



# Act for kids

Preventing and treating child abuse and neglect

## LISA'S STORY



Growing up experiencing severe physical and emotional abuse, 17-year-old Lisa\* was hit, slapped and forced to perform physical labour. After initially seeing an Act for Kids psychologist, it was identified that her poor communication skills were impacting her social relationships. Lisa was then referred to one of our speech pathologists. As a result of her abuse, Lisa was very shy, withdrawn and suffered with poor self-esteem because of her struggles to communicate.

Our speech pathologist worked with Lisa and conducted assessments to determine the developmental level of Lisa's communication skills. Sadly, she was severely delayed across all areas. Together, Lisa and her therapist decided that improving Lisa's conversational and social skills would have the most impact on her wellbeing and they set out some therapy goals to track Lisa's progress. In sessions, they focused on skills such as eye contact, turn taking, asking questions, making comments and extending and ending conversations appropriately.

Throughout Lisa's therapy journey, the therapist would record their sessions and then together listen back to them to discuss Lisa's progress. At the end of one of these sessions, Lisa exclaimed "I can talk!".

Until only recently, Lisa felt she wasn't able to talk properly. If we were to think back about ourselves at this same age, some of us may have just graduated high school, started our professional careers or ventured off to university. Lisa, however, never received the nurturing, support or encouragement that most children receive throughout their childhood. Instead, she somehow made it to 17 without learning how to properly interact or communicate with those around her.

Lisa will soon be turning 18 and is preparing to transition out of Act for Kids' services. We are working to connect her with other local services that will continue to support her on her journey of recovery as she ventures into adulthood.

With an aspiration to attend TAFE, Lisa can utilise her improved communications skills to have conversations with her teachers and other students and make new friends; something she never could have done without your ongoing support!

*\*Name changed to protect privacy.*



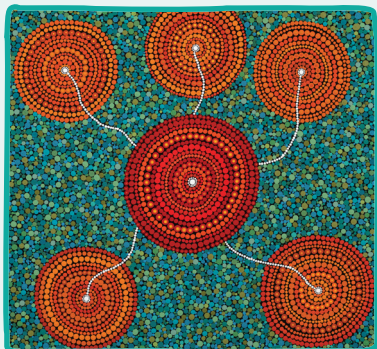


# RAP ARTWORK COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED!



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from around the nation were invited to enter into our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Art Competition, and what an incredible collection of artwork we received! We were inspired by the entries from our local Indigenous artists, as they all reflected our vision at Act for Kids and told unique stories of their own. After lots of deliberation, three winners have been chosen. We would like to thank all entrants and give huge congratulations to Ella Gillespie, Deborah Anne Newenham and Anita Morena!

## WINNING ARTWORKS



**My Place -**  
By Ella Gillespie

A representation of Ella's safe place; where she belongs, feels most connected to and is her happy place. The surrounding circles represent the people closest to Ella, the white lines navigating the journey back to her happy place and the background representing her country.



**Let's protect our kids -**  
By Deborah Anne Newenham

The tree and all branches symbolise the possible support we can find for our vulnerable children. The kangaroos sit as protectors; with happy children near-by, safe houses, and our specialist teams' services and their conversations and assistance, painting a detailed picture of how our children are protected within our communities.



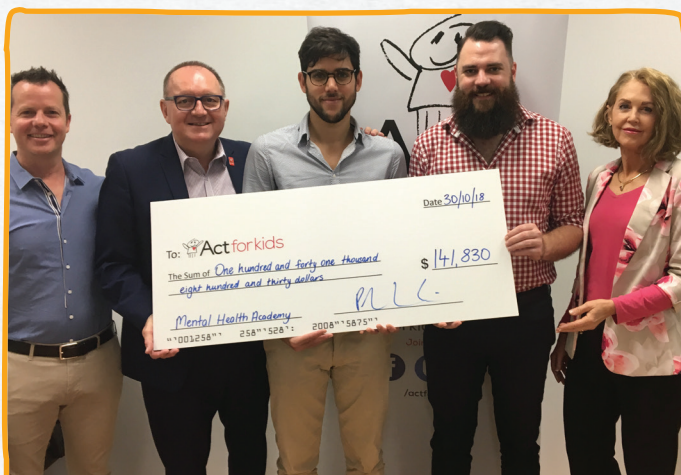
**Reconciliation, Knowledge and Togetherness -**  
By Anita Morena

Gathering often to share experiences and contribute our strengths will further develop our communities in the process of reconciliation. To provide safety for children, we must gather knowledge from Elders. Communication and respect, the lore and spirit of the land, togetherness and shared knowledge of our communities are all creatively depicted within the painting.

## OVER HALF A MILLION DOLLARS RAISED BY MENTAL HEALTH SUPER SUMMIT!

For the fourth year in a row, the Mental Health Academy's Mental Health Super Summit was a huge success, raising over \$141,000 for children that have experienced child abuse or neglect. Over 16 days the Summit was delivered via live webinar sessions and on demand viewing, with world renowned mental health experts sharing insights and knowledge for thousands of participants.

The online event has raised over half a million dollars in just four years. Act for Kids CEO Dr Neil Carrington said he was so grateful to the team at Mental Health Academy for their ongoing commitment to bettering the lives of Australian kids. The funds raised will allow Act for Kids to reduce their waitlists and increase the number of therapy hours we can deliver each week and expand and support our Integrated Support Therapy services.





## MELBOURNE INTEGRATED THERAPY CENTRE OPENS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN BROADMEADOWS

It was only a matter of time before Act for Kids made their way to Victoria to make a difference to the lives of as many of the 15,488 children that were confirmed as abused or neglected in Victoria last year as they can. With the official opening of the Act for Kids Broadmeadows centre in October 2018, the centre already has a waitlist.

Member for Broadmeadows, MP Frank McGuire was among the official opening guests. "Caring for our children is one of the greatest duties and responsibilities," he said.

"We will work closely with the existing health services to ensure Victorian kids and families get the integrated support they need to overcome their experiences and challenges. Seeing them get stronger and have happier, healthier futures is our goal," said Mr McGuire.

Key players in the Victorian property industry, Lendlease and the Property Industry Foundation (PIF), have come together to support Act for Kids and facilitate a \$300,000 refurbishment on the Broadmeadows centre.

Lendlease and PIF completed an interior and exterior makeover and recently celebrated the opening of the new play space, officially named 'Lily's Garden'. Kate Mills, CEO of PIF stated, "The new garden will be a beautiful place for children and young people to play and learn."

Executive General Manager of Lendlease Joe Kokai says as a long-time member of the Property Industry Foundation, Lendlease was proud to support Act for Kids' vision. Mr Kokai acknowledged his amazing team of consultants, subcontractors and suppliers, and was delighted to be able to give something back to the Broadmeadows community.



## AUTO & GENERAL TEE OFF TO TREAT ABUSE



Insurance company Budget Direct powered by Auto & General, held its annual Act for Kids Charity Golf Day in April. Held at The Brisbane Golf Club with over 90 players in attendance from different organisations, this year the event raised an astonishing \$145,000.

Auto & General Community Manager, Gerry O'Shaughnessy, said he is overwhelmed by the response and support received this year from proud sponsors who have dedicated their time and effort to this worthy cause.

"This is our fifth year supporting the Act for Kids charity and we are delighted to have had 30 business partners participate, with Optus being a major sponsor of the event," said Mr O'Shaughnessy.

Auto & General is a proud Gold Sponsor for Act for Kids and throughout the year, the business raises money and awareness through events such as the Golf Day, employee workplace-giving, staff fundraising competitions and company donations.





## THE PROPERTY INDUSTRY BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR OUR KIDS



The Property Council of Australia and the Property Industry Foundation (PIF) Christmas events at the end of 2018 exceeded expectations and collectively raised over \$135,000 in their charity raffles to support vulnerable kids.

The Property Council of Australia South Australia supported Act for Kids for the second year in a row, and raised \$23,000 at their Christmas Lunch at the Adelaide Oval. While PIF Victoria chose to support Act for Kids for the first time at the annual event at Melbourne's Crown Casino raising over \$60,000. In Brisbane, the annual event saw PIF Queensland raise over \$50,000.

Act for Kids CEO Dr Neil Carrington says these donations are enough to provide around 1,350 hours of therapy for children affected by abuse or neglect. "This will make a huge difference to the amount of therapy hours we are able to deliver out of our centres," Dr Carrington said.

"We are so grateful to the Property Council of Australia and the Property Industry Foundation for their ongoing support of our organisation and for helping us to give more children a second chance at childhood."

## VILLA WORLD RAISES \$70,000 FOR KIDS IN NEED



National residential developer Villa World has raised \$70,000 to help Act for Kids at their annual fundraising Christmas Classic golf day.

Act for Kids CEO Dr Neil Carrington said the donation will go directly toward Act for Kids' Integrated Therapy Programs to provide intensive therapy for children who have experienced abuse or neglect.

"The support of Villa World will allow us to deliver over 650 hours of psychology, speech pathology and occupational therapy support to children affected by abuse or neglect.

"We are so grateful for the support we receive from organisations such as Villa World that allow us to expand our reach, increase our therapy hours and ultimately, help more children," Dr Carrington said.

Villa World CEO Craig Treasure said Act for Kids was a charity that hit close to home for Villa World and its staff.

"Most of us have our own families, and it's heartbreaking to hear the number of children that are affected by abuse and neglect every year, so it's crucial that businesses and individuals get behind them," he said.



For more information or to donate please call 1300 228 000 or visit [www.actforkids.com.au](http://www.actforkids.com.au)

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Act for Kids is a not-for-profit organisation providing free professional therapy and support services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Established in 1988, we have helped thousands of children and families in Australia who have experienced, or are at risk of child abuse and neglect.