

A letter of thanks from the future movement

Dear leaders of 2020,

We, the leaders of tomorrow write to you from the future to say thank you.

The Y is strong. Stronger than ever. The decisions you made in 2020 have contributed significantly to the powerful, impactful, youth focused Y of today.

We live in a future where the voice of young people is included in the daily narrative of the country at federal, state and local government forums. Young people have a strong sense of identity, are educated and of healthy body, mind and spirit. Their transition into adulthood sees young people from all backgrounds thriving in record numbers across the country - and their voice is powerful.

We are well known and well respected in communities across the nation. Our brand is strong, our reputation stronger. We are a regular voice at the table in so many communities who seek us out. They know our name, but more importantly, they know and respect our programs.

Communities engage actively with our teams and ask rich questions about how the Y can create true social impact for young people and those around them. We take great delight in bringing evidence informed practice and demonstrable outcomes to these discussions and we continue to co-design opportunities with our community partners who share in our enthusiasm to create positive impact for young people in their communities.

Those of us (and there are many) who were young people of the Y ourselves in 2020, tell stories of a time of great uncertainty, of times when we had to battle through and times when we got it wrong, but also great hope and great inspiration of what the future of the Y may hold.

They remind us constantly that it was your leadership, your courage and humility, your constant reminders that our rich heritage as the world's oldest and most respected youth movement and social enterprise will prevail. Your insistence that we choose to be bold in our pursuit of relevance and your collective approach to disciplined implementation has shifted us from being a somewhat effective organisation to an impactful, sophisticated social enterprise focused on societal change; relevant and impactful to communities across Australia.

We remember fondly the genuine care you showed both collectively, and as individual leaders that gave all of us a sense of belief, belonging and respect; that helped us reach our full potential and built a strong foundation for the Y we are today.

Most of all, we remember you as the collective leaders that actually got stuff done. You modelled the sort of leadership that has become our everyday. You worked alongside us, you listened, you invested in our collective futures, led with care, humility and respect and you passed the baton on exuding absolute confidence in our ability to take on the powerful force we are today.

— Thank you —