

# Lillypad

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



[www.lotusplace.org.au](http://www.lotusplace.org.au) | North Queensland | November 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS | CHRISTMAS | REDRESS FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITES |  
NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE LAWS | LOTUS SUPPORT SERVICES | OFFICE UPDATE

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## Upcoming Events

### Townsville

#### **Peer Meeting**

Every Tuesday, from 10:00am  
Lotus Place NQ Office  
382 Sturt Street, Townsville

#### **Anniversary of the Apology BBQ**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, from 10am  
The Strand  
BBQ's near the water park

### Mackay

#### **Anniversary of the Apology BBQ**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, from 10am  
Blue Water Quays  
10 River Street, Mackay

### Cairns

#### **Anniversary of the Apology BBQ**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, from 10am  
BBQ Curlew (North of Muddys)  
The Esplanade, Cairns

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## Christmas 2020

Christmas time is fast approaching! Look out for invites that will be posted in the next couple of weeks. Due to Covid-19 venue safe plans as well as number and internal space restrictions, RSVP's are essential and only plus 1 will be available. Unfortunately if you don't RSVP there will not be a meal and seat available due to space and food planning for the numbers we provide.

If you have any suggestions for how to make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year, we would love to hear it! Games, prizes, craft or activities throughout December: it could be anything!!

Please contact us at the office **07 4722 8100**

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## Redress Feedback Opportunities

### Looking for People to participate in New Research into People's Experience of The National Redress Scheme.

The University of New England is conducting research that aims to explore the experience of survivors of institutional child sexual abuse who have applied for and are eligible to participate in the National Redress Scheme.

*We are particularly interested in your experiences of the Redress process.  
Has the assistance received helped with your recovery?*

Dr Jennifer Smith, Dr Rosslyn Aitchison will conduct interviews. Professor Kim Usher AM support in the analysis and reporting of the results of the interview of the research.

If you would like to be involved or would like more information you can contact Rosslyn Aitchison (UNE) on **0484 189 861** or Lotus Place on **07 4722 8100**

Lotus Support Services, Redress team is continuing to assist people to submit applications to the National Redress Scheme and to explore alternative redress options. To discuss how Lotus Support Services can assist you to make an application to the National Redress Scheme, or to obtain information on your options please phone **07 4722 8100** or email **redress@micahprojects**

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## New Criminal Justice Laws During Child Protection Week

Criminal justice laws were passed on the 8<sup>th</sup> September as part of Key recommendations from the Royal Commission and in time for CPW Remembrance Day. The State Parliament passed the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 201 which included:

- The new criminal offences for failing to report child sexual abuse and failing to protect a child (including information associated with a religious confession)
- Retrospective application of the offence of maintaining a sexual relationship with a child under 16 years
- Excluding good character as a mitigating factor at sentence
- Ensuring offenders are sentenced in accordance with sentencing standards at the time of the sentence, rather than the time of the offence

# Lotus Support Services

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Disability Royal Commission)...  
**wants to hear from you.**

Are you a person with a disability, or a parent, carer, teacher, staff member, friend, brother, sister...

... your experiences are vital to the Royal Commission achieving its goal in providing a public account and recommendation about the experiences of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation that you may have experienced.

**If you would like support to share your experiences with the Royal Commission, we are here to assist.**

Lotus Support Services—Micah Projects can assist you to prepare, inform and communicate with Commissioners at the Royal Commission about your life experience.

We offer free and confidential support and counselling, as well as direct assistance in writing a submission, or preparing to share your experience in whatever format, such as phone, video, writing or in person.

We can inform you about how the Royal Commission works and support you in your process of choice. We can refer or provide access to psychological support and/or counselling during the duration of the Royal Commission that is appropriate to your specific needs and circumstances.

These services are available to any individual who lives with disability, as well as family members, guardians, carers, friends and staff who are impacted by the work of the Disability Royal Commission. The Service includes specialist support for individuals who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse or identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer.

Lotus Support Services is part of a **network of services** and private practitioners across Queensland who can assist you.

Phone **3036 4490** or email: [lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au) for Queensland-wide counselling and support.

Lotus Support Services—Micah Projects  
Phone (07) 3036 4490  
[lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au)  
PO Box 3449, South Brisbane Q 4101  
[www.micahprojects.org.au](http://www.micahprojects.org.au)

AN ACTIVITY OF  MICAH PROJECTS

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## Office Update

A reminder that the Lotus Place NQ operating hours have changed. They are now as follows

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:

Open for drop in 9am – 3pm

Phone support 8:30am – 4:30pm

Monday:

Open for drop in 11:30am – 3pm

Phone support 11:30am – 4:30pm

Outside of these hours please leave a voicemail so we can return your call.

And a reminder that our new phone number is 07 4722 8100



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 NQ

382 Sturt Street, Townsville Q 4810

PO Box 2027, Townsville Q 4810

Phone [07 4722 8100](tel:0747228100) or [1800 16 11 09](tel:1800161109) | Fax [07 4772 0011](tel:0747720011)

[lotusnq@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotusnq@micahprojects.org.au) | [www.lotusplace.org.au](http://www.lotusplace.org.au)

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Lotus Place is an activity of Micah Projects



MICAH PROJECTS

Breaking Social Isolation  
Building Community



HISTORICAL ABUSE NETWORK

FOR PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCED ABUSE  
IN INSTITUTIONS, FOSTER CARE & DETENTION