

MEDIA STATEMENT

15 June 2017



Althea
PROJECTS

Althea Projects is celebrating National NAIDOC Week 2017 by joining with Townsville's NAIDOC Committee as a platinum sponsor, using the opportunity to reach out to families and young people in-need at the events staged across the region.

Traditionally held in the first week of July every year NAIDOC Week promotes the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme this year, 'Our Languages Matter', focuses national celebrations on the importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Althea Projects CEO Mandy Thompson hopes to honour this theme by "listening to the voices and messages" from the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

"Our communities are as diverse as our languages, and getting the approach right starts with respectful relationships founded on trust," said Ms Thompson.

"Understanding and appreciating each other's languages helps us recognise our unique perspectives, and the way we can work together to improve the safety and wellbeing of our children and young people," said Ms Thompson.

From the 2nd to 9th of July, Althea Projects staff and volunteers will engage with the local community at the official launch, Elders luncheon, corporate breakfast, NAIDOC march, Deadly Day Out at Riverway and the NAIDOC formal dinner. It is a significant commitment for the community-based not-for-profit service.

Althea Projects has a proud history in working towards reconciliation with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2016, Althea Projects launched their first Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan joining the momentum of support and positive actions being sparked across the country.

"The Reconciliation Action Plan is a message to our partners, stakeholders and the broader community that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, places and cultures matter at Althea Projects, and more importantly, we will be active, visible and accountable in our endeavours to play a role in a reconciled community," Ms Thompson said in the document.

The Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2018 focuses on actions that create meaningful and productive relationships, enhance respect and promote sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, families, communities and businesses.

Althea Projects recently celebrated a 40-year history providing vital services to families, children and young people in Townsville, Burdekin and Charters Towers within the north Queensland region. These services include Shared Family Care, Wee Care Family Support, Emergency Relief Funding, the unique First-Steps Trial Program, Angel Identity and the recent amalgamation with the Townsville Drop In Centre.

ALTHEA PROJECTS

Level 1, 296 Ross River Road (PO Box 905)

Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Website

www.altheaprojects.org.au

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Mandy Thompson, CEO, Ph (07) 4779 3332 or

Debra Miles, President, Mob 0420 922 005

(during QLD School Holidays)