



Althea PROJECTS

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Althea Projects would like to acknowledge Michelle Tyhuis for its Reconciliation Action Plan artwork.

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PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT



We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we work, walk and live, the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people. We pay our respects to the past and present elders and emerging leaders.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of Althea Projects over the past 12 months and the ongoing commitment of all management and staff as they support people in our community. Althea Projects has trusted genuine partnerships with our funding bodies and other supporters, which is resulting in positive outcomes across the organisation.

Our highlights this year include:

- Implementing our continuity plans across all services that adequately ensured all programs adjusted and adapted service delivery to enable us to deliver all services throughout the COVID19 health crisis;
- Across all services we have supported 2608 people and delivered 16,921 hours of service delivery;
- With determination and resilience, Wee Care seamlessly adapted to alternative premises, post 2019 floods;
- Following the full refurbishment and renovation of the Wee Care property, the successful relocation back to the premises in November 2019, to a building that is now a state of the art and modern premises that continues to provide crisis and emergency support to children 0-11, while supporting their families;
- Our new Reconciliation Action Plan was endorsed in April 2020, embracing our commitment to advance reconciliation;
- The Shared Family Care Program exceeded funded outputs, and has secured additional funding. This has enabled us to implement new positions and trial innovative and creative support for foster and kinship carers through the introduction of an Intensive Family Case Worker and Kinship Family Case Worker;
- A review of the Townsville Drop In Centre (TDIC) by an external consultant Dr. Sharon McCallum, unequivocally confirmed that the facility and services provided by the Centre are vital to the health and safety of people who are homeless in our city area and, without our service, these people would experience greater difficulties, with broader impacts to the community;
- Through seed funding from Department of Housing and Public Works, Dignity First Funding, TDIC has established our long-awaited social enterprise, Morehead Meals. This has resulted in our industrial kitchen being licenced and our ability to expand our capacity to provide meals to the most vulnerable people in our community;
- After more than two years of advocacy, TDIC homelessness service received additional funding to deliver Mobile and Outreach support services, which more than doubled resources and our capacity to support people who are vulnerable in our community;
- After a number of years, Wee Care delivering the First Steps service again in February. This has led to reflection on the service model and future opportunities for Wee Care to support families who are vulnerable in our community;
- Administering over \$6,000 as part of our Reconciliation Grants to 11 recipients;

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT

Future Focused

The coming 12 months provides great optimism and opportunities throughout Althea Projects. After postponing strategic planning earlier in the year due to COVID19, we will commence our planning in August 2020.

Our other big plan is to relocate SFC and Corporate office to a central location which will have great benefits to the management, staff and clients of Althea Projects.

We would like to thank all our Management Committee members, managers, staff and volunteers for their tremendous efforts, as well as all our government agencies, stakeholders and supporters who help us to make a difference in the lives of people in our community.

Mary Wallace
President

Paula La Rosa
CEO

President's Message

I would personally like to acknowledge and thank the leadership shown by all members of our Management Committee, in particular Kate Alroe, Anne Campbell and Susan Gair who left the Committee earlier in the year due to other commitments, I thank them for their contribution.

I want to acknowledge and thank Paula La Rosa for her leadership and commitment to Althea Projects over the past year.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mary-Ann Hamilton, our long-standing treasurer. Mary-Ann has contributed enormously to Althea Projects over many years and leaves the organisation in a sound financial situation. Thank you Mary-Ann for your time and effort over many years.

This is my last year as chair, after being in the role for three years. I am staying on with the Management Committee, so will continue my involvement with this wonderful organisation.

Mary Wallace
President

THANK YOU

Our achievements are only possible due to the ongoing support by our funding bodies and supporters. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our government funding partners:

- 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

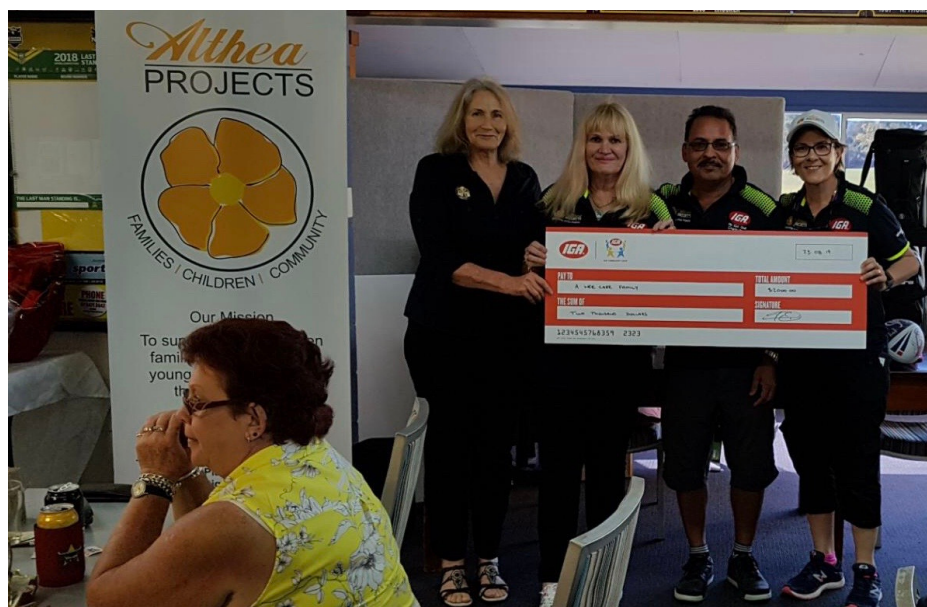
I want to make special mention to key supporters who have provided very important and significant financial support to us during 2019 / 2020:

- Armi's IGA Supermarket and the associated annual "Armi's IGA Charity Golf Day"
- Bunnings Fairfield
- Jam and Bridgewater restaurants
- MYER Townsville and the MYER Community Foundation
- Pickerings Auto Group
- Rotary Australia World Community Service
- Rotary Clubs across Townsville
- Zambrero Restaurants
- Grill'd Townsville
- GIVIT

Finally, a number of incredible individuals who raised money and donated to us. You are our Althea Angels who keep our local families strong, connected and protected. Every dollar donated goes back into our services and makes a significant difference to the well-being of individuals, children and families in our community. Thank You.

Paula La Rosa
CEO

Armi's Charity Golf Day



FINANCE & HR REPORT

Financial Report

This year has been an exceptional year, in more ways than one. We have addressed changes in the Accounting Standards affecting the way we treat our grant funding and leases in our audited financial statements; we capitalised on opportunities for growth in both our Shared Family Care and Homelessness programs, and additional Emergency Relief Funding and business boost grants, due to COVID-19.

Our fundraising decreased this financial year through the loss of the Lend Lease Golf Day; however, we are extremely thankful for the long-term support from both Armi's IGA Golf Day and Myer Townsville. Also, the continuing support from Townsville businesses and individuals is tremendous and we are very grateful for the ongoing support. It makes a big difference in our capacity to deliver services.

This year we incurred the full effects of the increase in insurance costs after the monsoon event in February 2019 with overall costs increasing \$34K. We also increased our expenditure in technology with many older PCs, laptops, monitors and other minor IT items being replaced and expensed within the financial year. The organisation continues to remain in a very healthy financial position.

Income: \$3,739,108 & Expenditure: \$3,481,791

Human Resource Report

This financial year has seen a 34% increase in our staffing numbers. Additional short term funding to provide a Mobile Homelessness service created 3.5 new positions, a COVID-19 grant to commence Morehead Meals allowed one new position, an increase in funding for Shared Family Care and an underspend in the program also provided for the creation of 2 additional full time positions within the program. Wee Care has also increased their casual pool of staff to meet our growing needs.

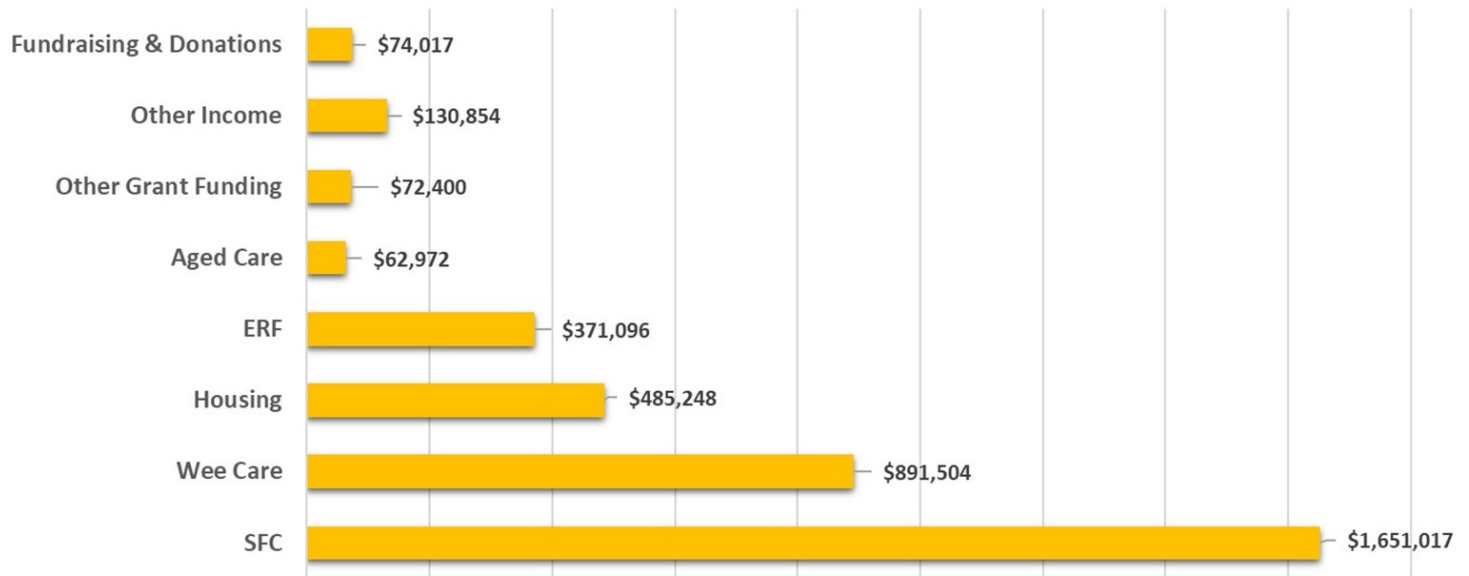
The year commenced with our staffing numbers at 29. During the year, 10 staff left our employment and 20 joined the organisation. The average length of service for those staff that left was 2.9 years. The average length of service for all staff as at 30 June 2020 was 3.04 years. For those employed longer than 12 months it is 4.73 years. Our longest serving staff member has served for 15.81 years whilst we have 3 employees that have completed over 10 years of service.

The year has been busy, and I look forward to the new financial year, with new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Lesley Thorne
Finance and HR Manager

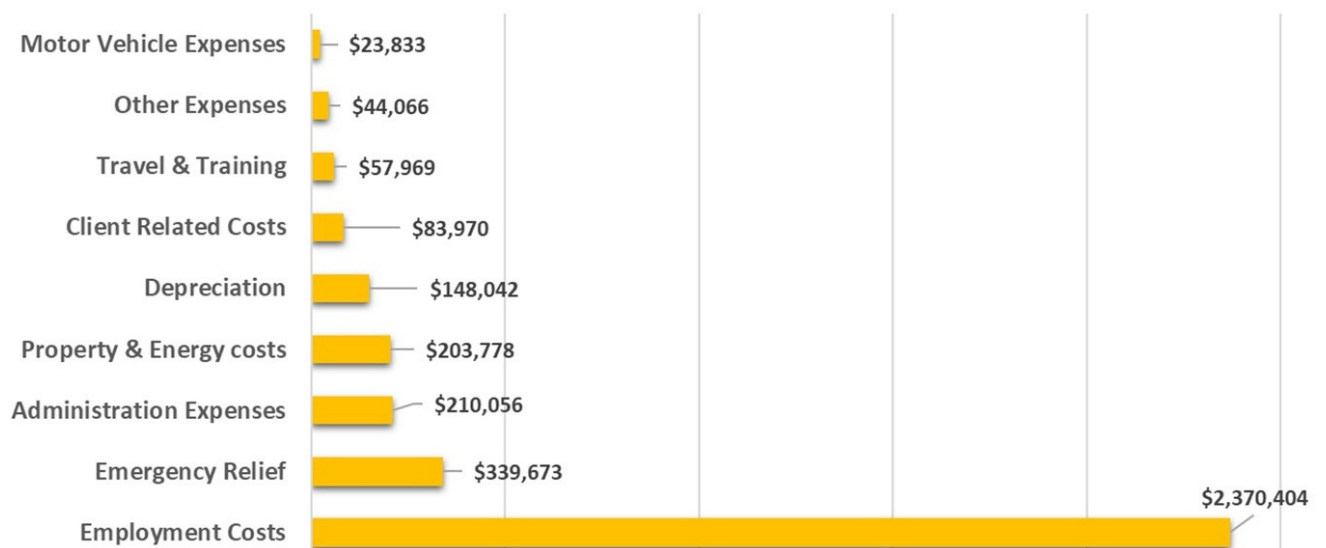
Income Chart

Income 2019-2020



Expenditure Chart

Expenditure 2019-2020



SHARED FAMILY CARE (SFC)



Reflecting over the last year there has been many highlights and sad farewells. We say goodbye to Jenny Spiers and Vicki Crees, and we wish them well in their new endeavours. We welcomed Yana Bull, Janine McFarlane and Joshua Burke. Yana has an extensive child safety background and is our EOI and assessment writer. Janine has been a family support worker with SFC in the past, has worked in corrections and has now returned to a family support role. Joshua has experience in child safety and is added to the team as a family support worker. We are extremely fortunate to welcome such dedicated and skilled people to our already hard-working team.

Some specific highlights for the year include:

- Consistently exceeding our program funding obligations by almost 10%
- Increasing our funding from 178 placements to 202
- Increasing our carer numbers by almost 10%

Our aim is always to provide support to foster and kinship care placements, to ensure that placements are stable and secure for some of the most vulnerable children in Townsville, Burdekin and Charters Towers areas.

Staff have continued to enhance their skills by participating in a range of training opportunities throughout the year, including Amovita's 1-day PACE supervision training and the 2-day PACE training for supervisors. Webinars have been a great way to utilise additional training opportunities, such as Nathan Wallis Brain Development-Anxiety and Depression; Understanding and Responding to Controlling Behaviours in Children-Trent Saville; Emerging Minds training-Child Aware Practice; Engaging Parents and Supporting Infants and Toddlers. Over the last twelve months some of the team and some carers were able to attend the National Foster & Kinship Conference held in Perth. The CEO, SFC Program Manager and Finance Manager attended the Non-For-Profit Conference in Melbourne.

SHARED FAMILY CARE (SFC)

In 2019 the team participated in the NAIDOC events in July such as the NAIDOC breakfast, street march, and community events in the park. Other events such as Community Day in Charters Towers was a great day, and we continue to try and recruit more carers in the smaller communities. As in previous years, we participated in Child Protection Week in September, by having a “Shine a light” event at Zambrero’s, inviting our children and carers to make lanterns. These were displayed throughout the store and encouraged conversations with staff and customers about how everyone can play a part in protecting children. Staff and children also attended the Spring Festival on Palm Island, and participated in cultural events on the day, and by all accounts everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Shine A Light



Charters Towers Community Day



July NAIDOC
Breakfast



PJ Day



Foster & Kinship Conference, Perth

SHARED FAMILY CARE (SFC)

September saw the first of our Hope and Healing camps with our Cultural Advisor and some of our children attending. The camps are delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all different sectors such as Health, Child Safety, Foster & Kinship Care, Mental Health and CORES. The aim of the camps is to encourage culture, connection and healing. The three camps were all held at Camp Gedling, Hervey Range and were divided into the different age groups, 16-17-year-old, 14-15-year-old, and 11-13-year-old.

Christmas events were well received with staff, carers, and children attending the movies in Townsville, Charters Towers, and bowling in Ayr. As always, everyone had a wonderful time. We were also fortunate enough this year to have received a large donation of toys that enabled us to provide all our foster children with a gift. This was much appreciated by both the program leaders and the children.



Christmas Party

Our first event for 2020 was in February with the ADF welcome expo. Unfortunately, after this all community events were cancelled, and tighter restrictions about gatherings in community came into play.

COVID 19 forced a change to the way we were working, especially during the months of March and April 2020. This was challenging for everyone, especially carers. The team were required to work from home, and utilised Microsoft teams to continue to stay connected. We focused on ensuring that carers were supported during this unsettling time.

As the Program Manager for Shared Family Care, I would like to thank all our amazing carers who opened their hearts and homes to provide care to over 200 children. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful dedicated and passionate staff, that go above and beyond, to work in a demanding and challenging program.

Finally, I would especially like to thank many of the wonderful organisations and people who have donated to our program over the last 12 months.

Thank you!
Judy Williams
Program Manager
Shared Family Care

WEE CARE



2020 is our 46th year of providing Family Support Services at Althea Projects and I believe that we continue to make a significant difference to many families in our local community.

In October 2019, after the Townsville floods, Wee Care was fortunately able to return to our home in Railway Estate, to a totally renovated and modern building.

This past year has certainly been a struggle for us all due to the impact of COVID 19, and I am sure most of you would agree that we are all looking forward to a New Year in 2021. COVID has impacted on our ability to meet the needs of families especially in the earlier part of the year. From April 2020 until July 2020 due to COVID restrictions and social distancing guidelines we were only able to accept one family at a time which resulted in fewer families being assisted.

Over the past 12 months Wee Care assisted 359 children and 255 families. This year we still delivered almost 600 unfunded hours and our humble thanks goes to all our business partners, especially Armi IGA and Myers who raised significant funds for us throughout the year that is 100% directed back to service delivery.

Wee Care strives to improve the quality of life for families by offering support when needed. Caring for young children can be very stressful and emotionally tiring and we encourage parents/carers to speak to us about taking a break to give themselves time to recharge and look after themselves, especially if they have no other supports in place. Some of the reasons families rely on Wee Care for emergency/crisis child care can be for: family illness, mental health issues, family breakdown, domestic violence, grandparents and kinship carers needing a break.

Our Environment

Due to the flood damage Wee Care gardens were totally destroyed and in desperate need of a makeover. The team from Bunnings at Idalia came together and planted trees, built a new cubby house for the little ones, renovated the sand pit and created various new play areas. The Children are delighted and now have freedom and space combined with safety to explore and have fun!



WEE CARE

Some Highlights from 2019/2020

- Returning to our Railway Estate premises in late October
- The Myers Charity Dinner on 25/10/2019
- The children had an amazing experience when they attended the “World Festival of Magic” show sponsored by the Lions Club
- We enjoyed a great day out at Billabong Sanctuary with the children where they learnt about the crocodiles and wombats and got to cuddle the koalas and pat and feed the kangaroos
- We celebrated Mabo Day with stories and crafts.

Next year we are looking forward to holding our Family Fun and Thank You event, that we postponed from May due to COVID19. However, now we are excited to coincide this event with the SNAICC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s week) Children’s Day held on the 4th of August and Wee Care will hold our event on 8th August. We will be inviting local families and all those who so generously supported us during and after the floods. One of the highlights for the children will be having our wonderful friend and children’s entertainer John playing his didgeridoo and guitar for us.



Donations

Wee Care continues to be the recipient of kindness shared by many in our community. Thanks to you, our little people have again enjoyed a stimulating, safe and exciting environment over the last twelve months.

We want to make special mention to Mundingburra Rotary for their kind donation of new blinds for the Centre and Rotary Australia World Community Service who replaced our CCTV surveillance equipment. These were items that were damaged during the floods and not covered by insurance.

We truly appreciate your commitment to making a difference.



WEE CARE

Staff Professional Development

In late August 2019 staff attended the North Queensland Child Protection Symposium. Various planned staff development opportunities have been cancelled this year and hopefully they will again be offered in 2021. However, staff also partook in various webinars and online workshops.

Staff participated in all mandatory trainings such as First Aid/Asthma and Anaphylaxis. Regular line management and Staff Supervision occurs. Annual Fire training will be held in October.



WEE CARE TEAM

Our Staff and Volunteers

Wee Care has fifteen dedicated staff members who truly believe that children come first. Thank you for all that you do. Your dedication to practicing your beliefs is the very essence of what makes Wee Care so unique and such a special place to be involved with.

The commitment and pride is evident in the quality and consistency of the care provided. Wee Care continues to have a very low rate of employee turnover.

This year we have welcomed several new staff members. Bridie joined our team in February and is doing a superb job working in Administration. Megan, Mateeka, Khaela, Taya and Tiana have also joined our team as Direct Care workers.

Thank you to our volunteer handyman Michael who is happy to fix any minor repairs that need doing around the centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Paula and my fellow leadership team members for your support, positive contribution and the wealth of experience and knowledge you all bring to Althea Projects.

Finally, my thanks must go to the families who continue to trust us to care for their children. Looking forward to the year ahead.

Kind regards

Lynne Josey
(Wee Care Program Manager)

Other services we deliver at Wee Care

ERF - Financial Support

There has been a significant change to how we are operating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Government has taken steps to support jobs, incomes, and businesses by providing multiple economic stimulus packages, including wage subsidies, income support to households and cash flow support to businesses. Due to these changes, and especially over the last four months, we have witnessed a definite decline in requests for financial support. However, we do expect to see an expansion in requests again once government COVID backing and funding ceases.

Social distancing requirements and other related measures implemented by government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been monitored closely and operational procedures have been adapted as required, to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and the Families we support. There has been no face to face distribution of emergency relief funds since April and Staff continue to deliver food boxes and vouchers to clients' homes.

How much money did we distribute? \$47,154

How many occasions did we assist? 998

Playgroup

Unfortunately, Wee Care was only able to provide four playgroups sessions at the commencement of the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Playgroup recommenced face-to-face delivery from Thursday 16th July 2020. As always, the most important consideration for us continues to be the health and safety of our community – our playgroup families and our employees. To comply with government regulations, we have introduced a COVID-Safe Plan.

Playgroup is certainly going to be different for a while, so we ask our families to please continue to be patient as we navigate this journey together. Since recommencing our sessions, we have seen seven new families join us on a Thursday morning.

First Steps

Althea Projects works in close partnership with Department of Child Safety and other key stakeholders to provide a safe and supportive post birth service to mothers who require assistance to safely protect and parent their newborn baby. In February support was required for a young mum and baby to come into the centre and both stayed with us for a four-week period before returning safely home together. Other support services continue to support the Family at home in their own environment. Our team is presently over-viewing the effectiveness of what we are currently doing and how we can deliver this service to achieve the best outcomes for mums and bubs.

A Young Mother's Testimony: Just recently we had the privilege of a surprise visit from our very first "First Steps" mum from five years ago. She asked that we pass onto our Staff who supported her how thankful she is to Child Safety and the First Steps program and that these wonderful women involved taught her how to be the mum she is today.

Thank You!

Lynne Josey

Program Manager

TOWNSVILLE DROP IN CENTRE (TDIC)



This year there were 434 presentations to the Centre for assistance for housing and homelessness support, many of those being case managed through our services.

TDIC operates under a 'No Wrong Door' model, which means people can present to the Centre seeking assistance and be able to get the help they need regardless of which service or agency they connect with.

Most presentations for assistance are requiring a multi-system approach to meet their needs and staff are encouraging meaningful change with our service users by encouraging them to actively engage with visiting homeless services; health professionals; legal services; NDIS support providers and other stakeholders.

It has been a tremendously positive year for the program. Some significant achievements include:

- An external review of our service by Dr. Sharon McCallum in November 2019 resulted in overwhelming positive and constructive feedback
- Additional funding to deliver Mobile and Outreach Support services
- Establishment of our social enterprise, Morehead Meals that has received seed funding from Department of Housing and Public Works
- Successfully modifying and adapting services and working throughout the COVID19 health pandemic
- Making the decision to relinquish our Commonwealth Home Support Program to another local service
- Organising a number of community events, such as NAIDOC Week
- Continuing to work in partnership with a range of community services

Program Review

In September we engaged the services of Dr Sharon McCallum to undertake a review of the Drop In Centre.

Data was collected from staff, service users and representatives from community service and government agencies who work closely with TDIC.

We were overwhelmed with the positive and constructive feedback received from this review. Dr McCallum's conclusions found the Centre has a positive impact on its many users; is a highly regarded and valued service; is able to successfully meet the needs of clients who engage; and it appears to be under-resourced. The review captured ideas that would add value if additional resources were available, e.g. more art classes, numeracy and literacy workshops, women's and men's groups and budgeting classes.

New Mobile and Outreach Support Service

In September we were invited to commence staffing / resource review discussions with the Department of Housing and Public Works. It was great the Department acknowledged the hard work of the team at the centre and were keen to support us to extend on the work that was already occurring at the Centre.

At the end of March 2020, the Centre was funded to deliver a Mobile Outreach service until June 2021. This funding allowed us to finally staff the centre properly and commence assertive outreach within the City area. TDIC now has a Team Coordinator – Kirsty Ahern, Mobile Outreach Community Care Workers – Veronica Van Meirlo and Logan Frew; Centre Based Community Care Workers – Dan Hegarty and Mandi Houghton and a part-time Administration Officer Khaela Gosling. We are now able to offer integrated service delivery that suits the needs of our housing and homeless clients.

Social Enterprise

In April we were offered a 6-month contract for a Dignity First (Department of Housing and Public Works) proposal. This was the start of Morehead Meals. Alanna Holden stepped into the kitchen role to get the ball rolling with meal preparation. A big shout out to Giina and Isabella from Absolute Cravings for their guidance in getting our kitchen licensed to commence this program.

Morehead Meals is the start of a multi-level social enterprise connecting our community through affordable, healthy pre-made frozen meals. Meals can be collected from the Drop In Centre or can be delivered by our staff. A Facebook page has been launched and we are encouraging our stakeholders to sponsor meals for those in the community who are less fortunate than themselves.



Donations

The Drop In Centre relies on the generous donations of our supporters to allow us to move people from homelessness and couch surfing in to a home of their own. Althea Projects is deeply grateful to our many contributors, some of the donors I would like to thank are:

- Ignatius Park College for their ongoing support at the centre by bringing groups of boys to make breakfasts for centre users each August, then collecting non-perishable food items for the centre
- Relay for Life for their donation of non-perishable food items
- St Margaret Mary's College for preparing some beautiful meals for TDIC lunches
- Kates Campaign for Change for her ongoing support of street packs for rough sleepers – these packs include food items and/or hygiene items
- Many people in our community who continually surprise me with their random acts of kindness towards our cohort.



- In September Westpac generously donated a cheque for \$7000.00 which was used to assist two families and three singles to purchase white goods, beds and basic furniture items for their homes as they moved from homelessness/couch surfing into their own accommodation.



COVID-19 Impacts and Adaption To Service

2020 was off to a busy start with various services co-locating and running various clinics at the centre. Then came COVID-19 and everything closed down. Keeping the centre open was an easy decision to be made and we changed how we operated out of the centre. This was tricky at times with the ever-changing landscape of a pandemic. Centre users adapted to these changes and adhered to the strict hygiene rules of the centre.

Surprisingly our breakfast and lunch service increased dramatically during the pandemic. This may be due to people who do not usually come inside the centre being offered their meal in a takeaway format. We found that by serving meals in this way more people donated a gold coin towards their meal.



Relinquishing the Commonwealth Home Support Program

In May we commenced discussions with Department of Social Services about relinquishing the Commonwealth Home Support program. This program has never really fitted with the strategic direction of Althea Projects and it was decided that concentrating on homelessness was where the Drop in Centre needed to be at this time. This program will be fully relinquished by September 30 2020.

Emergency Relief Funding (ERF)

The Townsville Drop In Centre continues to administer State funded Emergency Relief. This year 454 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.

Community Events

NAIDOC Day was held mid July, with a BBQ feast of kangaroo, the people from Joyful Noise provided entertainment on the day and everyone had a fantastic time. Feedback from participants was very clear that they would like to be a part of the planning for the 2020 NAIDOC celebrations.



We were really confident as we headed into the Christmas period that 2020 was going to be the best year yet at The Townsville Drop In Centre and we finished off the year with a wonderful Xmas lunch that was attended by many people in our community. Centre users helped us on the day to ensure that everyone had a lovely day.



Partnerships

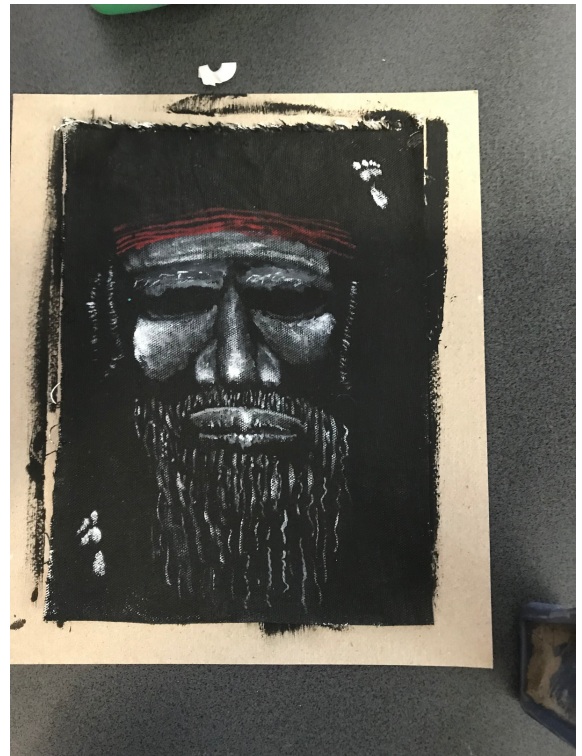
The health and wellbeing of our Centre users are a priority to our staff and additional health services were encouraged to visit the centre. We would like to thank the teams from Queensland Health; Sexual Health, immunisation clinics and the Healthy Ways team for their cooking classes and we look forward to getting these vital services back to the centre as COVID restrictions ease. Queensland Health visited the centre twice during flu season to ensure that all of our vulnerable service users were immunised against the flu.

Outside Optometry started coming to the Centre in late 2019 to offer eye examinations and free glasses to clients. James's visits have been well received by centre users and he examines approximately 12 people each visit.

Perc Tucker Gallery extended our Art Therapy contract and Cassie is getting good numbers at each Art class. Cassie has developed some great relationships with centre users and they look forward to getting creative each week.



Art Therapy



Upgrades and Maintenance

The Centre has needed some much-needed money spent on maintenance. This year we have painted some of the offices, purchased new desks, phones and computers.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the staff at the Townsville Drop In Centre, Leadership Team, Management Committee, Government and Non-Government stakeholders and other staff from Althea Projects. Without your continued support, the Centre would not be moving from strength to strength. I always speak with pride when asked what service I am from and I am looking forward to consolidating our programs at the Centre. We have learnt that solving homelessness is not easy and the people that use our facility have varied life experiences and health and social issues, which make moving forward a challenge that we all accept. The team at TDIC are dedicated to walking alongside and helping our clients face significant hurdles on their way to accessing and sustaining long term housing. They assist them to address their personal, social and health needs.

Thank you

Peta Anderson

Program Manager, Townsville Drop In Centre

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)



Reconciliation is at the heart of our programs and as an organisation one of our key values is to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with opportunities to thrive in their lives. Our RAP continues to guide us to be active, visible and accountable in our endeavours to play our role in a reconciled community.

Almost 40% of Althea Projects clients identified as either Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past year.

In April 2020 our new RAP (Innovate) was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. We are proud of our updated document and are committed to achieving the actions we have outlined. In September 2020 we will officially launch our RAP.

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



NAIDOC 2019

NAIDOC

Staff from Shared Family Care participated in the NAIDOC march with carers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. At the end of the march people walked through the smoke that was lit for the smoking ceremony so that we could enter the grounds cleansed.

Shared Family Care managed a stall at Townsville NAIDOC Deadly Day Out. It was at the NAIDOC Deadly Day Althea Projects stall that Michelle Tyhuis launched her book “My Deadly Book About Me”, which Althea Projects and FEAT sponsored in 2019. Michelle provided free raffle tickets to our NAIDOC stall visitors and gave away free copies of her book.

Althea Projects booked a table for ten at Townsville NAIDOC Breakfast at The Ville Resort-Casino. Staff enjoyed a beautiful breakfast and listened to elders and emerging leaders on “Voice, Treaty & Truth”.

Our Cultural Advisor, Lena and children in care from the Burdekin were invited to quite a number of schools in the region to celebrate NAIDOC. Althea Projects organised and encouraged staff to purchase NAIDOC shirts from Bundarra.

Aitkenvale Child Safety NAIDOC Day

Shared Family Care staff, seven carers and 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children participated in this NAIDOC event.

RAP T-Shirts

We are proud of our RAP artwork that was developed by Michelle Tyhuis. In addition to the RAP tablecloths that we developed last year, this year the RAP artwork was incorporated into our RAP t-shirts that staff wear proudly.



RAP T-Shirts

4K1G

CEO Paula, and Cultural Advisor Lena, went on radio 4K1G to advertise what Althea Projects does in the community. We particularly discussed the need for more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster carers.



Paula & Lena at 4K1G

Reconciliation Grants

In this reporting period, across the two Reconciliation Grant grounds Althea Projects distributed over \$6,000 to seven young people. The grant funding enabled these young people to access sporting uniforms and participate in sporting carnivals, driving lessons and laptops for school.

Welcome Baby To Country

Shared Family Care participated in the second “Welcome Baby to Country” ceremony at the Palmetum gardens. About 25 babies attended the ceremony with their foster carers and biological families.



Welcome Baby To Country Event



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in the Burdekin

Cultural Advisor Lena was invited to the Burdekin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. Burdekin children in care performed Aboriginal dances for the event.

Palm Island Spring Festival

A number of Shared Family Care staff, carers and children in care attended the annual Palm Island Spring festival. The Spring festival gives staff and families an ideal opportunity to be immersed in Aboriginal culture. On display at the festival are Aboriginal art stalls, food stalls and on centre stage are the dance and song performances by the many tribes that live on Palm Island.

Hope and Healing camps X 3

Cultural Advisor Lena attended the three Hope and Healing camps held at Camp Gedling, Harvey Range. Twenty-two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from Shared Family Care attended these cultural camps. The importance of these camps is to reconnect these young children with their culture through food, dance, elders teaching them the importance of knowing their identity and being productive young people of the community. The camps included a tour to sacred sites to observe century old paintings.

Lena Watego

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Advisor



Hope and Healing Camps





Clients
2608



Children
629



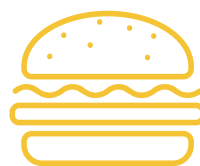
Indigenous
1033



Bednights
70731



Contact Hrs
16921



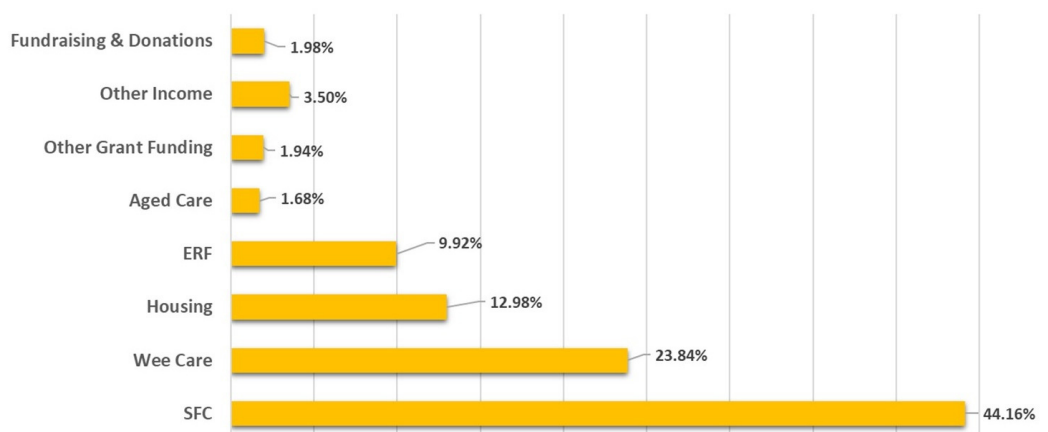
Meals
9288



Staff
39

Income & Expenditure

Income 2019-2020



Expenditure 2019-2020

