

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.

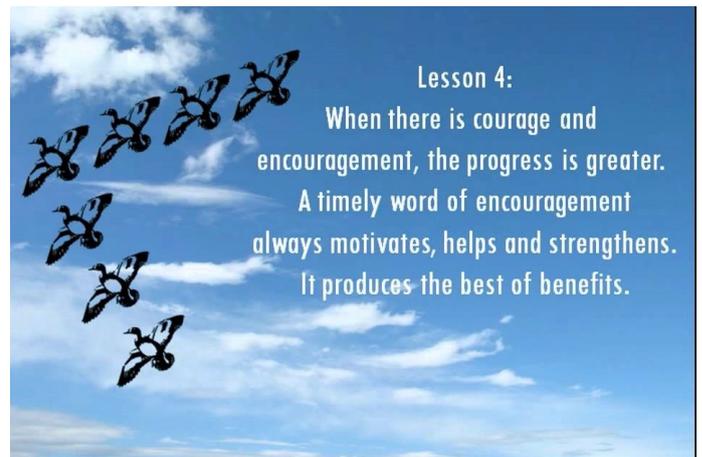
Micah projects supports people who have experienced abuse to seek acknowledgement and redress by Churches, Governments and Community Organisations who failed in their duty of care.

Quite often when I finish work on a Friday, I head down the beach for some fishing, last Friday I was doing just this when I noticed five or six flocks of geese flying overhead and honking. I suspect that they were all heading home before the sun went down. I became completely fascinated by the sheer numbers of geese moving around at this time of day, I began to think about stories I have heard about what geese can teach us about teamwork and leadership.

Geese (like some other birds) fly in a V formation, because this formation provides additional lift for the birds behind it, when the lead bird tires it moves to the back and another takes its place, thus each gets to share the load. Geese honk a lot, so they stay in regular communication with each other, they also care for any goose that becomes sick, supporting it until it either recovers or dies.

I began to reflect on how I see people here leading and supporting each other through many ways including the sharing food, ideas and knowledge on how to manage certain things, offers of transport and listening to each other. All of the things which make up for a rich community of

people and something that is particularly important to remember as we head into the Christmas season, a time that can be mixed for people, it may bring friendship and joy, but can also bring loneliness, sadness and stress. Planning ahead about how you will spend the day, focusing on what is most important to you and staying connected can be useful techniques for this period.



Lessons from Geese - Robert McNeish (1972)

The office will be open over the break (except for public holidays), and we would like to wish you all a happy, safe Christmas and New Year.

Regards,

Selena





Anniversary of the Apology Luncheon

An event to mark seven years since the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants was held in Rockhampton at the Leichhardt Hotel.

This year we shared food and reflected on what the apology meant to us in 2009 and what it means now - what has achieved, what is yet to be achieved and the impact on us as individuals and as a group. People also took the opportunity to share their poetry.

Particular note must be made of Tracy who wrote hers in a space of 5 minutes and has agreed to share it with us all.



A POEM
by Tracy Baker

*Our voices are loud
Our voices are strong
We've told our stories for all to hear
No more alone for forgotten we're not
Lotus was formed to help us when needed
Our group. Our friends
Silent no more for we are heard.*

THE APOLOGY 2009
Then....

THE APOLOGY 2009
Now....

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@michaprojects.org.au | www.lotusplace.org.au





UPCOMING EVENTS - Lotus Place Rockhampton

Morning Tea	10.00am - 11.00am Each Tuesday (except when lunch)	Lotus Place 159 Denison Street Rockhampton 4700	Phone: 4927 7604
Centrelink visit to Lotus Place	10.00am Wednesday 7 December	Lotus Place 159 Denison Street Rockhampton 4700	Phone for appointment time: 4927 7604
Christmas Luncheon Rockhampton	12.30 - 2.30pm Tuesday 13 December	Frenchville Sports Club 105 Clifton Street Berserker 4701	RSVP Monday 5 Dec Phone: 4927 7604
Christmas Luncheon Bundaberg	12.30 - 2.30pm Wednesday 21 Dec	Across the Waves 1 Miller Street Bundaberg 4670	RSVP Wednesday 14 Dec Phone: 4927 7604
Central Qld Community Legal Centre visit to Lotus Place	10.00am Wednesday 14 Dec	Lotus Place 159 Denison Street Rockhampton 4700	Phone for appointment time: 4927 7604
Lotus Place closed for Public Holidays	Monday 26 December Tuesday 27 December Monday 2 January		

Reclaiming our Histories and Identities through Writing

A small group met with Troy Holland in Rockhampton on November 25 to explore the possibility of meeting regularly to write, reclaiming our histories and identities through writing.

The group shared experiences and ideas about writing as well as explored the possibility of meeting in the new year.

If you are interested in joining the writing group in Rockhampton, its not too late to join us. Phone Lotus Place on 4927 7604.



Above : Marilyn, Monica, Patsy and Troy
(standing)

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It was with great sadness that we became aware of the death of Neville Thring on the 15th November 2016. His funeral was held on the 23rd November 2016.

Neville will be greatly missed by his family, friends and those of us from Lotus Place who got to enjoy his company and presence.

Rest in Peace Nev.



What's New?

The Australian Government is establishing a Commonwealth Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse. Survivors who suffered childhood sexual abuse in Commonwealth institutional settings will be able to access redress under the scheme. In addition, consistent with the Government's commitment to redress being provided to as many survivors as possible by responsible institutions, the Government has invited state and territory governments to opt in to the scheme, so that survivors who suffered childhood sexual abuse in state and territory government institutions can also access redress. In addition, if states refer sufficient powers, churches, charities and other community based institutions could opt in to the scheme so that those survivors could also access redress.

The announcement of this scheme is an acknowledgement by the Australian Government that the childhood sexual abuse suffered by children in Commonwealth institutional settings was wrong, and should not have happened. It recognises the suffering survivors can experience. It also demonstrates the Government's leadership in encouraging states, territories and non-government institutions to take responsibility for providing redress to their survivors.

The scheme will provide survivors with access to a monetary payment of up to \$150,000 to acknowledge the terrible sexual abuse inflicted upon them as children was wrong and should not have happened, and that they have suffered hurt

and harm as a result. The scheme is not just about providing survivors with monetary recognition – of equal importance it provides survivors with the opportunity to receive emotional and mental support through trauma-informed and culturally appropriate counselling to assist survivors in the redress process, and to help address the lasting impacts of the childhood sexual abuse they experienced. Survivors will also have access to community-based supports to provide advocacy, case management and support to connect them with existing services.

Should they wish, survivors will also have the opportunity to tell their personal story about what happened to them to a very senior person, and to receive direct personal acknowledgement and response.

The scheme will be best practice, and be delivered in accordance with a trauma-informed approach. It will be established in 2018. The Government will work closely with interested state and territory governments, and non-government institutions to both finalise the detailed design of the scheme, and encourage their participation.

An independent Advisory Council will bring together a broad group of specialists, including survivor groups, legal and psychological experts, to provide input on the implementation of the scheme.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/LegalSystem/commonwealth-redress-scheme-for-survivors-of-institutional-childhood-sexual-abuse/Pages/default.aspx>

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Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse A summary of a report - Creating Child Safe Institutions July 2016

This report identified a list of 10 elements that go towards to creating a child safe institution and the Commission’s final report will provide a detailed explanation of these elements and institutions, governments and communities can better protect children. The report states that all institutions need to ensure that they act with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. Child Safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture.

1. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
2. Families and communities are informed and involved
3. Equity is promoted and diversity respected
4. People working with children are suitable and supported
5. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused
6. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
7. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur
8. Implementation of child safe standards is continuously reviewed and improved
9. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe

The full report can be found on the Royal Commission’s website here:

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/5d0dc659-68c2-46f9-847b-fafd52f58673/Creating-child-safe-institutions>

Community Support Services

Mensline Australia	1300 789 978	SES - emergency flood/storm	13 25 00
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277	Ergon - Faults 24hrs	13 22 96
Beyond Blue Info Line	1300 224 636	Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services	4938 6996
Lifeline Telephone Counselling	13 11 14	Office of Fair Trading - consumer advice	13 74 68
Kids Help Line	1800 551 800	Lifeline Financial First Aid Line	1800 007 007
The Workplace Ombudsman	1800 618 366	Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
Job Network	13 62 68	Welfare Rights Centre	1800 358 511
DVconnect	1800 811 811	Legal Aid Qld	1300 651 188
Parentline	1300 301 300	Centrelink - Older Australians	13 23 00
Salvo Care Line	1300 363 622	Centrelink - Employment Services	13 24 68



John's Corner

Hello Everyone.

As we all know we lost our good mate, Neville last month.

Elaine is away on a cruise - can't wait to see all the happy snaps on her return.

Had a great roll up last morning tea, great to see Brett coming along every Tuesday - he has given my wife Rose some information on gardening and shared his stories about his cats.

Looking forward to our Xmas lunch and reunion on the 13th December - see you all there.

I wish Adele and Head Office a Merry Christmas and to all our members here stay safe and love to all!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

- John



Q. What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas Eve.

Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree in the living room and eat candy out of your socks?



Around the Region

FREE LEGAL ADVICE - Wide Bay

Is the cost of legal advice stopping you from seeking help?

Free, confidential, 15-minute legal advice sessions are available to residents within the Bundaberg and North Burnett regions through the Taylor Street Community Legal Service. Sessions are by appointment only.

If you are a resident of the Bundaberg, Childers or North Burnett region call **4194 2663** to make an appointment.

Gin Gin residents please call **4130 4630**.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE - Central Qld

Central Queensland Community Legal Centre is an independent non-profit organisation funded by grants from the State and Federal governments, donations from the general public and membership fees. 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 **1800 155 121** or **4922 1200**

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