

## THE AUSTRALIAN

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### Jack Manning Bancroft's indigenous program to go international

TOM JOYNER THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM April 6, 2016

The founder of Australia's successful indigenous high school mentoring program, Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, says he's planning to export the scheme to help disadvantaged youth in other countries around the world.

"We are potentially seeing if the model can be shared around the world as well," said Jack Manning Bancroft, who became the youngest ever recipient of an honorary doctorate this week.

The University of South Australia offered the award in recognition of his work improving educational outcomes for indigenous youth.

Mr Manning Bancroft said he owed his program's success to the work of "older generations" in the area of indigenous education.

"There's a lot of Aboriginal people who are probably more deserving of something like this award. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," he said.

AIME was founded in 2005 with just 25 high school students and mentors when Mr Manning Bancroft, now 30, was a 19-year-old undergraduate at the University of Sydney.

The last decade has seen the program expand rapidly in scale, with 6000 mentees nationwide and 76 per cent of its year 12 cohort in 2014 going on to enrol in university, a figure higher than the national non-indigenous average that year.

Mr Manning Bancroft said he was particularly proud to see 2000 university students signing up as mentors in the program this year.

"To see how good for young people and uni students it's been to get out there and want to change the country," he said. "It's good to see giving a shit has been made cool."

Education was the most important area of focus when it came to closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous communities, Mr Manning Bancroft said. "The rest will follow. Education is the only controllable risk factor to overcome disadvantage."

David Lloyd, UniSA's vice-chancellor, said the university was proud to be associated with AIME.

"When young people like Jack show how rapidly they can make such a big difference in the world, the achievement should be celebrated and recognised," Professor Lloyd said. "Jack is a remarkable person and a shining example of someone who has made their vision a reality."

Indigenous tennis star Yvonee Goolagong Cawley also received an honorary doctorate from UniSA this week, as did food legend Maggie Beer.

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ROSIE LEWIS

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MATT CHAMBERS

AGL chief Andy Vesey has said that coal can't compete with renewables, which he believes will dominate baseload power.



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MITCHELL BINGEMANN

Ten administrator KordaMentha has placed ads in national newspapers seeking a buyer for the free-to-air TV network.



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EWIN HANNAN

Victorian construction union boss John Setka has threatened to reveal the home addresses of ABCC inspectors.



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A transgender couple seeking humanitarian asylum claims their lives are in danger from Sydney's "homophobic street life."



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JANET ALBRECHTSEN

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