



Empowering young people to build their own future

Quarterly Report

Term 2, 2020

Message from the founder

I hope this report finds you safe and well. Over the last quarter, as we have all been challenged by COVID-19, TRACTION has continued to deliver programs to support those most in need in our local communities.

By innovating, adapting, and implementing new ways to ensure the health and safety of all involved, TRACTION has been able to help 53 young people who continued to attend school during COVID-19 restrictions. We have shortened programs, delivered onsite at schools, and been flexible in our approach to support young people including children of essential worker families and those living in out of home residential care.

It is an unfortunate reality that the social isolation many young people have experienced during this time has led to a significant increase in

demand for TRACTION programs. So much so that our projected participant numbers for the second half of 2020 are double that of the first 6 months.

Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, the TRACTION team has been outstanding in its efforts to adapt in an environment of uncertainty. It has been a privilege to work with our referral agency partners and support young people during these times of need.

Recognising that our people are the heart of TRACTION and the vital



resource for our continuing success, we have strengthened our core team and welcomed some wonderful new Mentors over the last few months.

We are also strengthening our organisation by refining our vision, crystallising future plans, and further developing systems and procedures as a foundation for growth. Over the next 5 years our focus will be empowering young people throughout 7 regions in need across South East Queensland.



To ensure we continue to deliver results for young people, we are building a Practice Framework that will govern our program delivery. We are implementing an Impact Measurement system that not only pinpoints the meaningful difference we are making for the wellbeing and engagement of vulnerable youth, it will also identify ways we can improve.

As our community emerges from COVID-19 restrictions, TRACTION is well positioned to meet the needs of vulnerable youth. Whilst the economic outlook for our nation is uncertain, we continue to seek opportunities to reach more young people in need.

Through a powerful partnership with Act For Kids, we are working to establish a hub within the Moreton Bay region. Act For Kids provides integrated therapy and support services to children and families who have experienced, or are at risk of child abuse and neglect.

We are finalising support for an innovative pilot program to support the health and wellbeing of young people in the Logan region. The program is designed to promote active, healthy lifestyles.

As always, our heartfelt thanks go 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.

Heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Murdoch".

Sandy Murdoch

“ We’ve seen positive results in terms of improved school attendance, behaviour, effort in schoolwork, and social and emotional development.

Students report that TRACTION is personally rewarding and are genuinely excited and proud of what they achieve.

We’ve seen renewed enthusiasm for learning from the participating students. TRACTION is something they look forward to every week – absenteeism isn’t an issue. Importantly, we see relationships between the students strengthen. Often to begin with, the students aren’t close, but over the course of the program they enjoy working with each other and the TRACTION Mentors in a team environment where everyone is respected, and differences celebrated.

Kathy Hedley, Head of Campus,
The Spot Academy

2.

Progress to date

Term in review

53	Participants (young people) engaged, including:
31	From the Redlands region
6	From Logan region
6	From the Scenic Rim region
6	From the Ipswich region
6	From the Gold Coast region
96%	Program completion rate
97%	Program attendance rate
53	Bicycles donated to vulnerable young people to encourage active, healthy lifestyles
9	Referral agencies supported – including schools, community service organisations, government and other agencies
1	Type of programs delivered - All programs delivered this term were our Bicycle Build program
5	Number of regions where programs were delivered
6	Program delivery locations

Cumulative to date

1,147	Participants (young people) engaged, including:
475	From the Redlands region
232	From Brisbane's Southside
6	From Brisbane's Northside
97	From Logan region
99	From the Scenic Rim region
12	From the Ipswich region
6	From the Gold Coast region
220	Through Outreach, Mobile or Holiday programs
>1000	Bicycles donated to vulnerable young people

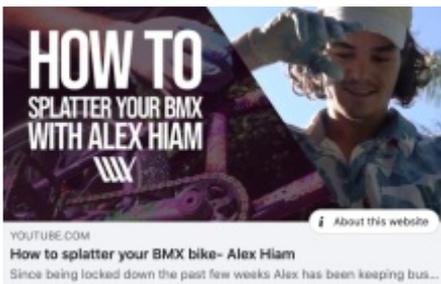
Term 2 highlights



TRACTION builds on Facebook - encouraging our young people to keep active during the crisis, TRACTION developed a series of posts showcasing riding activities that can be safely done at home and sharing bike maintenance tips.



Video available @tractionbuilds on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/tractionbuilds/videos/215451339560905/>



DIALLED in to TRACTION – a new form of mentoring, delivered online, and a great way to check in on the health and wellbeing of our young people.



Delivering our first program in the Gold Coast region for students from Pimpama State College.



“ TRACTION has helped me learn how to make friends and get along with other people.”

Term 2 participant from the Scenic Rim

Being engaged to support students by longstanding school partners Hemmant Flexi Learning Centre and Redland District Special School during COVID-19 restrictions.



Delivering programs onsite at Ipswich State High School and in the Scenic Rim for students of Emmaus College.



Working with partners from Queensland Police Service and PCYC, to provide pre-vocational experience for program graduates of the Project Booyah program.



Term 2 highlights (cont.)

“Gear Up” – more young people riding, safely

With the support of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, TRACTION and Bicycle Queensland have developed educational resources to support safe bike riding behaviour and deliver programs to between 250 and 300 young people over a 12-month period. TRACTION commenced delivering Gear Up in Term 1 this year with over 100 young people having taken part so far.

Participants are typically from disadvantaged backgrounds and face a range of significant challenges. Many have never ridden a bike before, or do not have a bike of their own. Not only does TRACTION provide a safe learning environment for them to build the skills and confidence to connect with others, it gives young people, of all abilities, the chance to experience the joy of riding!

Some findings to date:

- Whilst 83% of participants ride on the road, only 52% of participants own a bicycle helmet.
- Only 34% of participants have ridden bikes to school
- 91% of Gear Up participants report they know more about bicycle road safety as a result of the program



It has been heartening to hear the stories of innovative approaches that have been implemented to ensure service delivery can continue in some form. Initiatives, such as your online mentoring sessions and social media videos are great examples.

Mr Neil Scales, Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads



How your support makes a difference:



My son is immensely proud of his bike and feels a sense of accomplishment. Whilst he has refused to attend school from time to time, participating in TRACTION has opened his eyes to other pathways and opportunities and provided him with motivation and a sense of purpose. The positive mentorship and guidance he received is always welcome! Thank you for your efforts and the amazing work you do with our young people.

Caroline from Brisbane

In evaluating our impact, TRACTION seeks feedback from our referral partners, who provide insights about progress of TRACTION participants. Here are some examples:



Massive improvement all round. Much less conflict with staff requests, even with teachers of subjects he dislikes. Massive improvement in confidence as a learner. Much more independent. Both academically and socially, school engagement has improved significantly.

Sally Lawler, Mt Maria College



Attendance at school has increased. No behavioural incidents since participating in TRACTION. Engagement throughout the 5 weeks of remote learning was great. Student completed all work and was keen to get feedback from staff, even asking for more work. Major change in attitude.

Sally Lawler, Mt Maria College



Our people in focus: Jim & Ben

Jim, an electrician by trade, started with TRACTION as a volunteer in 2015 and helped map out the program structure with our founding team. By 2017, Jim had joined TRACTION as a Mentor and now in 2020 is our Redlands Regional Coordinator, leading the delivery of programs at our Alexandra Hills workshop and across the bayside communities.

Jim's credentials in the trade have been perfect in leading our 'Boom Box' program, where participants build their own portable Bluetooth Speaker system from up-cycled e-Waste, including laptop batteries and computer speakers, and ex-army ammunition boxes. The program introduces participants to innovative fabrication technologies based on 3D-printing, basic electronics, and shows how to recycle electronic waste to produce one-of-a-kind, sustainable sound systems, that participants keep following their graduation.

It's Jim's ability to build rapport and provide considered support and positive role modelling that strikes a chord with our young people.



I decided that there are enough electricians in the world and that I wanted to help young people achieve their potential.



When I drive the TRACTION van around our community, I often have graduates come up to me and say 'Hello'. It's wonderful that they remember us as well as we remember them.



In Term 3, Ben will join TRACTION as a Mentor, working alongside Jim in the Redlands. Ben brings a wealth of experience supporting young people as a youth worker.



We focus on the needs of each young person and reinforce that they are not their past.

Our role is to help young people imagine and take steps towards a brighter future.

3.

Community partnerships and engagement



It has been incredibly encouraging that TRACTION has continued to receive grants and community support during this most trying time.

The Coca-Cola Australia Foundation has granted \$24,000 to provide access to TRACTION programs for young people from the Brisbane Southside community. Brisbane City Council's award-winning Cycling Brisbane initiative has provided a \$20,000 sponsorship so TRACTION can continue to help engage young people in riding and promote active lifestyles. Brisbane City Council also awarded a community grant for a pilot program where TRACTION participants will build mobile phone chargers from recycled e-waste, which they will in turn donate to vulnerable youth experiencing insecure housing and homelessness. The **Chain Reaction** Challenge Foundation awarded a \$10,000 community grant. The Cory Charitable Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant so TRACTION can deliver school holiday programs in Brisbane, and the Westpac Foundation, in conjunction with the

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, are supporting school holiday programs in the Scenic Rim. TRACTION was successful in securing a community grant to assist with COVID-19 recovery from the St George Foundation and the Port of Brisbane also awarded a grant to support program delivery.

Other generous donations were provided by the K&T Driscoll Foundation, the Fitzpatrick Family Charitable Foundation, N&J Jones, R&P Robson, M&D Pherous, the AP Eagers Foundation, and GELITA Australia & New Zealand.

 I am good friends with one of TRACTION's Mentors and am impressed by how TRACTION works alongside young people and helps them to identify pathways to move forward in the world with confidence.

Michael Lancaster, TRACTION donor

Supporters in focus:

Heartfelt thanks to longstanding TRACTION advocates.

Brisbane Inner West Rotary + Franklins Workshop

Adrian Smith is the owner of automotive services business Franklins Workshop and has serviced a number of TRACTION vehicles at no cost since TRACTION started in 2015. He also nominated TRACTION as a charitable program worthy of support through his Rotary club, which in turn has been a longstanding supporter.



Stellar Recruitment

Shaun McCambridge participated in our CEO Bike Build in 2019 and committed his business, Stellar Recruitment, to help TRACTION recruit a new Regional Coordinator for the Scenic Rim region on a pro bono basis.



4.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead to Term 3 we expect to support over 80 participants in our 9-week school term programs and a further 40 in holiday and mobile programs. We will also be:

- Kicking off a project to support 24 Indigenous youth from the Redland Bay community over the next 12 months thanks to support from the St George Foundation.
- Commencing a project with support from the Queensland Department of Communities as part of its Thriving Communities initiative, which will see us deliver our Small Engines program for 24 young people over 12 months. The project will engage community service organisations, who'll help young people consider different ways to give back in their local community.
- Delivering our first programs for students from Yarrabilba State Secondary College, extending our presence in the Logan region. Programs will initially be delivered on a 'pop up' basis on a site provided by Lendlease.
- Introducing our 'Boom Box' program to students from Pimpama State College at the Stapylton warehouse of Pensar, longstanding TRACTION corporate supporter. Access to this facility provides strategic reach for TRACTION, enabling us to support young people from the Gold Coast region

- Continuing our work with Mt Maria College to support children of Australian Defence Force community, thanks to Major Support Partner RSL Queensland.

5.

Support us

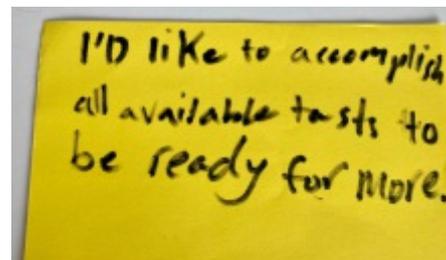
At TRACTION, we believe people working together will achieve extraordinary things. Our supporters keep the TRACTION team empowering dreams and helping young people go places.

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



6.

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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