



UMSU DESTINATION MELBOURNE 2017 REPORT

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1. Directors:

Emily Roberts, Dianna Duong, Cesar Steven Nicolas

2. Introduction:

Destination Melbourne is a three-day, two-night residential pre-orientation program aimed at new first year students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This was the fourth year of Destination Melbourne being run through UMSU and the first of it being run by the Host Program Directors.

The program aims to help new students transition. For disadvantaged students who may not know any other students starting at Melbourne Uni being able to meet other students from the same/ similar background helps with isolation and promotes friendships that last years after the program itself has ended. Being able to spend time on campus before classes begin is invaluable for building confidence and helping students from nontraditional backgrounds to feel like they belong.

The 2017 program was very controversial and was plagued by several issues.

3. Background and Controversy:

For many years the University of Melbourne Department of Transition ran Host Program, Destination Melbourne and several other programs for new students aimed to assist in adjusting to university.

In 2012/2013 the University made the decision to shut the Department of Transition. Host Program was quickly and smoothly brought under UMSU's control and has been led by several different kinds of teams including Communications and Marketing, student

Orientation Directors and now student Host Program Directors. Other than some broad legality concerns about having volunteers do work that was formerly done by paid full time employees, Host Program being a student-run initiative as part of UMSU has been well supported and resourced on both sides.

Destination Melbourne was officially dumped by the university who saw it as a failing program. It came under UMSU because of lobbying of a group of dedicated students in 2014.

Destination Melbourne is a great program and you would be hard pressed to find many clubs or departments at UMSU that have not had a student member which had been part of Destination Melbourne. It creates a ready-made community for students most at risk of dropping out, encourages them to get involved, access services and participate in all aspects of university life. However it is a hugely expensive program with a relatively small number of direct beneficiaries.

Steve, Emily and Dianna (alongside Mohammad Bin Qasim) were appointed as Host Program directors in July 2016. It was evident from early on it was that there was confusion about the future of Destination Melbourne. In the level 4 office space Destination Melbourne director computers were removed shortly after we started and remained noticeably unattended, there was a lot of rumours about the cancellation of the program.

In September 2017, we were asked to take on the role of Destination Melbourne Directors to save time, cost, administration and because we had expressed enthusiasm for the program and that we would not support the program being cancelled. There was some discussion with the then President and Secretary of UMSU (and the General Manger via and the Volunteering coordinator) about the amalgamation and the future of the director led orientation based programs. The directors were told of general support for this combination, that it made a lot of sense and that there was an overall feeling that four separate student-led including three that had similar goals was considered too many we were excited and agreed with them about the many benefits eagerly awaiting the paperwork needed to get started. We excitedly began to plan and organise how we would want to run the program.

The directors were not aware that this decision had not gone through Student's Council or the mess that would ensue when our appointment became public knowledge. In October 2016, an email was sent out to all union email accounts from the volunteering coordinator announcing the changes. From this several complaints were made about the transparency of this process which the directors were not told of instead hearing through the now defunct campus newspaper 'Parkville station' that we had been removed as directors. There were many tense meeting that followed and it was emotionally draining and stressful for the directors particularly as some of our personal lives were brought into the discussion.

As a result of the ongoing unresolved nature of our appointment to Destination Melbourne Directors we were in limbo for a long time that ultimately crushed the 2017 program. Until December we were not able to fundraise, conduct interviews or do anymore planning and due to unforeseen circumstances one of the directors had to leave. By the time everything was sorted and we were allowed to actively re-start organising there was less than two months (including Christmas) till the scheduled start of the program, this left very little time for fundraising, meant we had to re-create our timelines, unable to do any of the new initiatives we had wanted and a group of directors feeling unsupported and under pressure.

4. Preparation for Destination Melbourne

Program Coordinators

In part due to the above detailed controversy the role of Program Coordinators (mainly known as “PCs”), was introduced. In former years, some hosts had extended roles beyond being a “mentor” for their student group, such as “Activities team” and “Media team”. Introduction of the Program Coordinator role, aimed to replace these roles. This dedicated team mainly acted as our Activities and Media team, so that hosts had less roles to balance and could focus more on engaging with their group, allowing students to make the most of their hosts and the program.

Accommodation

In keeping with the long term relationship that Destination Melbourne has traditionally held with St. Hilda’s College, accommodation was arranged accordingly with the college. The college showed initiative in contacting us first, with all costs and arrangements pre-calculated



based on attendance in previous years.

Bookings were made for initially 134 rooms, which accommodates 3 Directors, 3 Program Coordinators and 10 residential hosts (10 day hosts are non-residential), and 118 students. Auditorium was also booked for a single day use (used for the Welcome ceremony). However, as we did not meet the student registration numbers desired, hosts were all made residential. Hosts felt that this created a more unified team and gave students more opportunities to engage with both of their assigned hosts.



T-shirts

T-shirts were ordered with Blue Gum Clothing (bluegum.com.au), as costs of each shirt was significantly cheaper (\$9.80 per shirt for our design) compared to the approximately \$12

shirts with previous manufacturers used. To accommodate for the predicted 3 directors, 3 program coordinators, 20 hosts and expected 118 students, a total of 150 shirts were ordered (30 host shirts in blue and 120 student shirts in red). However, as we did not meet the expected student attendance numbers, we had many leftover shirts. These shirts may be used in fundraising or donations.

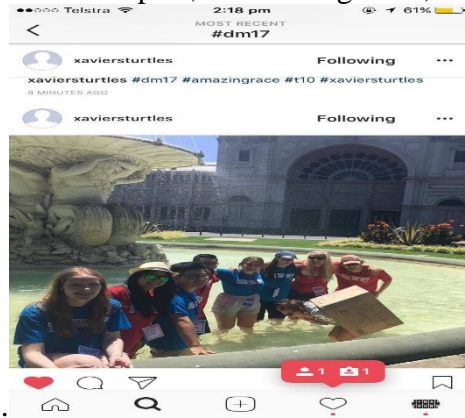


Timetabling

Core elements we wanted to include in the program schedule consisted of:

- *Welcome Ceremony (Harry Potter themed)*
Students were preassigned to a group of approximately 8 students each with 2 hosts. After going through information about the program, the timetable and overall rules of the program, a ceremony was held to announce the student groups.
- *Gelato Crawl*
Trip to Lygon street for gelato. We made sure to accommodate for different dietary requirements by ensuring that groups approached different stores. In previous years, the program was organised very early on and sponsorships were arranged with ice-cream shops so students could have free ice-cream. Due to a lack of time, and other UMSU programs having already applied for sponsorships with the organisations we approached, Destination Melbourne students had to fund their own ice-cream. For students who could not pay for this, a small pool of funds was available to accommodate for this and ensure they did not miss out.
- *The Amazing Race*
In preparation for the amazing race, groups were given two hours to prepare 'mascots', team names and chants. Cardboard boxes were kindly provided to us by Big W staff. Directors and PCs were stationed at 6 designated points around Melbourne (Union House, Palace cinemas, Parliament House, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne Central, St.Hilda). Groups must past through all the 6 designated points to complete the amazing race. Along the way, groups were given a list of bonus challenges they could do to accumulate more points for their group. Groups could then send in their recorded challenges via Instagram, to the Program Coordinators who assigned points. Examples of bonus challenges, include: Singing as

a group on public transport, start a conga line, find a store with the most outrageous



clothing, etc.

- *Trivia Night*

At the start of the camp, students were given a formal “Hogwarts” letter inviting them to a Themed dinner/ Trivia Night. Unbeknownst to the students who all came dressed in formal attire, hosts and program coordinators came to the dinner dressed entirely in togas. The dinner was followed by rounds of trivia. In future iterations of Destination Melbourne, we recommend that several jugs of water be available throughout the



entire event.

- *University-based workshops*

Workshops were held on campus for students to find out more information about the Student Precinct, UMSU Clubs and Societies, Academic skills, etc. These workshops were organised with guest speakers, such as Ariana Henderson (Learning Strategist at University Services: Academic Skills), Ryan Davey (UMSU Clubs & Societies OB), etc. There was some room confusion, so it is recommended that these be made clear to not only guest speakers, but to hosts as well, so they can help direct students.



- Mystery Event (Revealed to be a Water Fight)**
 Water guns, balloons, sponges and buckets are among some of the items used for this Water fight held on Princes' Park. As the weather was a little dreary, we made sure to hold a "wet zone" and "dry zone" activities to accommodate for students who wanted to participate in the water activities, and students who wanted to chill out or play group games. If a Water Fight is used in future programs, please accommodate for these two zones and ensure that students also have time to dry off (and spaces to change their clothing).

Figure 1: DM 2017 - Student Timetable

DESTINATION MELBOURNE 2017 - STUDENT TIMETABLE					
	Day 1 MONDAY (January 30th)	Day 2 TUESDAY (January 31st)	Day 3 WEDNESDAY (February 1st)		
6:00 AM		STUDENTS - WAKE		6:00 AM	
7:00 AM		WALK TO PRINCES' PARK	STUDENTS - WAKE	7:00 AM	
8:00 AM		WORKOUT (Princes Park)	PACK UP ROOMS	8:00 AM	
9:00 AM		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	9:00 AM	
10:00 AM		GROUP PREP FOR AMAZING RACE	WORKSHOPS	10:00 AM	
11:00 AM	STUDENT ARRIVAL			11:00 AM	
12:00 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	12:00 PM	
1:00 PM				1:00 PM	
2:00 PM	WELCOME CEREMONY (Auditorium)	AMAZING RACE (Around Melbourne CBD)	MYSTERY ACTIVITY	2:00 PM	
3:00 PM	GROUP INTRODUCTIONS		CLOSING CEREMONY	3:00 PM	
4:00 PM		FREE TIME		4:00 PM	
5:00 PM	FREE TIME (SHOP/MYKI RUN IF NEEDED)			5:00 PM	
6:00 PM	DINNER	THEMED DINNER		6:00 PM	
7:00 PM				7:00 PM	
8:00 PM	WALK TO LYGON	TRIVIA NIGHT (Dining Hall)		8:00 PM	
9:00 PM	GELATO CRAWL (Lygon street)			9:00 PM	
10:00 PM	RETURN TO COLLEGE	FREE TIME		10:00 PM	
11:00 PM	FREE TIME			11:00 PM	

LEGEND:	
Meals	
On campus activities	
Off campus activities	
Free time	
Travel	
At St.Hilda (excludes meals and free time)	

NOTE:
EVERYONE TO VACATE ROOMS BY WED 1ST FEB (8AM)

Figure 2: DM 2017 - Host Timetable

DESTINATION MELBOURNE 2017 - HOST TIMETABLE				
	Day 1 MONDAY (January 30th)	Day 2 TUESDAY (January 31st)	Day 3 WEDNESDAY (February 1st)	
5:30 AM		HOSTS - WAKE		5:30 AM
6:00 AM		STUDENTS - WAKE		6:00 AM
7:00 AM		WALK TO PRINCES PARK	STUDENTS - WAKE	7:00 AM
8:00 AM		WORKOUT (Princes Park)	PACK UP ROOMS	8:00 AM
		DEBRIEF	DEBRIEF	
9:00 AM	HOSTS ARRIVE	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	9:00 AM
10:00 AM	WELCOME & TEAM HUDDLE	GROUP PREP FOR AMAZING RACE	WORKSHOPS	10:00 AM
	SET UP FOR STUDENT ARRIVAL			
11:00 AM	STUDENT ARRIVAL			11:00 AM
12:00 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	12:00 PM
1:00 PM				1:00 PM
2:00 PM	WELCOME CEREMONY (Auditorium)	AMAZING RACE (Around Melbourne CBD)	MYSTERY ACTIVITY	2:00 PM
3:00 PM	GROUP INTRODUCTIONS		CLOSING CEREMONY	3:00 PM
4:00 PM				4:00 PM
5:00 PM	FREE TIME (SHOP/MYKI RUN IF NEEDED)	FREE TIME		5:00 PM
6:00 PM	DINNER	THEMED DINNER		6:00 PM
7:00 PM	DEBRIEF			7:00 PM
8:00 PM	WALK TO LYGON	TRIVIA NIGHT (Dining Hall)		8:00 PM
9:00 PM	GELATO CRAWL (Lygon street)	DEBRIEF		9:00 PM
10:00 PM	RETURN TO COLLEGE	FREE GAME/ACTIVITY TIME		10:00 PM
11:00 PM	FREE TIME			11:00 PM

LEGEND:

Meals	
On campus activities	
Off campus activities	
Free time	
Travel	
At St.Hilda (excludes meals and free time)	
Host extra responsibilities	

NOTE:

EVERYONE TO VACATE ROOMS BY WED 1ST FEB (8AM)




Figure 3: DM 2017 - Master Timetable (for Directors and Program Coordinators)


DESTINATION MELBOURNE 2017 - MASTER TIMETABLE				
	Day 1 MONDAY (January 30th)	Day 2 TUESDAY (January 31st)	Day 3 WEDNESDAY (February 1st)	
5:30 AM		Directors, hosts & PCs - Wake		5:30 AM
6:00 AM		Students - Wake		6:00 AM
6:30 AM		Walk to Princes Park	Students - Wake	6:30 AM
7:00 AM		Workout (Princes Park)	PACK UP ROOMS	7:00 AM
7:30 AM	Directors & PCs Arrive and set-up	Debrief	Debrief	7:30 AM
8:00 AM			BREAKFAST	8:00 AM
8:30 AM				8:30 AM
9:00 AM	Hosts arrive	BREAKFAST	Various Academic/ University life sessions (relevant each appropriate sessions)	9:00 AM
9:30 AM	Director, hosts & PCs - Welcome and team huddle	Directors, hosts & PCs - Check in/ Run through of amazing race		9:30 AM
10:00 AM	Set up for student arrival	Group (team) prep for Amazing race		10:00 AM
10:30 AM	Students arrive			10:30 AM
11:00 AM				11:00 AM
11:30 AM				11:30 AM
12:00 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	12:00 PM
12:30 PM				12:30 PM
1:00 PM				1:00 PM
1:30 PM				1:30 PM
2:00 PM	Welcome to Destination Melbourne (Auditorium)	Amazing race (Around Melbourne CBD)	Mystery Activity	2:00 PM
2:30 PM				2:30 PM
3:00 PM	Group introductions & Icebreakers		Closing speech/ Dismissal	3:00 PM
3:30 PM				3:30 PM
4:00 PM				4:00 PM
4:30 PM		Return to college/ Free time		4:30 PM
5:00 PM	Free time/ MYKI & shop run	Directors & PCs - Marking	Directors, PCs and hosts CELEBRATE	5:00 PM
5:30 PM				5:30 PM
6:00 PM	DINNER	THEMED DINNER		6:00 PM
6:30 PM				6:30 PM
7:00 PM	DEBRIEF			7:00 PM
7:30 PM	Walk to Lygon	TRIVIA NIGHT (Dining Hall)		7:30 PM
8:00 PM	Gelato crawl (Lygon street)	DEBRIEF		8:00 PM
8:30 PM				8:30 PM
9:00 PM	Return to college	Directors and PCs - Marking		9:00 PM
9:30 PM				9:30 PM
10:00 PM	Directors and PCs - Marking	Free time		10:00 PM
10:30 PM	Free time for students & hosts			10:30 PM
11:00 PM				11:00 PM
11:30 PM				11:30 PM

LEGEND:

Meals	
On campus activities	
Off campus activities	
Free time	
Travel	
At St.Hilda (excludes meals and free time)	
Host extra responsibilities	
Directors & PCs only	
Not relevant	

NOTE:

EVERYONE TO VACATE ROOMS BY WED 1ST FEB (8AM)



Student & Host Packs

Electronic “Student Packs” were sent to students whose place in the program was secured once application and payments were made. “Host packs” were also made to help hosts prepare for the program beforehand. Both the emailed student and host packs contains:

- Introduction to the camp
- UMSU Camp participation forms
- Program rules and regulations
- Packing lists
- Arrival and departure details (for hosts, they were designated around Melbourne and campus to support student arrival)
- Appropriate program timetable
- St.Hilda Fire & Safety regulations
- Hogwarts Invitation letter to formal dinner (Student pack only)

Advertising and contacting students

Social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) were heavily utilised to branch out program advertising. With the support of the UMSU Communications & Marketing, the program was also well featured on the UMSU website. A strong focus on our advertising was reliant on initial emails we had arranged to be sent out to all 7000 new students who were to receive their University of Melbourne entry offers. University admissions were also supposed to send us the contact details of all these students, so we could also make direct contact with them. This arrangement was organized several weeks prior to the opening of Destination Melbourne applications.

Unfortunately, once offers were released to students, the Admissions department did not send out our pre-written email, nor did they provide us with student details as had been arranged. We were heavily reliant on these emails as our main platform to advertise the program, and without this, the program’s attendance greatly suffered. After persistent contact with the admissions department we managed to obtain the student data of incoming students. However, instead of being multiple lists indicating if an offer had been made through Access Melbourne, Chancellor's Scholars and interstate offers we received one single alphabetical list. From this list we were able to send out emails, texts and conduct cold calling.

Training

Hosts were trained in two training sessions, with frequent open discussion and material covered included:

- What is Destination Melbourne?
- Changes to the program
- Rules of program
- Volunteer rights
- Expectations (of hosts, of directors and possible expectations of students)
- Risk management, OHS
- Overview of the program

A strong element of training was focused on discussion; past hosts conveying their experience to new hosts, possible issues that may arise, as well as any ideas that hosts wanted to incorporate into the program.

Originally, we wanted our Host training to extend beyond administrative information about the program. Social events were initially planned to help form a more cohesive team.

However, due to time constraints and controversy surrounding the program, training was mainly restricted to two training sessions and a morning breakfast.

Host feedback also highlighted their desire to interact with the whole team more through more social events. We support this feedback and with more time, more training and social events can be held for hosts before the camp begins. If future funding allows, we'd also recommend that hosts reside at the camp for one night before commencement of the program so hosts are better prepared for emergencies and bond well as a team.

5. Volunteer Recruitment

Applications for host positions and program coordinators were through a central form on the Destination Melbourne page of the UMSU website. Whenever a person applied we received an email detailing their response. If someone wanted to apply for program coordinator they were instructed to email their resume to Volunteering, Communications and Marketing helped with this process and it worked really well.

There were four applicants for the Program Coordinator position, three of whom were interviewed and offered the position. These interviews were primarily conducted by the volunteer Coordinator and organised by her discretion. Host applications were reviewed by the directors. We interviewed 39 of the 58 applicants for Host program in a rolling process assessing each application as it came through and scheduling interviews between the 1st and the 20st of December with a final decision made and successful applicants contacted on the 23rd. Each interview went for between 15 and 20 minutes and telephone and skype options were available for students unable to make it to Melbourne Uni for the interview. Interviews were conducted by one or two directors and included a mix of traditional questions such as *tell us about a time you have worked as a team* and non-traditional ones that required the applicant to think on their feet such as *if you were a sandwich what would it be like?*

6. Statistics:

For the 2017 program, attendance and participation in the program was as follows:

Host statistics					
Host diversity	Count	Hosts' university experience (categories may overlap)	Count	Host's DM experience	Count
Hosts in their postgraduate study	4	Hosts actively involved with UMSU	14	Hosts who were previously DM students only (not hosts previously)	7
Undergraduate hosts studying Arts	8	Hosts actively (or still) involved with working/volunteering for the University	14	Hosts who have been a past student & host	4
Undergraduate hosts studying Science	7	Hosts undertaking volunteer work outside of University	9	Hosts with no past experience with DM	8
Overall no. of hosts				19	

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, one of our hosts had to withdraw from the program approximately two days before the program was set to begin. Hence, we had 19 hosts in total, rather than the traditional 20 Destination Melbourne hosts.

We believe that, we had a wide diversity of students across from different courses, and different backgrounds. For hosts, diversity in their different university involvement experiences was present (e.g. working at MU sport, well-involved with UMSU, participated in various clubs and societies, etc).

7. Budget and costs

Destination Melbourne is an expensive program to run, as most of the cost is attributed towards student accommodation at St.Hilda's college. It has huge benefits to the students who attend, which represents a minority group within the university comprising of students eligible under the Access Melbourne criterion

(<https://access.unimelb.edu.au/home#eligibility>). However, students who fall under this criterion do not necessarily have to be an Access Melbourne recipient, but must fulfill the eligibility criterion.

UMSU DESTINATION MELBOURNE (2017) - BUDGET				
INCOME (FUNDS)				
<u>Description</u>	<u>GST (\$)</u>	<u>Amount with GST (\$)</u>	<u>Notes</u>	
*UMSU Funding	N/A	\$13,767.00	Honoraria is taken from this funding source	
*Student fee	N/A	\$5,200.00	\$100 per student (52 students total)	
*Student fee (for students qualifying for bursary)	N/A	\$50.00	Students with bursaries paid total fee of \$50 each (only 1 bursary was given)	
*Discount on Accommodation (non-attending students)	\$88.95	\$978.50	St.Hilda provided discount on accommodation for students who did not attend program (accommodation originally booked for 134)	
*Discount on Deposit paid	\$495.03	\$5,445.32	St.Hilda provided a complete refund on our originally paid deposit, in understanding that we did not achieve the student numbers we booked for (accommodation originally booked for 134)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$583.98	\$25,440.82		
OPERATING EXPENSES				
<u>Description</u>	<u>Individual cost</u>	<u>GST (\$)</u>	<u>Amount with GST (\$)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Directors				
*Director's Honoraria	\$1,010.00	N/A	\$1,010.00	Three directors, however, only one director received the honorarium. Honorarium of the other two directors has been applied for, but still yet to be received

*Superannuation	\$90.90	N/A	\$90.900	Approximately (9%). As only one director received honorarium, only one superannuation was spent
Accommodation				
*Accommodation & Meals - 1st 50 Students	\$235.00	\$1,068.18	\$11,750.00	\$235 per students (for the first 50 students)
*Accommodation & Meals - 2nd 50 Students	\$225.00	\$1,022.73	\$11,250.00	\$225 per students (for the second 50 students)
*Accommodation & Meals - 34 Students & Staff	\$215.00	\$664.55	\$7,310.00	\$215 per 34 students (also includes Staff; 3 Program coordinators and 3 directors)
*Auditorium hire	\$200.00	\$18.18	\$200.00	Auditorium only booked for one day
Materials for volunteer hosts				
*T-shirts	\$9.80	\$150.02	\$1,650.22	Total of 149 shirts were ordered at \$9.80 each (Cost of each individual cost includes the t-shirt 'set-up' fee, freight of manufacturer)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$2,923.66	\$35,512.92	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT			-\$7,820.30	

We went over budget by roughly \$7,820.30, most of that being due to two inter-connected reasons; inability to fundraise during the period of controversy, and lower student numbers than expected. Destination Melbourne 2017 also received less funding from Council than they had in 2016 (but more than 2015) and the Volunteering Coordinator submitted a budget that was misleading. It is the Volunteer Coordinator's position to do this and not our responsibility to manage that process but it was incorrect and knowing that there would have been a cut from 2016 rather than a funding increase could have been beneficial.

As we were unable to fundraise during the period of controversy, the individual student cost of the program had to be increased to \$230. The initial budget had included considerable fundraising activities that were not achievable in the time-frame remaining after the controversy had been somewhat resolved. Within a week preceding the camp dates, immediate and drastic changes had to be made in an effort to minimise the amount of expenses made to the program, and boost student numbers. The cost of the program was reduced from \$230 to \$180, and then a drastic drop to \$100 (after cashback) following a steady, but not sufficient, increase in student registration into the program. We also expanded the demographic from exclusively disadvantaged students, to any incoming first year Unimelb students.

In the future, we'd like to see an increase in the Destination Melbourne budget to at least \$16,000. Early appointment of directors, as well as support (particularly when it comes to dealing with the university) and clarity in their role is also important. However we firmly believe that the most significant improvements to the program, will be a change to a more cost-efficient residential accommodation (that is not at a college).

8. Improvements for future directors

- Clarity about funding from UMSU and ideally increased funding
- Assistance on fundraising and grant opportunities that do not overlap with VCESS
- Early recruitment of Directors or equivalent by the volunteering coordinator
- Look at alternative, more cost-efficient accommodation arrangements
- Offer Destination Melbourne as a non-residential program (compensating for the omission of a residential camp by increasing the duration of the program)
- If the camp is to remain residential, offer a non-residential component of the program (as some students might be balancing other commitments, or have accommodation already arranged)
- Schedule meals at the times usually conducted by the college
- Designating an activities and welfare leadership role as opposed to merging them into a program coordinator role. This ensures that the welfare leader can focus on primarily on student welfare without having to coordinate an activity at the same time"
- Always have a portable first aid kit
- Apply for grants and funding as early as possible
- Organise focus groups for past students, hosts and directors (and others with a vested interest in supporting the program) to help facilitate discussion and openly share ideas about how we can better improve the program
- Promotional events at Open Day or Change of Preference information day to help market the program early to prospective Unimelb students
- Look at how other universities support students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Investigate the possibility of organising "pre-registration for the program" (students apply early for the program before they receive their university offer, and if they receive a Unimelb offer, their registration is finalised with medical forms and payment of the program)
- If funding allows, hosts could reside at the camp for one night before commencement of the program so hosts are better prepared for emergencies and bond well as a team.

9. Recommendations:

In future iterations of the program we recommend the following:

1. Find alternate and more cost-efficient accommodation
2. Investigate the possibility of a non-residential day program
3. For the 2018 program, advertising for the Directorship should begin
4. Details regarding the appointment of directors should be through an open application and interview process, with the final decision to be made by the Volunteer coordinator (Goldie Pergl)
5. Honorarium of \$3,000 per director. Other volunteering programs receive significantly more than \$1000 for each Destination Melbourne director. At present, DM Directors receive the lowest honorarium out of the four volunteering programs (Host Program, Mentoring and VCE Summer school), which receive between \$3,000 to \$8,000 honoraria per director
6. Establishing a designated welfare leadership role
7. Begin accepting Access Melbourne guarantee student for places in the program as soon as ATAR results come out, before VTAC Round 1 offers are released
8. Budget of at least \$16,000

10. Final note- Conclusion:

Overall, Destination Melbourne 2017 has undergone a vast amount of changes and complications. It is with this view that we emphasize the importance of how much this program needs to be better financially and logistically supported. We also strongly emphasize the early recruitment of directors, as this program takes a significantly large amount of time to organise. However, students who engage with Destination Melbourne are more likely to be involved in UMSU, the University, and considerably less likely to drop out of university. We are thankful for the support of Stephanie Di Battista (UMSU Volunteer Coordinator), our dedicated hosts, engaging program coordinators and wonderful students, to bring together a diversity of students as one inclusive, open and supportive community.

