

**MEDIA RELEASE**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS GIVES FOCUS TO NAIDOC WEEK  
PARTICIPATING IN OVER 50 EVENTS NATIONALLY**

With a theme this year of 'Our Languages Matter', NAIDOC Week is held from **2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an important opportunity to recognise the great contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

To achieve our vision of reconciliation living in the hearts and minds of all Life Without Barriers employees and volunteers, we need to 'walk the talk'. A great opportunity to demonstrate this is through participating in various local NAIDOC events.

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. The theme this year, '*Our Languages Matter*' is an important one, as our languages directly link us to our land, cultural identity, our waters, our history, rites and spirituality. It is important to share how much we need our language to remain strong and to grow. There are approximately 250 languages nation-wide, and within specific nations other spoken dialects. It is also reported that only 120 of the 250 languages remain.

Over the duration of NAIDOC Week, Life Without Barriers staff and clients will lead or support over 50 events nationally. At one NSW NAIDOC event, on 7 July at Mt Annan Botanical Gardens, we will showcase the importance of language through dance, storytelling and didgeridoo. Activities will include a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, Arts and Crafts, Djaadjawan Dancers (female), storytelling and dancing (males) as well as Didgeridoo lessons.

**Here's a snapshot of NAIDOC events around the country:**

In **New South Wales** these events include:

- **1<sup>st</sup> July, 6:30pm – 10pm:** Indigenous Fashion Night - Slim Dusty Centre, Kempsey.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July, 11am – 5pm:** NAIDOC Blak Markets at Barangaroo - Stargazer Lawn, Barangaroo Reserve.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> July, 9am – 3:30pm:** Newcastle NAIDOC Family Day and March - Smith Park, Hamilton.

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- **3<sup>rd</sup> July, 10:30am:** Broken Hill City Council Flag Raising and Ceremony - Broken Hill Civic Centre, Broken Hill.
- **7<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30am:** Sydney Out of Home Care NAIDOC Event - Botanical Gardens, Mt Annan.

In [Australian Capital Territory](#), these events include:

- **5<sup>th</sup> July, 11am – 2pm:** Canberra NAIDOC Week Community Celebration - 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah.

In [Victoria](#) these events include:

- **3<sup>rd</sup> July, 9:30am – 11:00am:** NAIDOC Week Victorian Flag Raising Ceremony - Federation Square, Melbourne.
- **4<sup>th</sup> July, 9am - 4pm:** VACCA NAIDOC Event (with Elders Morning Tea & Family Day), Greaves Reserve Park, Dandenong.
- **7<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 12noon:** Melbourne NAIDOC March, March from Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) to Federation Square.

In [Tasmania](#) these events include:

- **7<sup>th</sup> July, 11am:** Flag Raising - Risdon Cove, Hobart.
- **11th July, 7pm:** NAIDOC Ball Launceston - The Boathouse, Invermay.

In [South Australia](#) these events include:

- **3<sup>rd</sup> July:** NAIDOC Week Bridge Walk - 9:30am East Side, 9:45am in front of Local Government Centre - 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge.
- **4<sup>th</sup> July 9:30am – 12noon:** NAIDOC Celebrations - Murray Bridge Library, Murray Bridge.
- **6<sup>th</sup> July, 11am – 2pm:** Strathalbyn NAIDOC Celebrations - Strathalbyn Show Hall, Coronation Road.

In [Northern Territory](#) these events include:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> July – 9<sup>th</sup> July (multiple events):** Alice Springs NAIDOC Week - Our Language Matters, Alice Springs Desert Park.
- **5<sup>th</sup> July, 2:30pm – 4pm:** Why Our Languages Matter, Charles Darwin University, Northern Institute, Savanna Room, Yellow Building 1, Level 2, Room 48, Darwin.
- **6<sup>th</sup> July, 10am:** Alice Springs NAIDOC March and Community Day - march from ANZAC Oval to Town Council lawns.

In [Western Australia](#) these events include:

- **30<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays only):** Our Languages Matter Exhibition - True Blue Australia Shop 101 Fremantle Markets, Cnr South Terrace and Parry Street, Fremantle.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July, 11am:** Perth Official Flag Raising - Elizabeth Quay, Perth.
- **7<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm:** Perth NAIDOC Ball - Astral Ballroom, Burswood.

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In [Queensland](#) these events include:

- **1<sup>st</sup> July, 6pm:** National NAIDOC Awards Ceremony - Cairns Convention Centre, Sheridan St & Wharf St, Cairns City.
- **5<sup>th</sup> July, 9am – 12.30pm:** Next Step After Care Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Artwork Launch - Jagera Hall: 121 Cordelia Street, Musgrave Park, South Brisbane.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July, 10:30am:** Cairns NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony - Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade, Cairns.
- **8<sup>th</sup> July, 10am to 4pm:** Sunshine Coast NAIDOC Day - Black Swan Park, Cotton Tree Parade, Maroochydore.
- **14<sup>th</sup> July, 11am – 2:30pm:** Acacia Ridge NAIDOC Day - Wallangarra State School, Wallangarra.

Life Without Barriers also remains committed to building long term relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities by fostering and encouraging positive cultural change and continuing to be courageous and tenacious as an organisation in our *'Reconciliation Journey'*.

LWB achieve this via our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and supporting frameworks that deliver on our commitment across all States and Territories at a local level.

This includes:

- Promoting a culture of diversity and respect across our workforce.
- 10% employment target for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees by October 2018.
- Traineeships and identified positions throughout the organisation for roles critical to incorporating the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Cultural awareness training for all employees.
- Commitment to purchasing goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses (e.g. Supply Nation) where possible.

Life Without Barriers encourages our employees to participate in significant cultural events and take a moment to pause, reflect, open their heart and think about how they can incorporate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including clients, carers, community and staff, into our organisation and the work we do.

**Reconciliation is everyone's responsibility!**

**END**

**About Life Without Barriers:** Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest leading social purpose, not-for-profit organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its main areas of operation includes support to children, young people and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disability, older people, and people who are vulnerable to social exclusion.

### **Media Enquiries**

Abby Edwards

External Communications, Media & Events Coordinator - Life Without Barriers

**E:** [abby.edwards@lwb.org.au](mailto:abby.edwards@lwb.org.au)

**T:** 0472 821 808