

- Media Release -

The Fathering Project launches into Queensland.

Not-for-profit organisation The Fathering Project launched into Queensland with an official opening event last week, attended by Seven News' Sharyn Ghidella as well as community leader and Order of Australia recipient Elijah Buol.

These familiar faces were joined by Fathering Project staff and volunteers at Greenbank RSL on Thursday, marking the official launching of the Project in Queensland.

Guests were introduced to the background of Fathering Project from CEO Wayne Bradshaw, East Coast general manager Sean Johns and local Queensland manager Ken Houliston.

The Fathering Project team also welcomed newest recruit Chris Borrell, who represents more expansion to the Queensland team and will begin as the state's schools manager later this month.

The Fathering Project local ambassadors, advisors and mentors also spoke, sharing their own stories of how they were inspired by Project's mission - to inspire and equip dads and father-figures to be the best parents they can be.

Sharyn Ghidella joined the group via facetime between live news casts, sharing her experience with fathering and her thoughts on the importance of The Project.

Father of four Elijah Buol OAM spoke of his life in South Sudan and growing up without a father from a young age. Mr Buol said he felt it was important to remember his own father's words, encouraging him to "turn life's lemons into lemonade".

The Fathering Project is now launching Dads Groups in partnership with schools in the Logan and Greater Springfield regions of Queensland, and is accepting registrations of interest for schools in the Brisbane metro area and wider Queensland.

Find out more about Dads Groups at www.thefatheringproject.org/register-group or contact the Queensland team at qld@thefatheringproject.org or 1300 FATHERS

Quotes from From QLD manager Ken Houliston:

QLD manager Ken Houliston said he knows there is a huge benefit The Project can bring for children and communities across the state.

"We know that when fathers are engaged and equipped to be the best they can be - children's health and wellbeing can benefit hugely," Mr Houliston said.

"Our Dads Group Programs have a unique ability to gather and connect men, families and communities in positive ways," Mr Houliston said.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing this roll out across both metro and regional Queensland and seeing the real, grass roots difference this will make to lives, homes, schools and communities."

More Background:

- Dads Groups are the Project's core community outreach activity and are established within schools across Australia. The Groups provide a safe, inclusive and positive environment where father-figures can learn, share, grow and connect with each other, and their kids.
- The Fathering Project delivers outcomes by supporting our Dads Group members and the wider fathering community with weekly tips, online resources, community and school presentations as well as through small and large-scale events.
- January 2019 saw The Project receive a \$5.4m funding boost from the Federal Government, and more recently it was recognised as the 2019 Men's Health Award Winner in Western Australian - where its programs were first established.
- As a not-for-profit organisation, The Fathering Project's key aim is to inspire and equip fathers and father-figures to positively engage with the children in their lives - for the benefit of the kids.
- Founded in Western Australia, The Fathering Project first began expanding operations in the Eastern States of New South Wales and Victoria, with Queensland the newest addition in August 2019.
- The Fathering Project also conducts research, evaluating its programs as well as looking more broadly into societal trends and issues that impact fatherhood.

Quotes from The Fathering Project CEO Wayne Bradshaw:

"Our core mission is to inspire and equip fathers and father-figures to be effectively involved with the kids in their lives, and consequently improve outcomes for young people."

"We seek to encourage and support Dads to be they can be."

- ENDS -

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