

TOWNSVILLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUST CORPORATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

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Media Release

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10,000+ stars made to end violence

In early 2016, both State and Federal Governments launched projects to raise awareness of and to challenge communities to put an end to domestic, gender based and family violence. The challenge was put to communities to help weave one million stars to shine a light on a campaign to end violence and create a spectacular art installation for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The Townsville Catholic Education Office (TCEO), along with the schools that are part of the Townsville Diocese, set a goal of 10,000 stars to contribute to this project. TCEO staff put aside allocated sessions to make the stars and students from all year levels gave up their morning tea break and lunch breaks to get together and weave stars. This resulted in not just reaching the goal of 10,000 stars, but 11,720 stars to contribute to the project.

Townsville Catholic Education 'One Million Stars to End Violence' project organisers, Jodie Davey, Curriculum Adviser and Jennifer Blackshaw, Senior Catholic Education Social Work, were amazed by the response they received from schools.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive with so many of our schools taking part in this special project," said Ms Davey.

"Students were taking the ribbon home and weaving stars during their school holidays."

"This project was for anyone wanting to make a peaceful statement against violence. Every star that has been woven by our staff and students is a commitment to end violence and to encourage the best in people," said Ms Blackshaw.

"Ending violence is everyone's responsibility, not just one person or one organisation can fix this problem. We all need to come together and remind each other that we can do something about it and keep the conversation of dealing with violence in our communities active."

Townsville Catholic Education collected the stars from all the participating schools in the Diocese which have been packaged, ready to send down to Brisbane. When courier company, Followmont Transport heard about this special project, they kindly offered to transport the stars to Brisbane free of charge.

The schools involved in this project are: *St Joseph's Catholic School, Mount Isa, St Joseph's Catholic School, The Strand, St Margaret Mary's College, Hyde Park, St Clare's Catholic School, Burdell, Holy*

Spirit Catholic School, Cranbrook, Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan, St Michael's Catholic School, Palm Island, Southern Cross Catholic College, Annandale and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Ingham.



Jodie Davey and Jennifer Blackshaw drowning in stars.





Followmont Transport

For further information, please contact Karolien Kern, Marketing & Communications Officer on 4773 0970 or 0417 117 049.