

WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

MEDIA RELEASE

30th May 2017

Life Without Barriers Reinforces their Commitment to Reconciliation

The theme for National Reconciliation Week is **'Let's Take The Next Steps'**. As a social purpose organisation, Life Without Barriers (LWB) takes this time to reflect and reinforce their commitment to reconciliation through their Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.

"At Life Without Barriers we encourage positive cultural changes, but there is always the reminder that we must continue to be courageous and tenacious as an organisation in our *'Reconciliation Journey'*. Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to become culturally aware, to have an understanding of each other's cultural differences and the differing situations in which cultures exist," says Les Ahoy, NSW/ACT State Lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Initiatives.

This year is particularly significant as it marks the 25th Anniversary of the Mabo Decision (3 June) and the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum (27 May). As part of National Reconciliation Week, LWB are participating in many community events as well as running a number of our own across the country.

LWB staff will have opportunities to demonstrate and strengthen their ongoing commitment to Reconciliation through local activities celebrating National Sorry Day (26 May), National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June), Coming of the Light (1 July) and National NAIDOC Week (2 – 9 July).

"At Life Without Barriers we believe that reconciliation must live in the hearts and minds of all Australians. I encourage staff attending local events, to take a moment to pause, reflect, open their heart and think about how they can incorporate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (clients, carers, community and staff) in all Life Without Barriers Business," says Claire Robbs, Chief Executive.

Leading up to National Reconciliation Week the students from Challa Gardens Primary School in Adelaide were recently treated to a day of music, dance and culture thanks to a visit from [Indigenous HIP HOP Projects](#). The group of seven energetic and athletic members held workshops with students combining hip hop and Indigenous culture. Indigenous Hip Hop Projects is a team of artists who encourage self-expression through movement, music and art. They visited Challa Gardens Primary School as part of Life Without Barriers arts-based learning program **Creating Brighter Futures** (or *nyuntumpa nintiringanyi* meaning 'for you to learn about').

During Reconciliation Week, South Australian Life Without Barriers staff and clients will also take part in [Reconciliation in the West](#) as a celebration of Aboriginal culture and identity at the Tauondi Aboriginal College. Community members will enjoy live performances and entertainment, a range of stalls, free BBQ lunch and interactive activities for all ages.

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In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders both past and present.

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Life Without Barriers also take this opportunity to congratulate and celebrate our recent Scholarship recipient - **Oceania Henry**. Oceania is using her scholarship to study Medicine at Deakin University (Waurin Ponds campus). She identifies as a proud Aboriginal woman from the Gunditjmara region and says that her inspiration to do medicine comes from her sister who is a midwife, "I feel like I have inherited her love of babies - so potentially something in women's health, like obstetrics or gynecology when I have finished my study is where I see myself going. This is an area I am passionate about and see a lot of value in."

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PHOTOS TO DOWNLOAD

Scholarship Recipient Oceania Henry: [CLICK HERE](#)

Photographer: Josie Hayden

Challa Gardens Primary School Indigenous Hip Hop Workshop: [CLICK HERE](#)

Photographer: Nick Clayton

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About Life Without Barriers: Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest leading social purpose organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its major areas of operations include family support and out-of-home care, mental health services, youth justice, disability services, community based aged care, homelessness services, support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and support to refugees and asylum seekers.