

Evidence in Action: Building aspirations

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME): Australia



AIME is a structured educational mentoring program to support Indigenous students throughout their high school experience.

The program is delivered at 16 Australian universities and has three delivery modes. The first is the AIME Institute, which is delivered on campus at AIME's partner universities. There are six different courses each tailored for a specific high school year group, featuring 49 unique modules. AIME also

runs Tutor Squads, where trained university mentors travel to local schools to provide additional free academic support to Indigenous students. AIME's third delivery mode is one-on-one coaching, career support and post-school transition.

AIME prides themselves on getting to know the students throughout their high school experience, so that when it comes to their senior years they can provide the best possible advice, support and targeted opportunities for each Indigenous student to be able to transition into university, employment or further training post Year 12.

AIME has scaled the program from 25 students in 2005 to 4484 participants in 2014, and as they continue to expand to new locations their results remain consistently high. AIME have collected six years of program data which demonstrates that students completing the AIME program finish school and transition through to university, further education, training and employment at significantly higher rates than their Indigenous peers not participating in the program.

In 2014, 93.2 per cent of Year 12 AIME students satisfied the requirements of Year 12 attainment, leading the way on meeting the COAG target of halving the gap in Year 12 attainment. AIME students not only surpassed the national Indigenous rate by 34.7 percentage points, they also exceeded the national non-Indigenous rate by 6.7 percentage points.

Importantly, AIME students are also leading the way in closing the gap on post-school pathways into university, further education and training and employment. 75 per cent of AIME Year 12 students from 2014 have already transitioned into positive post-school pathways, approximately 33 percentage points above the national Indigenous rate of 40 per cent and at parity with the non-Indigenous rate of 75 per cent. The largest cohort of these Year 12 students chose a university pathway with 114 students (30.9 per cent) commencing their studies at university in 2015.

Principles: Identity, **building aspirations**, literacy and numeracy capabilities, employability skills, careers management, business partnerships, early intervention and personal support.