



www.lotusplace.org.au • Central Queensland • May 2018

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 from Churches, Governments and Community Organisations who failed in their duty of care.

Some exciting news and some sad news and updates

It's May, and this edition is coming a little early, however we wanted to let you know about some changes coming to Lotus Place CQ. In this edition we have some exciting news, a goodbye and an update on the Redress scheme.

Farewell to Leigh

With the end of the Royal Commission, Lotus Place is going through a process of reflection and consideration of services provided across Queensland.

Our wonderful colleague Leigh has opted to take a redundancy at the end of June. Leigh has contributed invaluable expertise, commitment, warmth, energy, caring and energy to the work of Lotus Place and to the CQ community of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants during her time with the organisation. She will be greatly missed and we wish her much success and happiness in the next stage of her journey.



Leigh will be in Bundaberg on the 24th May for the morning tea at the Spotted Dog, so those in Wide Bay will have an opportunity to farewell her and for those in Rockhampton we will farewell her at a lunch on the 5th June, 12pm at the Heritage Hotel, 228 Quay Street Rockhampton.

**There is no one way to recover and heal from any trauma. Each survivor chooses their own path or stumbles across it.” - Laurie Matthew
Behind Enemy Lines**



*Enjoy the read
Regards
Selena and Leigh*

Swan Office Building 159 Denison Street, Rockhampton Q 4700
PO Box 586, Rockhampton Q 4700
Phone 07 4927 7604 or 1800 16 11 09
lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au | www.lotusplace.org.au



Fitzroy Fishers



The Rockhampton fishing group, meeting on the first Thursday of each month, has changed location to Victoria Park, Sir Raymond Huish Drive, South Rockhampton.



The platform by the river offers a better place to get to the water, whether the tide is in or out. We meet at the toilet block near the playground at 8.30am.

All welcome!

Luncheon at Lotus Place

Thank you to our recent guest speakers at our lunches Ben, from Clearwater Financial Services in April and Phil from the University of the Third Age (U3A) in May.

Clearwater Financial Services can assist with retirement planning, wealth creation, debt management and budgeting amount many other services. Website is www.clearwatersfp.com.au and you can contact Ben on 4921 2055.



Ben



Phil talking to the group

U3A promotes an active mind and active body through activities and courses offered and run by members for the over 50's. A small annual membership opens up a vast array of courses, for example, poetry, photography, drawing, singing, garden club to name a few. Some activities are free and some may have costs e.g. Aqua Aerobics has a pool hire cost. See the website or call Lotus Place for more details: www.u3arockhampton.org.au.

John's Corner

Hello Everyone! It's good to be back on deck after a short illness. Great to catch up with all my mates at lunch on Tuesday 1 May. Again a lovely spread, was spot on.

We were all so happy about the news Selena gave us on the Royal Commission, but we are all saddened that Leigh is leaving soon. We will all miss her that's for sure. Hope you can pop in for a chat and a cuppa now and then.

Bob has been out of action for a while—must be old age creeping up eh, mate?

A trip to Bundaberg on the train to meet with everyone there was great. I was disappointed I could not attend.

Stay safe and see you all soon.

- John

Q. What did the beach say to the wave?

A. Long time NO SEA!



Rockhampton visits Bundaberg

On the 26th April, five of us travelled from Rockhampton by train to meet with Forgotten Australians in Bundaberg. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Northern and Southern parts of CQ to meet each other and share the day together. Together we shared food and took a tour of Fairymead House. The day was much enjoyed by all.





Rockhampton

Morning Tea

10.00am-11.00am

Lotus Place

*Every Tuesday except
when lunch is
served*

CQ Legal Centre visit to Lotus Place

10am Wed 13 June

10am Wed 11 July

10am Wed 15 Aug

phone 4927 7604
for appointment

Centrelink visit to

Lotus Place

10am Wed 6 June

10am Wed 4 July

10am Wed 8 Aug

phone 4927 7604
for appointment

Lotus Place Lunchs

12pm Tues 5 June, Heritage Hotel

12pm Tues 3 July, Lotus Place

12pm Tues 7 Aug, Lotus Place

159 Denison Street, Rockhampton

Please RSVP by Tuesday one week prior
Phone 4927 7604

Fitzroy Fishers

8.30am, 1st Thursday of
Each Month

Victoria Park, Sir Raymond
Huish Drive,
South Rockhampton

Bundaberg

Bundaberg Morning Tea

(4th Thursday of the month)

10.30am Thurs 24 May

10.30am Thurs 28 June

10.30am Thurs 26 July

The Spotted Dog
217 Bourbong St, Bundaberg

Date Claimer!

Remembrance Day
Luncheon

Rockhampton Tues 4 Sept

Bundaberg Thurs 6 Sept

Invitations will be posted





National Redress Scheme - for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

<https://www.dss.gov.au/national-redress-scheme-for-people-who-have-experienced-institutional-child-sexual-abuse>

The Redress Scheme is a new government program. It will provide support to people who were sexually abused as children while in the care of an institution.

The plan to have a Redress Scheme came from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It is one way the government is working to acknowledge and help people who experienced child sexual abuse.

Subject to the passage of legislation, the Scheme will start on 1 July 2018, and will run for 10 years.

It is designed so that relevant organisations take responsibility to make amends for sexual abuse that happened to children they were looking after.

The Australian Government is creating the Scheme, and it has promised to provide redress to people who were abused in places that were run by the Commonwealth. This includes places such as the Australian Defence Forces and cadet schools and onshore immigration detention.

So that redress can be provided to as many people as possible, other governments and organisations need to join the Scheme, which is called 'opting in'. The Australian Government is pushing for all state governments, churches, charities and other non-government organisations to join up.

On 9 March 2018, the New South Wales and Victorian governments announced that they will join the scheme and provide redress to people who were sexually abused as children, in those states, in places like state operated schools and out of home care. On 19 March 2018, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government announced it they would join the scheme. On 30 April 2018, the Northern Territory and Queensland governments announced they would also join the Scheme.

This will also allow non-government institutions like churches and charities in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Queensland to join the Scheme.

The Australian Government is negotiating with the South Australian, Tasmanian and Western Australian governments, and we hope they will opt in

soon. When each state government and institution joins up, it promises to pay for redress for people who were abused in its care.

The Redress Scheme can provide three things:

- access to psychological counselling
- a direct personal response – such as an apology from the responsible institution for people who want it
- a monetary payment.

Payments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the severity and impact of the abuse experienced with a maximum of \$150,000.

Redress is not compensation – it is about acknowledging the harm caused, and supporting people who have experienced child sexual abuse in an institution to move forward positively in the way that is best for them.

The Redress Scheme is an alternative to getting compensation through the courts – you can do one or the other, but not both.

Who can apply?

Like any government scheme, there are rules about who can apply.

Access to the Redress Scheme depends on:

- The type of abuse a person experienced
- Where and when it happened
- A person's life now

Some frequently asked questions:

How long will the Scheme run for?

The Scheme will run for 10 years to 30 June 2028.

Subject to the passage of legislation, people can lodge applications from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2027.

What will the application process be?

Subject to the passage of legislation, from 1 July 2018 people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory government institutional settings will be able to apply for redress, either through a paper form or an online platform.



Subject to the passage of legislation, people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland government settings will be able to apply for redress in late 2018.

A dedicated website and telephone helpline will be available to provide information.

Specialist free legal support services and community support services will also be funded to assist people throughout the application process.

What kind of help will be available under the Scheme?

The Government understands that making an application for redress may be a very difficult experience and that people may need support and assistance through this process. The Royal Commission recommended that community-based support services be available to support people applying for the scheme, and that is the approach we are tak-

ing.

Redress Support Services will be available with the Scheme to provide timely access to trauma-informed and culturally appropriate support for people during the application process. This includes helping people to prepare and submit their application, and supporting them as they receive a decision on their application.

In addition, the scheme will also provide access to free specialist Legal Support Services and financial counselling.

For more information visit the website:

<https://www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children/programs-services/children/redress-scheme-for-people-who-have-experienced-institutional-child-sexual-abuse/national-redress-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

The type of abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must include sexual abuse • An institution must be responsible for the abuse. The Scheme doesn't cover non-institutional abuse such as by a family member
Where and when it happened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The abuse must have happened when the person was aged under 18 • It must have happened before 1 July 2018, when the Scheme starts (subject of the passage of legislation) • The institution or organisation responsible for the abuse must have joined the Redress Scheme. So far, only the Commonwealth, NSW, Vic, ACT, NT & Qld have agreed to join the scheme.
A person's life now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person applying must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Sex abuse legal action limit removed in WA

9:00pm Apr 10, 2018 © AAP 2018

The six-year time limit on child sex abuse survivors to take legal action has been lifted in Western Australia.

A bill removing the constraint on civil action passed state parliament on Tuesday.

"The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that the average time for a survivor to disclose child sexual abuse was 22 years," WA Attorney-General John Quigley said in a statement.

"This means that many individuals have been denied justice because by the time they disclosed the abuse, the limitation period had passed."

Victims will now be able to seek justice and compensation in civil courts, regardless of how many years ago the abuse occurred.

The changes also provide a legal basis for suing institutions in the name of their current office holders for cases of historical child sexual abuse and includes provisions to overcome difficulties survivors may face