



## Our Staff & Their Achievements

Sr. Leone Wittmack rsc

CatholicCare NT employs 220 staff who work with people in our 21 programs across 17 sites throughout the Northern Territory and the APY Lands in South Australia with between 25% - 30% of our staff from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. While many of our staff work in our urban sites, our commitment to offering place based services sees a number of our staff working and living in remote communities. Our staff are highly motivated and are very committed to ensuring that our mission and values are evident in all aspects of our work whether that be working directly with our clients or working in other areas of our organisation such as reception and administration, human resources, finance, information technology and environmental services.

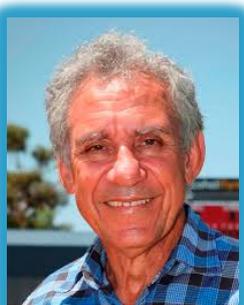
CatholicCare NT encourages the staff in the area of learning and development and supports the staff to do this. Our staff also participate in other activities such as sport. We also have a number of aboriginal artists on our staff all of whom deserves recognition. The following highlights some of our staff and their wonderful achievements this year.

### In Darwin and Palmerston



**Lara Tonkin:** Lara is the Executive Assistant to our Director Jayne Lloyd and assists other members of the Executive. She has a very important role in the organisation and is a point of connection between our Leadership Teams, Regional Managers and Executive Members. She has been very involved in the development of our new website and branding. Our Facebook is also an important area of social media. It helps us connect to the wider community and Lara has responsibility to ensure that this

happens in an appropriate manner. Lara is well known within CatholicCare for having a good eye for design, and she is often called upon to give input into our office design and presentation making sure that the ambiance of our sites is in keeping with our cultural stance. This year Lara achieved her Diploma of Counselling. Lara believes that some of the skills that she has developed from her studies helps her in her role as she relates to many people both within CatholicCare NT as well as in the wider community.



**Charlie King:** Charlie works for the ABC. He is well known and respected throughout the NT and beyond and can regularly be heard over the airwaves commentating of many sporting events. He also is the founder of the NO MORE Campaign, and works in partnership with CatholicCare NT. The Campaign is about saying NO MORE to family violence and the message is spread through many football and other sporting bodies. Many sporting clubs in the NT now sign a Domestic Violence Action Plan (DVAP). Programs in the area of Domestic

Violence Counselling have now been developed as a result of the NO MORE Campaign and these are staffed through CatholicCare NT. In 2019, Charlie was named the NT Senior Citizen of the Year. He was also one of the Ambassadors for the Arafura Games.



**Linda Spencer:** During Mental Health week this year Linda was awarded a Special Certificate for her work as a Dual Diagnosis Practitioner working out of our Palmerston Office. The Special Recognition Certificate recognises “exceptional individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment to improving the lives of people with a mental illness.” Linda exemplifies this. She was nominated by Jacqueline Fidler, her Regional Manager for a Mental Health Workers Award in recognition for the great work that Linda does in this area. Linda provides mental health advocacy, education, upskilling and training to external stakeholders and individual and peer group supervision to staff from our Berrimah, Malak and Palmerton Office, along with managing a case load of clients with often complex needs. Linda is generous with her time and energy and is a tireless advocate.

Vanessa Harris, Executive Officer for the Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition who was on the panel to choose the Award winners, when notifying Linda remarked that “the panel were impressed with the work you’re doing Linda as a Dual Diagnosis Practitioner at CatholicCare NT and the have decided to give a Special Recognition Certificate, so Congratulations.” We at CatholicCare NT echo that Congratulations! The photo shows Linda receiving her award with Member for Karama, Ngaree Ah Kit MLA.



**Daniel Ellen-Barwell:** Daniel is our Payroll and Accounts Officer. This year Daniel represented Australia in the Arafura games. He was a member of the Sepak Takraw (or kick volleyball) team. Daniel also played a large part in organising the competition, which saw teams participating from the NT, Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore. It was certainly a popular event in the Arafura games and made for a great spectacle and show cases the skills and good sportsmanship of all those involved. The photo shows Daniel (second from right) with other members of the two Australian Teams at the Arafura Games.



## In Tennant Creek



**Irena Edwards-Kelly, Ben Mack, and Tony Varghese:** All three staff recently graduated from RMIT with a Diploma of Drug and Alcohol. This Diploma is very valuable in the work that in which they are involved.

Irena is currently working as Case Manager, Youth Wellbeing.

Ben is currently working as Case Manager, Youth.

Tony is currently a Case Manager, Intensive Family Preservation Service

The photo shows Ben, Tony and Irena. You will notice that Ben and Irena have an added sash. This additional sash shows their Aboriginal heritage.

## NAIDOC Awards

**Director's NAIDOC Awards:** Again in 2019, CatholicCare NT presented our Indigenous staff with the Director's NAIDOC Awards. We were pleased that Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, member for Karama could join us as our guest speaker. The recipients of the award were:

**Jenna Conway-Jones:** Emerging Leader, Lead Practitioner from Darwin.

**Dorothy Ulamari and Corinna Pope:** Team Award from Katherine.

**Ralph Turner:** Caring for Country Award from Santa Teresa.

**Patricia Braun:** Person of the Year Award from Tennant Creek.



Photo of our recipients with CatholicCare NT Director Jayne Lloyd, Ngaree Ah Kit MLA, member for Karama, Phil Brown and Sr. Leone Wittmack rsc

We were also thrilled to congratulate some of our staff who were recipients of NAIDOC awards in their own towns and regions.

### In Tennant Creek

**Aunty Pat Braun:** Besides being awarded the CatholicCare NT Person of the Year award, Aunty Pat received the Elder of the Year Award Medal in Tennant Creek. Aunty Pat has worked tirelessly in the community with a number of organisations and a Board member on a number of various Aboriginal bodies. She has worked with CatholicCare NT for 12 years and has been a valuable advisor on Aboriginal matters and culture to our organisation and to staff members. She is currently a Family Support Advisor with CatholicCare NT and is very involved in the Elders Visiting Program.

Aunty Pat is pictured holding her awards with General Manager Mission and Culture, Sr. Leone Wittmack and Regional Manager of Tennant Creek, Sharen Lake.



### In Katherine

**Carol Manfong:** Katherine's NAIDOC Person of the Year Award

**Lee Fischer:** Volunteers Award

**Marcus Rosas:** Volunteers Award

**CatholicCare NT Katherine Office:** Thankyou for Supporting NAIDOC Award

An article in the Katherine local newspaper reported that "Carol Manfong was awarded this year's NAIDOC Person of the Year for her long standing work helping Indigenous people sort out their finances and growing remote communities. Having worked at almost all Indigenous organisations in Katherine, she has assisted hundreds of people to break down barriers, provide culturally appropriate education and advocate for the communities which need it most"

The photo shows Carol, Lee and Marcus with Regional Manager Katherine, Tabitha Rossi.



## The Australian Evaluation Systems Conference, Sydney

In September, three of our staff, Leonie Young from Santa Teresa, Margi MacGregor and Sonja Pastor from Darwin, with Sam Abbato from Visual Insights presented the work we have been doing in Evaluation through Visual Insights. This was an International Conference held in Sydney. Of great interest was the presentation by Leonie Young who outlined the work she has been doing translating the pathways through Aboriginal Art so that the Evaluation process is more relevant and understandable for our Indigenous staff. It was a proud moment for CatholicCare NT as we were given the opportunity to present on an International stage the innovative work we have been doing in our Evaluation processes. Leonie was welcomed with other Indigenous participants as Emerging Indigenous Evaluators. She with others had been awarded a support grant to attend and present at the Conference. Our staff represented us well!

The photos below show: Leonie Young, Sam Abbato with Margi MacGregor, and Sonja Pastor giving their presentations. The bottom photo shows Leonie (second from left) being recognized with other Indigenous participants at the Awards night.

