



ANNUAL REPORT

Althea Projects Inc.
2018-2019

Althea
PROJECTS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people. I pay my respects to past and present elders and emerging leaders.

It gives me great pleasure to present this report today at the 2019 Annual General Meeting. At the end of my report last year I said that we were looking forward to another year of consolidation, commitment and excitement however it became a year of change, challenge, commitment, consolidation and excitement.

The first major change was the resignation of Mandy Thompson as CEO, Mandy did a sterling job during the years she was at the helm of Althea Projects and left the organisation in a sound and stable position to meet the needs of disadvantaged families in Townsville.

After a recruitment process, we were more than fortunate to secure Paula La Rosa as our new CEO. Paula comes to Althea with a strong background in governance with many years experience in the not for profit sector. Not only did Paula step into the role effortlessly but kindly commenced earlier than planned when we faced our biggest challenge, the floods of February 2019.

Wee Care was unfortunately inundated and had to be evacuated. The generosity of the Townsville community in assisting with the clean up of Wee Care was overwhelming. Noemi Mintern and Mary-Anne Hamilton from the Management Commitment worked tirelessly with Wee Care staff, the Army, businesses and volunteers from the community who turned up and gave assistance without being asked. We thank Scott McElligott from Pickerings Townsville for their generous donation of a temporary replacement van and for all their staff for fundraising events and collection of replacement goods. The generosity of Townsville people never ceases to amaze me, we are so fortunate to have such good people in this wonderful city of ours. We received many donations of much needed supplies, including a storage unit donated by Yeatman Storage that enabled us to store anything that could be salvaged. In addition to this, the Army provided resources to help us transport anything we could use again to the storage unit.

We were able to secure alternate accommodation for Wee Care and we thank the landlord and the neighbours in Cranbrook for their acceptance of, and assistance to the organisation over the past few months. I want to thank Ben Prest for the technical assistance he has provided throughout the year as we have inspected and ensured our premises is being restored and renovated as we require. It is expected that we will relocate back to our Railway Estate property by end of October. Hopefully, the February floods will be the only major challenge we face this year.

The commitment of our staff and supporters to assist an increasingly broad group of clients and to provide the best possible service to individuals, families and children has continued and grown.

Shared Family Care workers endeavour to meet the complex needs of children in the Child Safety system, to find the best possible placement for these children and support those wonderful carers who welcome these children into their homes. In another change, Shared Family Care farewelled long term manager Teresa Smith earlier this year, we thank Teresa for her many years of dedication and commitment to the service. We welcomed Judith Williams as Teresa's replacement.

Through the Townsville Drop In Centre, we continue to demonstrate our ability to work with those affected by poverty, disadvantage and homelessness and provide opportunities to link these clients into relevant health, financial and housing services thus consolidating the work we began in 2017 when we took over the service.

None of this wonderful work is possible without the commitment and dedication of our staff at Shared Family Care, Wee Care, the Drop In Centre and the Corporate Team, your commitment to the work you do every day is highly valued by your clients and by the service, the Management Committee acknowledges and values this highly.

After changes and challenges, it is good to have some excitement. Althea Angels, which was launched last year, has continued to capture the generosity of the Townsville Community and has raised much needed funds for Althea Projects. We thank Jam Corner and Bridgewater for their continued support.

The staff at Myer Townsville have continued to support the organisation, we remain enormously grateful for their generosity which has even extended to support from Myer in Brisbane following the floods. We are also grateful for the support of Myer itself which matches the fundraising efforts of local staff. The recent highly successful annual Myer dinner provided an opportunity for Althea Projects to thank the local Myer staff.

I have been both privileged and fortunate to have worked with the women who form part of the Management Committee. It has been a busy year for us all and I thank Deb, Ruth, Mary-Ann, Anne, Donna and lastly Noemi for their dedication, support and wisdom throughout the year.

I wish to particularly acknowledge Ruth Stainbrook and Deb Miles, both long term members of the Management Committee. Both Ruth and Deb have decided to move on and I thank them for their service, vision, commitment and wisdom over many years. Althea Projects would not occupy the position it does without them.

I am reluctant to allocate any specific words for 2020 after my experience this year except to say that Althea Projects continues to strive to meet the many needs of individuals, families and children in need. We are in a good place to do so.

Mary Wallace
President

CEO MESSAGE



It gives me great pride that I present my inaugural CEO report for Althea Projects. The 2018 / 2019 has been a busy year of change, challenges, as well as wonderful achievements for us. Firstly, I want to acknowledge Mandy Thompson, as previous CEO of Althea Projects. I was fortunate to pick up the reigns from Mandy, which enabled me to seamlessly transition in to the role and organisation. Mandy made a significant contribution over the almost five years at Althea Projects, none more meaningful than leading change from Wee Care and Shared Family Care into the creation of Althea Projects.

This year across the whole organisation, Althea Project has supported 1885 people and delivered almost 13,000 hours of service delivery. This is a tremendous achievement and is testament to our dedicated staff. I would like to acknowledge and thank all staff for their efforts throughout the year to build a healthy and positive workplace and build capacity and resilience of those we are here to support. It is not a superficial sediment when I say staff are our most valued resource and their determination to achieve positive outcomes for those we support is one of our greatest strengths.

This Annual Report will highlight our achievements across our programs providing services across the following sectors:

- Aged Care
- Early Intervention and Prevention for families
- Child Protection and Out of Home Care
- Emergency financial support
- Crisis Accommodation for Children
- Housing and Homelessness
- Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

I am happy to report that Althea Projects continues to maintain all funding grants, with each program growing in strength and capacity throughout the year.

Some specific highlights for us this year include:

- A full review of how we approach and deliver our out of home care services delivered through Shared Family Care leading to inspiring opportunities in our work.
- Successfully undertaking another Human Services Quality Framework audit (HSQF) external audit, with no non-conformance matters identified. This validates our commitment to continuous improvement and quality.
- Significant progress being made to our aspiration to incorporate a social enterprise in to our work at the Townsville Drop In Centre. We are grateful to the support from Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) representatives, and other local services and I look forward to sharing more next year.
- Our Aged Care service incorporating the new Aged Care Quality Standards that came into effect 1 July 2019.
- The Townsville Drop In Centre continuing to demonstrate to the Queensland and Local Governments our ability to deliver a high-quality responsive service to people who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, despite being an underfunded service.
- Launching our Reconciliation Grants. Our \$10,000 grant has supported 38 children, young people and adults access text books for school / university, laptops for education resources, sporting costs, music tuition fees, uniforms and school activities. We remain highly committed to be a partner in reconciliation.

An impact, rather than a highlight, is our Wee Care property was significantly impacted by the February Monsoon. We worked through the clean-up, relocation, restoration and now in the final stages of working through the renovations that will see us move back in later this year. Special thanks to all the staff, Management Committee members, other key stakeholders and strangers who assisted us with the clean-up. Our property is being upgraded and will enable us to deliver quality services for many years to come.

Acknowledgement of Funding Bodies and Supporters

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our government funding partners, without whom our work could not be realised:

- Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women
- Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
- Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works
- Australian Government Department of Health
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Townsville City Council

I am humbled by the engagement Althea Projects has with philanthropic supporters. Althea Projects cannot rely solely in government funding and without the belief in our supporters we would not be able to make the difference and deliver our life changing services to individuals and families in our community. From everyone at Althea Projects thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

I want to make special mention to five supporters who have provided very important and significant financial support to us during 2018 / 2019.

- Armi's IGA Supermarket and the associated annual "Armi's IGA Charity Golf Day"
- Lendlease for their annual "Lendlease Charity Golf Day"
- The staff of MYER Townsville and the MYER Community Foundation
- Pickerings Auto Group for the free loan of a replacement van post February flooding and other supports offered from management and staff
- Zambrero Restaurants

Future Focused

The coming 12 months provides great optimism and opportunities across the work of Althea Projects. Our goal is to have in place our new data base CSnet, implemented and creating efficiencies and good data management across programs. We are close to launching our new innovative website, which will be more engaging and effective. We are optimistic we will have a social enterprise connected with our work at the Townsville Drop In Centre operational, supporting our work and creating positive outcomes for service users. Shared Family Care will continue to strengthen and be recognised as a leader in foster and kinship care services due to our invigorated model of service delivery. Wee Care will be reunited with our Railway Estate premises and we will re-establish the full suite of family support services.

Concluding Appreciations

I want to extend my thanks to the Leadership Team, Peta Anderson, Lynne Josey, Kelli-ann May, Teresa Smith, Lesley Thorne, and Judy Williams, and our executive assistant Deb Barrett for your commitment and dedication to the work you do. Managing people and leading teams is tough. It has been a turbulent year with changes and challenges outside of our control and your professionalism to get the work done is admirable and is greatly appreciated.

I also want to close by thanking the members of the Management Committee for your support of me as incoming CEO. I am grateful you had faith in me, and I look forward to continuing our partnership to lead and manage this organisation to continue to be a leading provider of social services across our community.

Paula La Rosa

CEO

FINANCIAL REPORT

2018/2019 has been an exceptional year.

Farewelling Mandy in January, the February monsoon and welcoming Paula as our new CEO around the same time being the most eventful.

October last year saw our financial strategy come into fruition with part of Althea's cash reserves being invested into managed funds.

Fundraising has also seen a growth in this financial year with Lend Lease and IGA both successfully hosting golf days, along with Myer and a host of other events and donations received throughout the year.

A massive thank you to all of those involved in fundraising, it is so inspiring to see so much community support for the organisation.

The flow on from the weather event has been an increase in our insurance costs of over 1000%, however we will have a fully renovated residential facility once the building is handed back to us.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year and look forward to many more.

Lesley Thorne
Finance & HR Manager

Expenditure 2018-2019 Figures



Income 2018-2019 Figures



SHARED FAMILY CARE (SFC)



Shared Family Care has continued to grow and change over the past year.

We have had a few people decide to leave and I would personally like to thank everyone for all their dedication, commitment and hard work and we wish everyone all the best for their future. It would be remiss of me not to mention Teresa who has been with the organisation for ten years, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Teresa for all her support and commitment to Shared Family Care. She will be sadly missed and we wish her all the best for her next adventure. We have also seen some new people join our team and we continue to develop our team with a committed and dedicated people to ensure that we are providing the highest quality of support to our carers and children.

Since coming on board early in 2019 as the new Program Manager, it has been a very busy time. We made a commitment to increase our bed nights to ensure we are meeting funding outputs. This hard work has paid off and on average over the past 12 months we are meeting our contracted hours of between 176-179 bed nights. We have continued to provide support to foster and kinship care placements to ensure that placements are secure for some of the most vulnerable children in Townsville, Burdekin and Charters Towers areas.

The first part of 2019 was about working together to review the programs practices and processes. The review highlighted the areas that we could improve in and came up with suggestions and strategies of how to implement. These have been applied and now we are seeing efficiencies in our practice.

We remain focused on upskilling and supporting our staff in supervision and other professional development opportunities. This year staff took advantage of a range of training opportunities such as strength based approach to practice, Diploma of Community services, reunification training, making the most of Supervision, Department of Child Safety reforms, Nathan Wallis brain development- the teenage and baby brain, Introduction to anti-discrimination act, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Families(TCI-F) train the trainer, initial assessment writing training, reconciliation training, strength based case management and cultural awareness training for all of the team.

Shared Family Care preparations for the Human Services Quality Framework Audit in June 2019 paid off with no non-compliance being identified. This was a fantastic result and the audit supported our commitment to continuous improvement and a credit to the commitment from a hardworking team to ensure that we are continuing to be compliant.

There have been many highlights and achievements throughout the year. The Team have been most proud of being able to place numerous siblings' groups together. Children in care are already disadvantaged by growing up away from family, and we prioritise keeping sibling groups together offering a connection to their family. Recently, carers who already had a high number of children in their care agreed to take a new born so that he was able to be placed with his sibling. The team worked together with Child Safety and the carers to make this happen. It was a wonderful outcome and the placement is continuing to be positive.

Shared Family Care have attended numerous events including NAIDOC events in July, 2018 with the theme "Because of her we can". Staff attended the March and the family fun event at Riverway. Staff and carers agreed that it was a great day.

Three staff members, 25 children and 15 carers and family members attended the Palm Island Spring Fair in September. This year was an exceptionally important Spring Fair as it marked 100 years of settlement on Palm Island. Shared Family Care sponsored a few carers and staff to attend the 2018 Foster and Kinship Carer Conference at the Gold Coast. The feedback from carers was the event was inspirational and interesting. Shared Family Care strives to ensure that carers and our staff have the opportunity to attend such worthwhile conferences.

In honor of Child Protection Week, Shared Family Care organised a 'Shine a Light for Children' event at Zambrero's Domain with carers and children decorating lanterns for the theme. For Foster and Kinship Carer Week, Shared Family Care held a lunch for our Ayr and Charters Towers carers. Townsville carers and children were invited to attend a family afternoon tea. These events are wonderful about bringing the team, carers and children together.

The number of children in care continues to grow and so does the need for more carers. Therefore we are continuing to attend events to recruit new carers throughout 2018-2019. Attending events such as Defence Families expo, JCU health expo, Community Organisation Network Forum, Deadly Family Expo, and Service Providers Expo.

Advertising through multiple avenues such as cinema advertising, billboards across Townsville, social media, redeveloping web site, advertising in local paper in the Burdekin, letterbox drops, one page advertising in school newsletters Ayr and Townsville and cinema advertising for the movie "Instant Family". We will continue to think of creative ways to get the message out for the need for more carers.

Shared Family Care would like to thank our wonderful carers who open their hearts and homes to provide care to over 190 children. We would also like to thank our communities of Townsville, Ayr and Charters Towers for their assistance and support over the last year. We are all looking forward to achieving our goal for the coming 12 months to reinvigorate and reinvent our work in the foster and kinship care sector so that all children that require a safe place to live each day is afforded this.

Judith William
Program Manager

WEE CARE



Wee Care is dedicated in continuing to deliver Early Intervention Child Protection services which assists in keeping young people out of the Child Protection System. We are passionate about building trusting relationship with parents/ carer's and children. Through feedback it has been noted that children who come in regularly and are on Family Case Plans certainly look forward to their next visit and frequently are not ready to leave when their stay has ended.

This year Wee Care delivered services to 286 families and 381 children. As our funding stretches to a 5 day / 24 hour / week service, this year we delivered 498 unfunded hours. It is only through the generous support from quality businesses such as Lendlease and Armi IGA through their annual charity golf days, Myers from their annual fundraising and charity events, Pickerings who donated a van immediately after the floods and other money raised from Althea Angels fundraising are we able to deliver services to meet the demand in our community. Thank you does not seem enough to show our gratitude to these businesses for their commitment to support us and the community.

As per every year, many of our families are referred to Wee Care by other Family Support Services including child care centers, schools, TMSG, NQDVRS, The Townsville Hospital and Women's shelters. We encourage parents/carer's to self-refer and invite all families to come in and have a look at our center and the services we provide. The majority of referred families require emergency child care for short periods of time, or until the family crisis has subsided. We also provide regular planned respite for families who require extra family support for various reasons including: a family member being unwell, mental health issues, disability support, challenging children's behaviors and grandparents raising grandchildren without any other family support.

Our service continues to offer a range of enjoyable, stimulating and age appropriate activities that encourage a sense of belonging for the children. Recently the children wanted to create a canvas for the wall. The children drew self-portraits of themselves and their younger siblings with their names and ages on paper; these portraits were transferred to a large canvas in pencil before being painted by the children and subsequently outlined in black by staff. This will now be proudly displayed in the foyer at Wee Care for all to see when entering the premises.

Highlights and Impacts

Our Wee Care premises, including content and van were significantly impacted by what has been recorded as a 1 in 200 year flood that devastated a number of suburbs in Townsville in January and February this year. Wee Care remained closed for five weeks while the big clean up took place and we salvaged what was possible. This was a difficult time for staff, as when the community needed us the most, we were ourselves unable to do what usually comes so naturally, open our home and care for children and families.

Althea Staff were kept busy desperately seeking an alternative rental property to operate from. Fortunately, a property in Mathiesen Street was found and this enabled us to become operational once again. Wee Care is hoping to return back to First Street in Railway estate mid- September.

Along with the benefit of having a fully upgraded premises, another benefit of the floods was the opportunity for Wee Care staff to spend time within other services under our organisational umbrella. This enabled staff to appreciate the roles and responsibilities across both Shared Family Care and The Drop In Centre.

Testament of our unique one of a kind service (in Queensland)

Over the past two years Wee Care and other stakeholders, including Relationships Australia, The Townsville Hospital and Department of Child Safety have been supporting a family of four young people on a regular basis, due to their Mother's terminal illness. Sadly, she required treatment and needed to be admitted to hospital on a regular basis. Throughout this time all Mum wanted was for her Children to remain together, spending as much quality time as possible with her. Wee Care promised Mum that they would be available at all times even when we were normally closed. Mum very sadly passed away in July and her wish for her children to remain together has come true. They now have a new home with a perfectly suited and loving couple who have always wanted a family of their own. The children have established a new chapter in their lives and although they will always miss their mother, they are extremely settled, happy and secure.

Events And Professional Development

During the last 12 months, Wee Care staff have participated in community events, including; Naidoc Week, Mabo Day, Reconciliation Week, Children's Week, Child Protection Week.

Staff Professional Development included: Workshops and Trainings, Line Management Meetings, Staff Supervision, PASE Excellence in Supervision, Foundation for Trauma-Informed Care and Practice (blue knot foundation), First Aid Asthma and Anaphylaxis, Cultural Awareness, Fire Training and Medication Training.

Our Staff and Volunteers

We continue to place a great deal of importance on our internal culture and our staff and volunteers are greatly appreciated, supported and valued. As we come to the closure of 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done in making a difference in the lives of so many little people. Wee Care - Althea Projects continues to be a successful and terrific place to work - because of you. Thank you to each and every one of you for putting in the extra hours following the floods, your dedication, hard work and passion in getting Wee Care operational again exceeded all expectations. Thank you to all community volunteers, businesses, services and individuals, who assisted us during the flood clean-up.

Congratulations to Llian, who is expecting her first baby in November. We will also be saying farewell to her permanently as Llian and her partner Daniel will be transitioning to Sydney in January. Llian has been an amazing support and friend to myself and many others over the last seven years and certainly will be missed by all.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members; Helen, Toula and Celina.

Looking Ahead

Our families and Staff are looking forward to moving back to Wee Care in Railway Estate which has now had a completely new makeover with a lovely new kitchen and bathrooms. This will enable us to resume the delivery of Playgroups.

Bunnings in Idalia are volunteering to do a makeover of the Wee Care yard and to assemble the Children's new cubby house.

Lynne Josey
Program Manager

Other Services we deliver at Wee Care

ERF – Financial Support

The unprecedented flooding in February impacted greatly on many Townsville families. Althea was able to assist by providing practical and emotional support as many families experienced total devastation and loss to their homes. In partnership with other Service providers we were able to offer immediate financial relief in the form of gift cards and electrical appliances in the last financial year.

How much money expended? \$58,856.15

How many occasions did we assist? 1417

Playgroup

Due to the February floods and having to relocate to temporary premises we have not been able to facilitate weekly Playgroup sessions. We hope to recommence once Wee Care returns to First Street. Nine families attended Playgroup from 1st July 2018 to December 2018 which included twelve children. We have been busy recruiting new families as possible playgroup attendees.

First Steps Program

Over this past twelve months we have not seen any new Mums and Bubs engaged with the First Steps program. Although we have undertaken several enquiries over the last six months, and we were unable to support them due to not having the capacity in our temporary environment. We look forward to exploring First Step referrals once we are settled again at our Railway Estate premises.

Donations

Once again, the generous contributions from our Community, have made such an enormous difference in enabling us to continuing in the great work that we strive to deliver. To each and every one of you who continually support us, including; TORK, GIVIT, Myers, Armi IGA, LendLease, Angel Wings, Food Relief, Whitsunday Quilters, Townsville Tidy Bags..... Thank You. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank You

Lynne Josey
Program Manager



thank
you

FEBRUARY FLOOD RECOVERY

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support during the February floods. We are humbled and grateful to you all. Your thoughtfulness is a gift we will always treasure. From all of us, Thank You.

DROP-IN CENTRE



This year the centre has continued to provide a safe, respectful place for those in our community who wish to access our services. We have continued to develop and build on established relationships within the local community, our funding partners and other stakeholders to ensure we are delivering the best possible service for some of Townsville's most vulnerable.

Each week the Centre is accessed by approximately 100 individual clients. These clients utilise the centre for various reasons such as: Showers; laundry facilities; internet access; tea and coffee. Over 12 months the Centre provides approximately 3477 lunchtime meals, with a similar number of people accessing the centre for breakfasts. We would like to thank Second Bite (Coles – Thuringowa then Coles North Ward), Food Relief, Ignatius Park and St Margret Mary's for their generous donations that have assisted in reducing the costs of our food service.

The Centre offers a safe place for clients to access their basic needs, such as showers, laundry facilities and staff at the centre provide information, advice and referral to other specialist services that will enhance their day to day living needs. The Centre works as a hub for other service providers to meet with their clients in a place where the client feels comfortable and allows them to build rapport and enhance their capacity to access mainstream services.

The Centre would like to acknowledge the following services who work with us in collaboration to meet the needs of our service users:

- Australian Red Cross – Street 2 Home Program
- Anglicare – Management of Public Intoxication and Homelessness Nurse
- Yumba Meta
- TAIHS
- Feros Care
- Department of Human Services – Centrelink
- Qld Health – Sexual Health
- Visiting GP
- NQ Women's Legal Service
- ATSIILS
- QIFVLS
- ATSIWLS
- QuIHN
- Crossroads Christian Church
- Perc Tucker Gallery – Art Therapy

We would like to thank each of these services for their contribution to the Centre.

A highlight for the clients has been through our partnership with Perc Tucker Gallery and the commencement of Art Therapy classes.

Our Centre continues to offer clients an opportunity to participate in work, with approximately 1275 jobs rostered through our projects. This work includes: - cleaning Dean Park, Central and Cameron Parks; Centre cleans; car cleans and nuts and bolts from Global Fasteners. Service Users who choose to participate in our projects are able to earn some additional cash without it affecting their Centrelink payments. Our goal is to build individuals capacity, confidence and self-worth by accessing meaningful activities. Participants undergo induction training in workplace, health and safety and they are welcome to use the Centre as a reference when applying for employment.

Future Focus

This year we have been able to reflect what the Centre is able to provide for clients and develop ideas to implement a social enterprise to be run from the Centre. We remain committed in our belief there is tremendous potential to access our industrial kitchen to build the capacity of the individuals who access our service. Our focus has been to document and develop a concept and design and to explore future funding opportunities to help leverage this into what we know can be a sustainable business. We hope that by this time next year we will be documenting our success and demonstrating how this is making a difference in our community.

Other Services delivered from The Townsville Drop In Centre

Commonwealth Home Support Program

Our Aged Care service has developed and grown in strength throughout the past 12 months. This year we provided services to 23 clients across the full suite of services. Our clients were provided with 680 social supports; 197 domestic assistance; 1,275 meals and 212 transports. We are excited to see our program extend service provision.

This year the service also completed the required self-assessment of the new Aged Care Quality Standards that came into effect 1 July 2019.

Emergency Relief Funding (ERF)

The Townsville Drop In Centre continues to administer State funded Emergency Relief. This year 236 people were assisted through ERF. The types of assistance provided were for food vouchers, rent assistance, vehicle registrations, electricity and utility bills, medications and accommodation.

Homelessness Service

This service is highly integrated to the work of the Townsville Drop In Centre, with many clients of the Homelessness Service also Service Users of the Centre. This year we worked with 162 clients providing case management with a primary goal to support people access and remain in stable affordable housing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at the Drop In Centre. I appreciate the support you offer me and your commitment and dedication to make a difference to those who we are here to support. Your ongoing efforts and ability has not gone unnoticed.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciate to everyone who plays a role in supporting the Townsville Drop In Centre. In my position I have unique opportunities to witness vulnerable, often marginalised human beings getting to enjoy some success and get treated with the dignity and respect that everyone deserves. I also get to witness countless acts of kindness that make those successes possible.

Peta Anderson
Program Manager

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)



Reconciliation remains at the heart of our programs, services and projects and Althea Projects continues to place significant value in our RAP to guide us in our work to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to thrive in their lives.

Over 45% of Althea Projects clients identified as either Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples this year, which is almost a 20% increase to the previous year.

Some examples of our leadership, participation and engagement in RAP lead activities are outlined below:

WEE CARE

In celebration of NAIDOC Week our workers and the children at Wee Care created some beautiful artwork.

TOWNSVILLE DROP-IN CENTRE

The Townsville Drop-in Centre, with assistance from Angela, Eddie Albert and Family, the Anglicare team and the Althea crew, put together a NAIDOC Celebration that included traditional foods, artwork on display, and some live singing. It was a great success.

FAMILY FUN NAIDOC

The Shared Family team attended the NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Riverway. There was a stall which provided all information about the programs, as well as a face painter that had children lined up for a turn. The day provided the mass crowd with traditional food, dancing, and a bunch of activities that all the families got to enjoy.

SNAICC CHILDREN'S DAY

Shared Family Case celebrated the SNAICC Children's day at Rossiter Park, Aitkenvale this year which was a lovely afternoon. Carers attended with their children and participated in the activities SFC provided. These included feeding the ducks, turtles and other wildlife from the platoon, participating in getting their faces, arms and legs painted by Sue from Amusements Plus, followed by showing Katisha and Lena their artistic abilities by etching their drawings, which are now displayed in the SFC office.

PALM ISLAND SPRING FESTIVAL

Three of our Shared Family Care staff had the opportunity to attend the Palm Island Spring Festival with a total of twenty-five children and a couple of carers. The ferry ride over saw just how excited the children were to be able to be back on country for a special event, being that it was also the 100 years anniversary of the Festival. The Centenary program consisted of a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dancers, Cook Island Dancing, singing, a comedian, a slideshow presentation and a number of speeches.



RECONCILIATION GRANT

Althea Projects implemented our annual \$10,000 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Grants. There are two rounds per year and due to the distribution of the grants, 38 children, young people and adults were able to access text books for school / university, laptops for education resources, sporting costs, music tuition fees, uniforms and school activities.

RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENT

Reconciliation Australia announced that the theme of the 2019 National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage. The Althea Projects Team enjoyed organizing a Reconciliation Lunch with the Team and having our guest speaker Florence Onus share her story.



CULTURAL COMPETENCY & CAPABILITY WORKSHOP

Delivered by Dawn Aboriginal Consultancy, Shared Family Care and Wee Care staff attended a one day workshop to help them better understand: 1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and impacts, 2. Strategies for Cultural Capability and Competency and 3. Community engagement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. Our goal is to support staff to be culturally responsive and safe in their practice.

SPONSORSHIP OF THE “MY DEADLY BOOK ABOUT ME”

Approval from the CEO to sponsor Michelle Tyhius – “My Deadly Book About Me” which will be launched at our NAIDOC stall this coming year. My Deadly Book About Me is designed to help people with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural ancestry explore elements of their family history, cultural identity and local community connections. The activities included in the book aim to improve overall health, wellbeing and wellness.

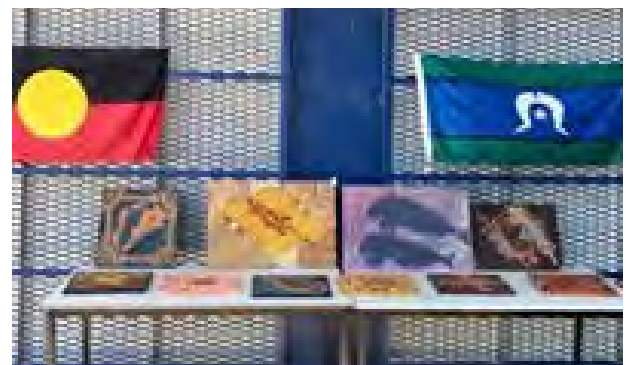


ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILY FUN DAY

Shared Family Care had an interactive stall at the Deadly Families Fun Day. This event was to encourage our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become carers for our own people.

MICHELLE TYHIUS ARTWORK

Michelle Tyhuis aboriginal artwork was incorporated into a runner in our Boardroom, a tablecloth for our promotion events and for background of our traditional Acknowledgement used at meetings.



From a Mother of a young person we assisted with school fees:

*Thank you so very much we are very very grateful!!
My daughter just got her report card she got the highest achievement in
all areas both academic and social. I will email you a copy just to let you
know that she is worth your investment. THANK YOU!!!*

From a Mother of a young person we assisted with piano tuition:

*Our son was thrilled to hear of the Reconciliation Grant application
being successful. He is so grateful to everyone, and so are we.
Our son's gift in music can only further advance with the support you
have shown him. Thank you.*

From a Mother of children we assisted with laptop & uniforms for school

*Thank you so much. School items are life changing and will go a long way
with school for 2019 for my children and granddaughter.*

From a Father we assisted with basketball comp costs:

*Oh wow – thank you for your assistance this is totally awesome news for
both our family and daughter. Thank you for your support from the
bottom of our hearts it is duly noted and appreciated.*

ALTHEA PROJECTS 2018-2019



1,885 CLIENTS



999 MALES



886 FEMALES



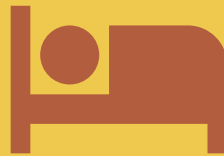
577 CHILDREN



849 INDIGENOUS



12,949
CONTACT
HOURS

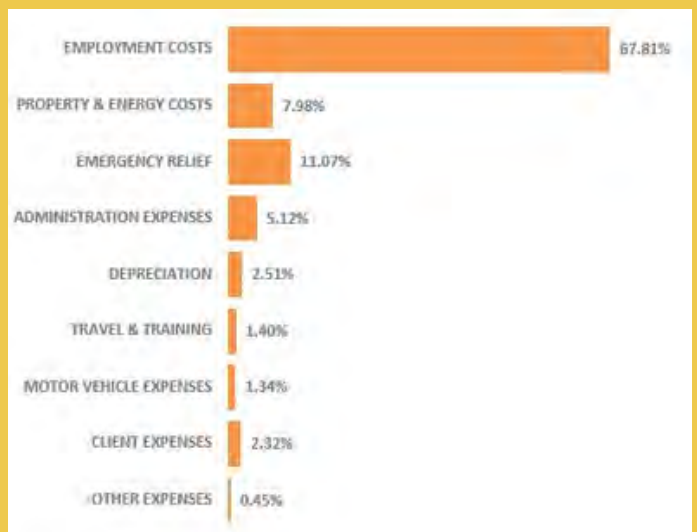
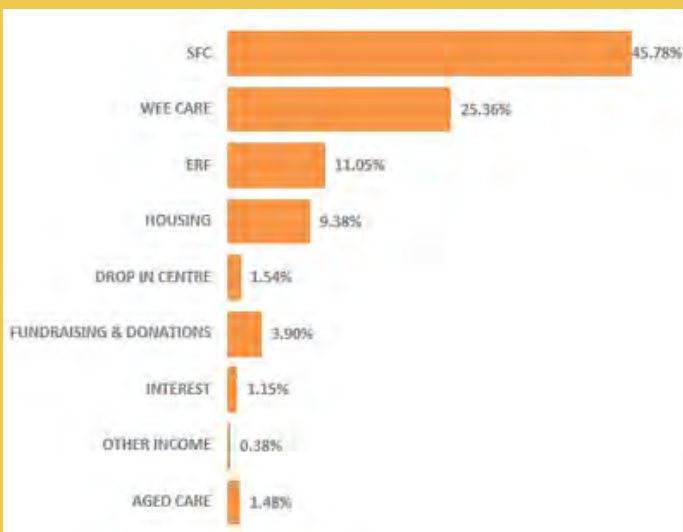


59,336
BEDNIGHTS



33
STAFF

Income & Expenditure



OUR YEAR



AT A GLANCE

