

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.

Welcome to Issue 5 of the CQ Lillypad.

Word has probably filtered out by now that I will be leaving Lotus Place to relocate to Brisbane to be closer to my family. The last two and a half years have been a pleasure and I will be sad to leave the wonderful people I have met and worked with over my time at Lotus Place. The great memories and people will long live in my heart. I would ask that everyone welcome my replacement who will start after I leave and make them feel as welcome as I have been made to feel.

We had the privilege of having our monthly

luncheon at the Central Qld Community Legal Centre premises. We were invited to their new centre to check out the venue. Thanks to Wayne, Flora, Fay and Judy for your warm welcome.

The next luncheon will be 12pm, Tuesday 7 June with guest speaker Karen from Tennant's Queensland - so if you rent privately or are in public housing, bring along all your questions.

For those of you who may be able to stop by and say goodbye, I will be having morning tea on Thursday 19 May from 10.00am (instead of the normal Tuesday morning tea) at Lotus - Mark

Centacare CQ Community Transport

Centacare CQ offers an affordable, door-to-door Community Transport Service in Rockhampton and Bundaberg, enabling passengers to travel regularly for health appointments, shopping, and social outings.

Centacare welcomes the aged, those living with disability, and socially disadvantaged members of the public, to make use of our convenient and affordable Transport Services.

If you are over 65, on a full or part pension or

receiving subsidies under the following program/s, you may be eligible:

- Home Support Program
- Qld Community Care
- Home Care Packages
- Disability Support Program

If you are not eligible for any of the above subsidies, you may be still eligible as a private passenger. Transport and booking available Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm. Fees are calculated to suit individual needs. For more information, please call Centacare on phone: **1800 374 772**

Royal Commission closes registrations for private sessions

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

Private sessions allow survivors of child sexual abuse in an institution to share their story directly with a Commissioner in a private setting.

The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM, Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse said the strong demand from survivors to share their story has resulted in a queue of people waiting to meet with a Commissioner. “The rate at which people come to the Commission seeking a private session shows no present sign of diminishing. It has averaged 37 per week over the past 12 months,” Justice McClellan said. “If the present demand for private sessions continues throughout the life of the Commission, unless we close off applications well before we complete our final report, many people who may seek a private session will be disappointed.”

“In our view it would be intolerable for a survivor to be accepted for a private session only to find we could not meet with them,” he said.

The first private session was held on Tuesday 7 May 2013 in Parramatta, NSW, and this month, the Royal Commission completed its 5,000th private session in Queensland. There are more than 1,500 people currently waiting for a private session. “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.

“There can be no exceptions for any application received after that date. I know this will mean that some people will be disappointed. For that the Commissioners are sorry,” Justice McClellan said.

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(Royal Commission continued)

Private sessions are unique to this Royal Commission. The Commonwealth Parliament amended the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* so that Commissioners could hear from survivors in private and 'bear witness' to their stories of abuse.

Private session accounts are being written up and de-identified, and will be presented as part of the Royal Commission's Final Report.

Private sessions are held in all capital cities and have also been held in regional areas including Cairns, Coolangatta, Hervey Bay, Rockhampton, Townsville, Woorabinda, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Penrith, Launceston, Kimberley, Bunbury, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Warrnambool.

Private sessions also have been held for inmates in 26 correctional centres in NSW, ACT and Victoria.

Trevor visits Neerkol Memorial Garden

Trevor visited the recently opened Children's Memorial Garden, Neerkol. The garden has been made possible by the Forgotten Australian's Justice Committee with support and generous donations from many Rockhampton region local businesses and Rockhampton people.

Trevor, an ex-resident and former worker, spent 30 years at Neerkol. He said the garden has been beautifully done and he hopes to visit it again in the future.

The garden is located on Meteor Park Road, Neerkol.

Right: Mark and Trevor
Below: Trevor



Lotus Place CQ
ADVOCACY JUSTICE COMMUNITY

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PO Box 586, Rockhampton Q 4700
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John's Corner

Hello everyone.

As we all know Graham has a passion for cooking. At our last morning tea, he turned up with Lemon Sago pudding. What a winner that was. Thanks for the recipe. Thanks for baking those amazing treats for everyone. I've been in contact with Bob lately and he is so looking forward to catching up with everyone again very soon.

As you know by now our leader Mark will be leaving us to take up a position with the Men of

League foundation in Brisbane as the QLD welfare manager. I for one will be extremely sad to see him go as we have become the best of mates. Good luck to my old mate.

Take care and stay safe.



- John

Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?

A. Because she was a free range chicken and she can do whatever she wants too

UPCOMING EVENTS May/June 2016

Morning Tea at Lotus Place Tuesday 10 May Tuesday 24 May Tuesday 31 May	10am - 11.00am	Morning Tea at Lotus Place, 159 Denison Street, Rockhampton
Morning Tea at Lotus Place Thursday 19 May	10.00am - 11.00am	Morning Tea at Lotus Place. Drop in and say goodbye to Mark
Tuesday 7 June	10.00am - 11.00am	Centrelink visit to Lotus Place. For an appointment, please call Lotus Place on 4727 7604
Tuesday 7 June	12.00pm	Lunch at Lotus Place. Guest speaker, Karen, Tenant's Union. Please RSVP by Monday 6 June, phone 4927 7604
Morning Tea at Lotus Place Tuesday 14 June Tuesday 21 June Tuesday 28 June	10am - 11.00am	Morning Tea at Lotus Place, 159 Denison Street, Rockhampton

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