



**Media release**

**For immediate release**

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### **INZONE SCHOOL LEAVERS LEAP TOWARDS EXCITING FUTURE**

A group of Maori and Pacific Island school leavers who are part of Auckland's InZone Education Programme ended high school with a Bungy off the Auckland Harbour Bridge this week through AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand's JumpStart programme.

All 14 final year students – 13 boys and one girl – from InZone's educational programme that offers Maori and Pacific Island youth, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to be rehoused in-zone for top Auckland schools, Auckland Grammar and Epsom Girls Grammar School, jumped for free off the 40m high bridge. A long-time tradition in the home of Bungy Queenstown, this is the first time Bungy's JumpStart leap for school leavers has been offered in Auckland.

"Every year we offer our local Queenstown school leavers the opportunity to Bungy off the Kawarau Bridge – the home of Bungy – as a fitting rite of passage for young people that have grown up in the area," says Henry van Asch, AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand co-founder and managing director.

"We're really excited to bring this experience to our Auckland operation and the inspiring group of InZone school leavers who have worked incredibly hard to get to where they are. We know that Bungy will give these kids a great boost with the confidence that 'if I can do this, I can do anything'. It's our gift of an iconic Kiwi experience and a taste of the Bungy attitude as they continue on to the next stage of their lives."

Says InZone General Manager Mark Veale: "The students of InZone are proud if slightly nervous to take the opportunity to symbolise their transition from student to young adult by Bungy jumping with the awesome team at AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand."

"All 14 students are leaping towards exciting future plans, including overseas sporting opportunities, university and other tertiary study, and trade apprenticeships. One of our students, who will be attending MAINZ to do sound engineering, will be returning to InZone as a mentor to other students, completing the InZone education cycle."

The InZone education project began in 2011 as an avenue to help kids from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their full potential. Originally just offered to boys, the programme was extended with a girls' hostel opening in 2015.

Almost 700 Queenstown school leavers have jumped since the company first offered JumpStart in 2005 to coincide with the school graduation of those local kids born in 1988 when Bungy was born. Mr van Asch says the company launched JumpStart after recognising many Queenstown students left town after finishing their schooling.

## **ENDS**

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