The Spot Academy** and **Wynnum State High School** playing key roles hosting representatives from Hand Heart Pocket and local Masonic Lodges at a 'Celebration Event' to mark the official announcement of the significant grant awarded to TRACTION. Antae, Jade, Riley and Andreaz feature in this video of the occasion. Watch at <https://youtu.be/caNTehBPwm0>



Supporting the first students from **Queensland Pathways College** at our Moorooka workshop

“Two of the girls in our group were unsure at the start about how they would go working with two male Mentors that they didn't know, but last week they said they've really enjoyed working with Tim and Luke, the conversations they've had, and what they learnt.”

Kylie Spann, Queensland Pathways College

Jamie Charman, former Brisbane Lions AFL player, visiting participants at the Moorooka workshop.



Staff from longstanding supporter, **The Present Group**, providing a BBQ breakfast for participants at our Alexandra Hills workshop and donating \$5,000 towards the purchase of 25 BMX bikes for TRACTION participants.




How your support makes a difference: Antae

Antae embraced his experience in the Bike Build program this term.



“It's something new and positive that makes me want to continue. (It helps) seeing all the people working hard to finish what they love doing.”

Antae, Term 1 participant from The Spot Academy



Our people in focus: Richard

Richard has been a Mentor since TRACTION started in 2015, a bicycle enthusiast and most recently serving as our Program Delivery Manager. Richard is a natural at engaging young people and is passionate about making a difference.



I get a kick out of sharing some of what I know with our participants and the other Mentors. It's more than just mechanical skills. The life skills the kids take out of the program are very powerful. As Mentors, we guide and support the young people. We're definitely not being boss for the day. We give them real responsibility. It's rewarding seeing the changes in people as they grow. TRACTION is a great program and ever-changing. No two days are ever the same! It's wonderful to be part of a community of like-minded people.

TRACTION Connect Success

TRACTION helps young people go places and your support makes it possible for TRACTION to provide the spark for many young people to re-engage with their schooling, their friends, family and community.

TRACTION seeks to connect young people with further training, work experience, apprenticeships and employment opportunities through partnerships with education providers and businesses to help build new pathways for our young people.



After completing work experience over the Christmas holidays, Mitchell secured an apprenticeship in January with Huebner Motors in Beaudesert. Mitchell was our keynote speaker at the Scenic Rim Supporter Dinner held in March.

Attending with his family (pictured below), Mitchell shared his TRACTION story.



TRACTION has really helped me come a long way from where I was.

Mitchell, TRACTION graduate

3.

Retaining our strength - our core team

We started TRACTION with an eclectic group of volunteers. We soon realised that it was difficult to find volunteers who could commit to regularly attend workshops and provide consistent support for participants. This made it difficult for relationships to form. **Young people need stability**, so we decided to employ a core group of professional Mentors.

The move very quickly began to produce positive results. Young people now had a stable, **committed and engaging team of adult role models** with whom they could communicate. For many participants, TRACTION Mentors are the first adults they've built positive relationships with.

The move also meant we could begin the journey to **develop our people** in line with the needs of the young people.

The team continues to learn and seek new ways to engage and improve the outcomes for young people.



We **expect demand for TRACTION programs to increase significantly** as a result of the current environment. Our team is a significant and **vital resource for our continuing success**, and we are focused on ensuring they remain with us for the long haul.

4.

Community partnerships & engagement

St George Foundation



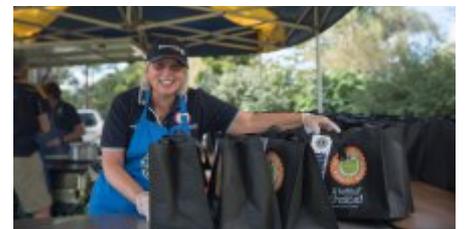
Thanks to a community grant of \$50,000, TRACTION will be delivering a customised Bicycle

Build program for 24 **Indigenous youth from the Redland Bay community**, including those from highly disadvantaged North Stradbroke and other Redland Island communities, over the next 12 months.

Queensland Government partnership

We are pleased to announce that TRACTION has secured a '**Thriving Cohesive Communities**' grant of \$34,020 from the Queensland Department of Communities. The grants are focused on establishing community connections with young people at risk of exclusion and isolation and bringing local people together to strengthen the understanding of acceptance and diversity in their communities.

The funding will help TRACTION deliver its **Small Engine program** for 24 young people in the **Scenic Rim** over the next 12 months. An exciting dimension of the project will see TRACTION engage members of local community organisations such as Rotary, Lions, Freemason and other communities, with our young people so they understand the breadth of community service opportunities available.



5.

Looking ahead



We will always be supportive - you've got a good thing going. We can't let the virus interrupt the good work that TRACTION does supporting our students".

Brad Milford, Yeronga State High School Guidance Officer

We are looking forward to TRACTION **getting back to helping young people** as soon as it is declared safe to do so.

Activity is going to be restricted in Term 2, and it's likely we'll support fewer young people and have shorter periods of engagement. We will **tailor our approach to meet the needs of our school and referral partners** and are planning options including the delivery of 1-day programs onsite at schools. We expect demand to significantly increase in Term 3.

We are working with a longstanding corporate supporter and hope to establish a **new workshop in Yarrabilba** which will provide a hub from which will support young people in the Logan region.

We are also excited about opportunities to **support new communities** including **Indigenous** and **Australian Defence Force**

communities. We have a number of applications for significant government support and other community grants awaiting decision. If successful, these will provide funds to deliver programs with confidence.

6.

Support us

At TRACTION, we believe people **working together** will achieve **extraordinary things**. Our supporters keep the TRACTION team empowering dreams and helping young people go places.

TRACTION relies on private donations, corporate sponsorships, community fundraising and grants to help deliver the program. Our supporters, both big and small, value our purpose and contribution to the community. Their investment in the team and our resources have helped us to grow this far. However, to meet ever increasing demand, we need to broaden our support base because we still have a long way to go to meet the need that we know is out there.

Ways to **support us** include:

- Purchasing a BMX bike for a TRACTION participant - \$200
- Donating a half-scholarship - \$1,000
- Donating a full scholarship - \$2,000
- Nominating TRACTION as a beneficiary charity for your corporate staff giving program or fundraising event

- Referring prospective supporters
- Volunteering
- Donating a bicycle



7.

About TRACTION

TRACTION empowers young people in need by helping them positively engage with community, discover their talents and create their own future.

We understand that everybody learns differently, and some young people don't realise their potential in a classroom.

TRACTION provides a safe environment where young people restore items donated by the community and with the guidance of mentors, learn new skills and put them into action through participation in real, tangible and meaningful learning activities.

Find out more at www.traction.community or follow @tractionbuilds on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.



www.traction.community

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