

*Lotus Place is a dedicated support service and resource centre for adults who as children lived in out-of-home care and adults who experienced sexual, physical, emotional and spiritual abuse in out-of-home care or religious or institutional settings.*

*Micah projects supports people who have experienced abuse to seek acknowledgement and redress by Churches, Governments and Community Organisations who failed in their duty of care.*

## Selena has joined the Lotus Place team as the new manager for Central Queensland.

I am very excited and looking forward to my role with Lotus Place, I have now been here a total of four days and had the pleasure of lunching with some of you on my second day in the office. I received a very warm welcome from those that attended (thank you) and now look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

First of all, a little bit about me; I have lived and worked in Central Queensland for most of my life, having a work background in Child Protection, Mental Health and Family Support. On a personal note, I have the pleasure of being a mother and grandmother, and enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being on the beach, in the garden and at a local theatre group.

Joining Lotus Place was an appealing choice because of the opportunities to create space for voices and choices and the values of social justice. Over the next few months I will begin to talk to you and look for ways to progress the great work that you, Lotus Place and Micah Projects have done over the years.

Pop in and say hello, our doors are open between 8.30am to 2pm Monday through to Thursday. However I can be reached by telephoning the office any weekday. I really do look forward to meeting you and hearing about ways that we can work together.

- Selena



Above: Selena, Lotus Place Central Queensland Manager

## Remembrance Day 2016



Remembrance Day acknowledges the courage of adults, who, as children, were in the care of the church or state in out of home care.

Remembrance Day will be commemorated

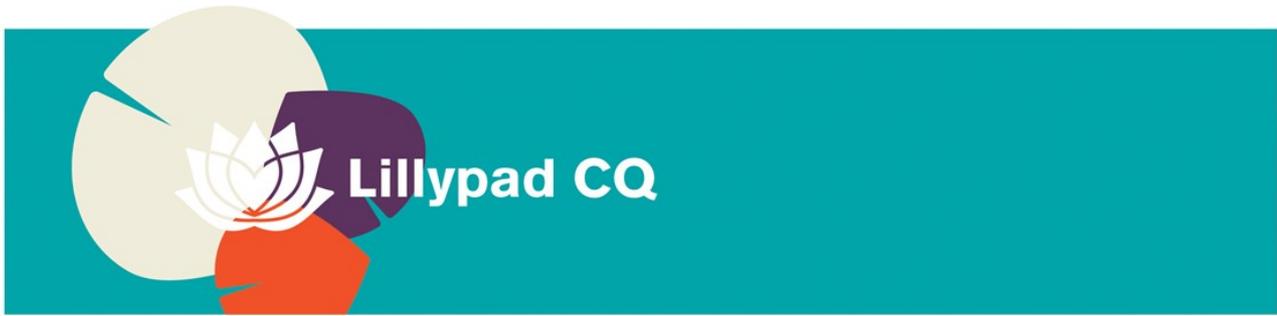
in Rockhampton on 6 September (during Child Protection week 4-10 September) at the North Rockhampton Bowls Club.

Invitations will be mailed out in the near future.

Lotus Place CQ  
ADVOCACY JUSTICE COMMUNITY

Swan Office Building, 159 Denison Street, Rockhampton Q 4700  
PO Box 586, Rockhampton Q 4700  
Ph & Fax 07 4927 7604 or Find & Connect 1800 16 11 09  
lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au | [www.lotusplace.org.au](http://www.lotusplace.org.au)





At our June luncheon we were joined by Karen and Deb from Tenants Qld or QSTARS (Qld Statewide Tenant Advice and Referral Service). QSTARS represent all Queensland tenants who rent, including caravan park tenants and boarding house tenants. It is a free service funded by the Queensland government and aims to improve conditions for residents and to let you know about your legal rights and responsibilities.

QSTARS can assist you with:

- Advice and assistance to understand your tenancy rights and responsibilities
- Support to resolve your tenancy issue
- Helping you to talk to your lessor or agent
- Help to write a letter or fill in tenancy forms



*Above: Karen and Deb from Tenants Queensland*

- Help to attend or prepare for a QCAT tenancy tribunal hearing
- Referral to other services if needed

Contact Karen and Deb on 1300 744 263 or visit [www.qstars.org.au](http://www.qstars.org.au) for tenancy information.

### Royal Commission Private Sessions



The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is closing registrations for private sessions on 30 September 2016.

“The Commissioners recognise that for individuals who have been traumatised by sexual abuse giving an account of their experiences and telling their story to a Commissioner is, for many survivors, an important part of their personal journey,” Justice McClellan said. “The information which the Commission has

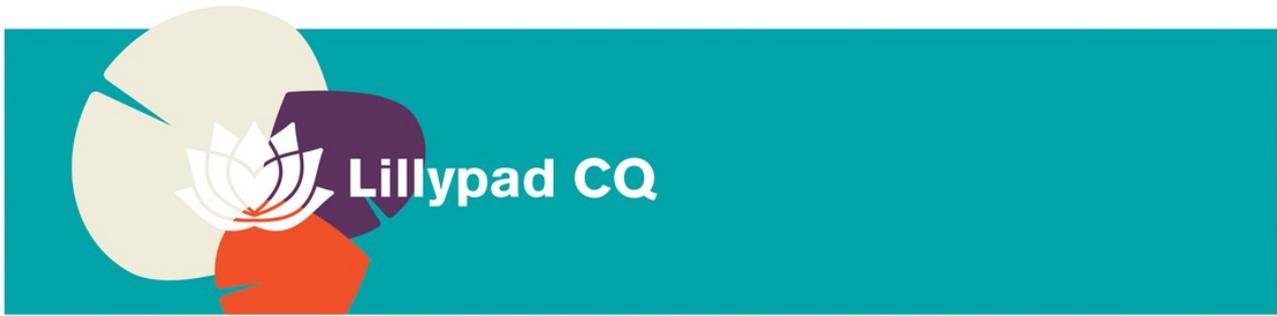
obtained from survivors has proved to be critical in informing our investigations and will provide a secure foundation for many of our final recommendations,” he said.

The closing date applies only to new applications for a private session. People who have already been accepted for a private session or who apply before 30 September will have an opportunity to meet with a Commissioner. The Royal Commission will still accept written accounts after 30 September. To obtain a copy of the booklet “Closing Private Sessions Registrations” please call Lotus Place on 07 4927 7604 or email [lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au) and we can post you a booklet.

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Lotus Place has a computer available for your use. Update your resume, create documents, access your online Centrelink account or email account, research or just to surf the net. Leigh is also available to assist if needed, so no skills are required!



### Forde Foundation

The next round of the Forde Foundation grant applications closes on Friday 9 September. To be eligible for a Forde Foundation grant, you must have been in care in Queensland.

For more information on Forde Foundation grants and how to apply, see their website: <http://fordefoundation.org.au/> or contact Leigh at Lotus Place on 4927 7604 or email [lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au)

### Agency visits to Lotus Place

Don't forget if need assistance with any legal issues, Lotus Place is visited monthly by the Central Queensland Community Legal Centre (CQCLC). CQCLC is an independent non-profit organisation funded by grants from the State and Federal governments and donations from the general public.

The service provides general legal advice, referral and some casework on a full time basis. It services communities stretching from just south

of Mackay to Bundaberg and west to the Queensland border. The Centre also undertakes collaborative community legal education activities.

Centrelink also visits Lotus Place each month to answer your questions or make enquiries.

To book an appointment time with CQCLC or Centrelink, please contact Leigh at Lotus Place on 4927 7604 or email: [lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au)



### Dr Adele Chynoweth

We recently had a visit from Dr Adele Chynoweth, curator of the exhibition "Life in Children's Homes and Institutions", which opened at the National Museum Canberra in November 2011. Some pictures and excerpts of this exhibition are on the walls at Lotus Place.

Thank you to Christine for bringing Adele along to see our centre.

*Left: Adele, Christine and Leigh*

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**Lillypad CQ**

### John's Corner

Hello to all our people with an extended warm welcome to Selena.

Great to see Karen at our morning teas (what a caring lady she is) - also old mate Frank and his wife Carol who travels up all the way from Gin Gin. Last but not least great to see you Margaret P.

Our last luncheon on the 5th July was again yummy, and sweets - pavlova and fruit was delicious.

Great to see Adele from Lotus in Brisbane up for a few days.

Bye to you all.

Stay safe and see you again at our next morning tea!

- John



*Above: Adele, John, Leigh and Selena*

Q. Why do oysters go to the gym?

A. It's good for the mussels!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Morning Tea at Lotus Place Tuesday 19 July Tuesday 9 August Tuesday 16 August Tuesday 23 August	10am - 11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b> at Lotus Place, 159 Denison Street, Rockhampton
Tuesday 2 August	10.00am	<b>Centrelink</b> visit to Lotus Place. For an appointment, please call Lotus Place on 4927 7604
Tuesday 2 August	12.00pm	<b>Lunch</b> at Lotus Place. Please RSVP by Monday 1 August , phone 4927 7604
Tuesday 18 August	10.00am - 11.00am	<b>Central Qld Community Legal Service</b> visit to Lotus Place. For an appointment, please call Lotus Place on 4927 7604
Tuesday 6 September	12pm—2pm	Remembrance Day Ceremony. Venue: North Rockhampton Bowls Club

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