

Lillypad

Lillypad is a newsletter of Lotus Place CQ.
Lotus Place is a dedicated support service and resource centre for adults who experienced childhood abuse in an institutional setting.



www.lotusplace.org.au | Central Queensland | June 2019

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June 2019

Lotus Place CQ Updates

We are continuing to support people with their applications to the National Redress Scheme. If you would like to talk to Selena or would like some more information please call the office. If you would like support to access records or connect with the Forde Foundation, please contact Tamaine.

In Rockhampton we organised a morning tea at the Red Lion Hotel in order to watch a live-stream of the event in Brisbane. Unfortunately, we were unable to connect and watch the event. Therefore, on the next page, we included some information about the event. Please enjoy the read.

Despite not being able to watch the event we did have an opportunity to share some food, talk with each other and workers in the field. Some photos are included.



Closing dates for submissions for 2019 grant rounds are:

- 30th August 2019
- 15th November 2019

For more information about the Forde Foundation and to find out if you are eligible to apply for a grant, visit The Forde Foundation website: www.fordefoundation.org.au or phone 1800 674 256

20th Anniversary of the Forde Inquiry

On Friday 31st May, 20 years after handing down the Forde Inquiry, the Forde Foundation together with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Micah Projects acknowledged the importance of the Forde Inquiry Report and the thousands of children and young people whose lives were irrevocably affected by the harm they experienced. They acknowledged the courage of every child, young person and adult who spoke out.

Kay McGrath welcomed everybody, including people in Townsville and Rockhampton – to whom the ceremony was live-streamed.

Song woman **Maroochy Barambah** performed a traditional blessing - she is of the Turrbal-Gubbi Gubbi people and a member of the Stolen Generations.

With One Voice Brisbane choir – led by Kath Mundy and Jay Turner – sang two songs - *It's Time to Sing* and *All Around the World*. They were magnificent and very moving.

The Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence said it was an honour to be the Minister responsible for the work of reparation and making amends: “Thank you for your bravery and patience. I’m astonished and inspired by you.”

The Honourable Leneen Forde, former Governor of Queensland, said she was honoured to have been asked to be part of the Commission. She said: “You’ve all come such a long way. I just wanted to stand here and look at all of you. Keep looking to the future with joy in your hearts because you’ve made it better. It could never have been a success without those who came forward. They were terrible stories to listen to, let alone live through. I will never forget them.” Leneen noted that those who came forward “continued to say, ‘we don’t want this to happen to other children’.” In closing she said: “A nation’s most vulnerable and valuable asset are its children.”



The Honourable Leneen Forde

Robyn Eltherington acknowledged those who passed and there was a minute’s silence.

Anna Bligh, former Queensland Premier, spoke via pre-recorded video about the immense power of the truth and the courage and bravery of people who came forward and the resulting apology and the shift in how people came to think about the responsible care of children and the creation of a Redress scheme - all due to the people who came out and spoke up. She also spoke about her appointment of Leneen Forde to lead the Inquiry: “Leneen made it clear that the Inquiry would be a close examination of the truth... She also brought so much compassion. The great lesson is the immense power of the truth when it

has been long denied.” She noted that this Inquiry led to “an apology, a change to how the state looked after children and saw the closure of some detention facilities.”



Karen Walsh



Memorials

Karyn Walsh, Micah Projects Ltd. CEO invited the Queensland Government to consider making an enduring legacy – she suggested that a child welfare museum or gallery would be welcomed. She thanked all people who have supported Micah Projects in its work through Lotus Place and advocated we must continue to prevent removal of children from their families and make sure children are safe. She thanked Kay McGrath for her contribution and commitment over the years.

The Forde Inquiry began a movement that recognised, acknowledged, respected and honoured the experiences of people who survived the institutions and systems that were meant to support and care for them as children and young people, but instead brutalised, abused and neglected them. Since then, several apologies have been made to the hundreds of thousands who suffered institutional abuse.



People attending the 20th Anniversary of the Forde Inquiry Rockhampton

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grant Program

Minister Farmer has recently announced the new Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grant Program. The purpose of these grants is to continue in the footsteps of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse by revealing the truth of what happened to children and contributing to healing and reconciliation in Queensland.

The program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 for community groups and organisations to undertake projects related to truth, healing and reconciling histories of people with lived experience of institutional child abuse across all Queensland communities from 1st October – 31st December 2019. The total amount of funding available is \$50,000.

Activities may include projects, events or initiatives that:

- acknowledge and raise awareness of institutional child abuse and its impact
- support those with lived experience to speak out and share their stories in a way that is safe, supported, and promotes better understanding by the broader community and institutions
- are of importance to people with lived experience such as events and reunions
- develop memorials and monuments that are of significance to those with a lived experience
- undertake research in the area of institutional child sexual abuse, acknowledging other forms of abuse
- explore the impact of institutional child sexual abuse and other forms of abuse.

Applications for the grants program will close on Friday 2 August 2019, for more information please visit: www.csyw.qld.gov.au/fundingavailable

[Lotus Place invites service users to provide ideas to us by Friday 5th July so we can prepare applications for Grant in response to expressed ideas by close date.](#)



Upcoming Events

BUNDABERG

Morning Tea

4th Thursday of each month at the Spotted Dog Tavern - 10:30am
Upcoming morning tea: Thursday 27th June 2019

ROCKHAMPTON

Morning Tea

Every Tuesday at Lotus Place CQ - 10am (except when lunch is served)

Lunch

1st Tuesday of each month at Lotus Place CQ - 12pm
Upcoming lunch: Tuesday 2nd July 2019
RSVP by Tuesday 25th May 2019

Centrelink visit

1st Wednesday of each month at Lotus Place CQ - 10am
Upcoming visit: Wednesday 3rd July 2019
Phone: 4927 7604 to book an appointment

CQ Legal Centre visit

2nd Wednesday of each month at Lotus Place CQ - 10am
Upcoming visit: Wednesday 10th July 2019
Phone: 4927 7604 to book an appointment

Lotus Place CQ

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159 Denison St, Rockhampton, Q 4700
PO Box 586, Rockhampton Qld 4700
Phone [07 4927 7604](tel:0749277604)
lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au | lotusplace.org.au

Open hours – Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 2pm
Call during business hours for support and referral over the phone

Lotus Place, as part of Micah Projects Ltd, is committed to ensuring your right to privacy when accessing services. Therefore, Lotus Place always seeks your written consent to record and store your information, share your information with anyone else, unless there is immediate risk of harm to yourself or others, and to report to funding bodies information that does not identify you or your families.

Similarly, Lotus Place values your feedback and we encourage you to give compliments, offer suggestion and make complaints. Complaints are dealt with in a confidential manner and only discussed with the people directly involved. You can talk to any of our staff about your feedback or speak to the Feedback and Complaints Officer if not satisfied. If still not satisfied, you can contact external agencies and seek support from an advocate.

1. Talk to someone at Lotus Place at either of our three centres or ring the Team Leader, Michael Tansky, 3347 8500 from 9am – 5pm working days
2. Request a Feedback Form or write a letter and mail to Feedback and Complaints Officer, Micah Projects, PO Box 3449, South Brisbane, Q 4101
3. Contact the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women by calling 1800 080 464 (free call), or sending an email to feedback@csyw.qld.gov.au, or using the online form <https://www.complaints.services.qld.gov.au/>, or posting your feedback to Complaints Unit, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Locked Bag 3405, Brisbane, Qld 4001
4. Contact Queensland Ombudsman on 3005 7000 or 1800 068 908 (if outside Brisbane)
5. Contact Commonwealth Department of Social Services on 1800 634 035 or use online form on complaints@dss.gov.au
6. Contact Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman (regarding health services) by calling 13 36 46



The lotus flower has its origins and roots in the muddy waters below the surface, yet above the water it is a beautiful resilient flower.

After a consultative process the Lotus Flower was chosen as both a metaphor and image to represent the journey from adversity to hope.

Lotus Place CQ is an activity of Micah Projects

