



Mike Conway, Founder & CEO, Xventure

Mike is the Founder and CEO of Xventure, a unique learning, leadership and media group. TV Director, writer, business leader, clinician and coach to elite sports stars, senior executives and entertainers. He is known for his “can do” unconventional and passionate approach in creating cutting- edge individual and team learning programs globally.

As an adjunct to this, his rich and paralleled expertise and genuine care and interest in people sees him consistently sought after as a mentor and advisor to executives, entertainers and sports stars in organisations around the globe.

He is fascinated with the connection between the brain, behaviour and individual and team decision making and is on the cutting edge of work in the field of emotional intelligence, resilience, leadership and anxiety management. He constantly stretches the envelope in the search for solutions to improve real results for individual and team performance. He has designed a new emotional diagnostic which was featured on two national tv series he wrote and directed in 2018 and 2019 and now has over 5000 datasets. This has been followed by a similar diagnostic on communication along with a state of art program on team communication using AI technology.

Originally from Manchester he studied social sciences majoring in health management at Sheffield Hallam University and studying rigorous modules in psychology, communication, and sociology. His dissertation on Maslow theory, self-actualisation and health education in schools set the tone for his fascination in health, psychology and organisation and behaviour theory. This led to a career in the teaching hospitals in the UK, specialising in cultural and organisational change in acute, community and mental health services. Establishing health consulting for EY in Manchester he came to Australia in the early 90s to work on some of the biggest health infrastructure projects with EY then Deloitte including the Kids hospital move across Sydney.

Following this, five years leading strategy, business development, HR, IT and learning and education at Standards Australia set the path for taking Australian products globally and reengineering major organisation’s services and products. This included the roll out of risk management standards and training across the world. What next was a landmark in Australian business. A ten year tenure as business leader at The Wiggles where he played an instrumental part in building the brand globally. Rolling out the Wiggles brand across 120 countries and helping establish The Wiggles as the standard for live entertainment and education for early learning globally.

In 2016 he was appointed as Emotional Intelligence, Resilience & Leadership Advisor to Sydney FC, and in the three years the team broke every record in soccer in Australia. Mike has also been the Emotional Agility and Mind Coach for the Australian National Football team, the Socceroos for the last four years including the World Cup campaign in Qatar. He’s been asked to help many elite teams and athletes including the Adelaide 36ers basketball, Birmingham Phoenix women’s cricket, Sydney Thunder/Sixers WBBL, the Western Sydney Wanderers, Wellington Phoenix, Melbourne City, Perth Glory and Western United.

His huge experience, academic qualifications including first degree, MBA and health and clinical qualifications, study and constant contemporary research enables him to support individuals and teams from all walks of life, be it senior executives, elite sports people, world class entertainers achieve amazing things. This included advice and support to Cricket Australia’s emerging group of coaches through regular strategy sessions and similar to the armed forces emerging



officers. It was at The Wiggles that he forged a relationship with Steve Waugh helping him to develop his Foundation for Kids with Rare Diseases and also becoming a Board member at the Central Coast Mariners, a position he held for two seasons. He has most recently been described as “the coaches coach.”

He is a thought leader in the development of meta based practical business solutions, particularly focussed on learning and education. His XVenture team has been responsible for leading, partnering, building and delivering meta solutions for organisations in many industry sectors in Australia, the UK, the USA, Netherlands and Asia. As one business leader said “Mike created the meta before the meta!”

Over the last 6 years, XVenture has worked with thousands of people from industries and countries far and wide, lifting the ceiling on individual performance, often blending experiential programs and state of the art audio visual media to affect people’s performance. This has been seen in numerous places including the XVenture Corporate Challenge on One HD and two series of XVenture Family Challenge TV show on the Three network (NZ) and Channel Ten, tv series Mike, wrote, created, and directed which focuses on learning, growth, and development in families. He’s provided advice to many high-profile organisations including ASX, Westpac, ABB, Woolworths, Stryker, PWC, EY, Deloitte, and Commsec. He’s now built the XVenture VR World solutions which has been used by groups such as TKD Australia, FCA, Gymshark, Australian Women’s cricket team HP, Adidas, and many others.

His development of the unique audio visual and app program on leadership (100 Leaders) including interviewing individuals such as Dr. John Morris, Ronnie Kahn of Ozharvest, Meat Loaf, John Reid, Kym Johnson, Laura Geitz, Michael Kasproicz and Steve Waugh, has been a landmark and used in Universities, schools and in top performing organisations. His advice and support to coaches and elite sports people from rugby, basketball, netball, equestrian, track and field, cricket and soccer; the global dance show Burn the Floor is also well known.

His 2021 FCA XVenture Essential Skills program is a landmark in coaching: delivered in a virtual world is now used by over 600 coaches around the world is recognised by universities. The 5 modules 500,000 word program on emotional intelligence, resilience, leadership, communications and culture brings together a significant body of work on emotional well-being and team dynamics made available to the masses.

The latest work has included introducing South Australia Schools and NSW schools Principals and teachers on the practical application of emotional intelligence, resilience and leadership into the classroom and working life using virtual reality solutions to engage teacher and students. This has included the Minister of Health in South Australia including Mike’s program into the SACE (HSC) program and saw him leading a major program in Parliament on behalf of the NSW Government to inspire young people in preparation for employment building emotional agility and resilience techniques, and leading a major piece of work with NSW Distance Education.

He has been appointed Honorary professor at University of Wollongong in recognition of his work in the areas of emotional agility, resilience and leadership. Underpinning all of Mike’s work across business, elite sport, youth, and education is a positive psychology approach, including research and development in emotional agility, resilience, and leadership. He has also held similar positions at MGSM for his work on the unique MBA program elective Leadership and Teams in Action.

His thoughts and ideas have been seen in a number of places, including major conferences such as; Deloitte Australia’s Partner Conference (keynote), Ernst and Young Consulting Annual Conference (keynote); Optus Annual Conference (keynote), MIPCOM Cannes, the CPA National Conference, PWC’s Outlook program and has a chapter in Wallaby great John Eales’ book on Business Legends and the Thankful Project. Over the years his written observations on personal growth and team development have been and continued to be utilised in organisations all over the World.

Mike lives on Sydney’s Northern Beaches, has been married to Denise for 36 years a vascular and psychiatric nurse. He has four children, one a psychiatrist, a project manager, a police officer, and a special ops paramedic.