

Media Release

27 September 2023

Mental Health & Wellbeing Road for Indigenous students

In one week, the Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow, will hit the road to visit Indigenous students from all over the Townsville Diocese.

The Roadshow will be hosted by the Emerging Leaders Incentive Scheme, which is a federally funded project facilitated by Townsville Catholic Education (TCE). It is TCE's largest Indigenous Education Initiative, and one that continues to receive excellent outcomes. It encourages student attendance, academic improvement, and engagement, with students moving through incentives stages each year based on their completion of criteria under the pillars of attendance, academic achievement and engagement.

The roadshow is a direct response to feedback from staff at the schools who are reporting increased mental health needs of the 650 students.

"We have engaged some truly inspiring Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander workshop presenters this year who will be sharing their stories with the students, but also providing real tools and strategies that can be used to support these young people to stay strong, particularly when they may face challenges in their lives," said Tammi Webber, System Learning & Teaching Adviser- Indigenous Education, Townsville Catholic Education.

This group of diverse and successful people in their own chosen fields include Ian Zaro, Tallisha Harden, Joel Thompson, Glen Thomas and Toby Adams who will act as MC for the roadshow.

	Ian Zaro , actor and sketch comedian, is guaranteed to make our students laugh! Ian has over 2.5 Million followers on socials and he's been seen in movies like <i>The Traitors</i> , <i>Black Comedy</i> and <i>The Panthers</i> and is dedicated to the Indigenous community.
	Tallisha Harden captains the North QLD Cowboys in the NRL Women's Premiership and also brings with her an impressive pedigree in Rugby League, Rugby7s, Indoor Volleyball and also works as a Speech Pathologist.
	Joel Thompson is a successful athlete, honouring his Indigenous heritage, and devoted to making a difference in youth development. Joel's NRL career spans over 14 years with 3 club, 234 NRL games and is still to this day one of the most capped Indigenous All Stars players, a side which he captained in 2020. From his strong career in the NRL to the launch of his business, <i>Yakka Training</i> , he continues to have a profound impact and fight for a better future.
	Glen Thomas , creative artist from Townsville, North Queensland! As a proud descendant of the Wakaman and Bidjara peoples, he has developed relationships with different communities to hone his skills as a professional dancer, performer and cultural facilitator. With a decade of experience performing and showcasing both cultural and contemporary Indigenous dance, Glen is also passionate about empowering and inspiring the next generations of leaders through arts and culture.



Toby Adams is a proud Kullilli man, an accomplished facilitator, public speaker and consultant with over 10 years of experience. He has worked all over Australia delivering youth and adult learning programs. Having built a strong reputation for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, Toby brings strength-based approaches to his work.

The Roadshow will be showcased in Mount Isa on Wednesday 4 October. On Thursday 5 October, Emerging Leader students from our Townsville schools will come together at Riverway Stadium in Townsville, followed by our regional school students gathering at Riverway on Friday 6 October. The roadshow will be run as a series of cultural and wellbeing workshops where students rotate between the presenters.

As a result, Townsville Catholic Education is hoping that students will receive connections to Country and culture but more importantly, students get to hear relatable stories from our presenters as well as the strategies used (and continue to utilise) to overcome struggles, and to use for their mental health and resilience in an ongoing capacity.

Media Opportunity:

Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow in Mount Isa

Date: Wednesday 4 October

Location: Mount Isa Golf Club

Time: 8.30am – 3.00pm

Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow in Townsville

Date: Thurs 5 + Fri 6 October

Location: Riverway Stadium, Kirwan

Time: 8.30am – 3.00pm (Thurs) / 9.30am-2.30pm (Fri)

END

Marketing contact:

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