

## MEDIA RELEASE

22 October 2020

### **Social Inclusion Week programs to Connect, Collaborate and Celebrate**

Gladstone Regional Council is supporting Social Inclusion Week, which aims to encourage communities to connect and celebrate our diversity across the region.

This year Social Inclusion Week will be held from 21-29 November 2020, with the theme of *Connect Collaborate and Celebrate*.

Under this theme, the national message is for every Australian to have the chance and the choice to learn, to work, to be involved and to have their voice heard.

Gladstone Region Councillor Desley O'Grady said Gladstone Regional Council values and creates diversity and works to actively demonstrate that commitment to equality and inclusivity.

"The objective of Gladstone Regional Council's Social Inclusion Week is about connecting local communities, workmates, family and friends, in order to build and strengthen relationships or networks and address isolation and exclusion of those who may be marginalised," Councillor O'Grady said.

"Social Inclusion Week demonstrates Council's commitment to fostering diversity, equality and inclusivity.

"To show this commitment to inclusiveness, Council is hosting various programs throughout the week both online via the Virtual Neighbourhood Centre and in person."

#### **Programs to be held during Social Inclusion Week 2020 (21-29 November) include:**

- **My Backyard Story:** The public is invited to share their story of social inclusion living in Central Queensland, which can be further supplemented with photographs. Each story will be featured on the Virtual Neighbourhood Centre platform. People can start uploading their contribution when the page goes live on Monday, 19 October with a closing date of 29 November.
- **Community Online Choir:** We are inviting everyone, whether you're a good singer or someone who saves their performances for the shower, to come together for a virtual choir singing 'Do not Judge' by SingSongAlong.com. Participants are to email through their videos from 19 October until 2 November and the whole choir ensemble piece will be published onto the Virtual Neighbourhood Centre platform on 23 November.

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MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or [media@gladstone.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@gladstone.qld.gov.au)

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- **Community Art Project:** The public is invited to paint on an individual canvas which will be part of a formalised art piece to be installed in one of Council's facilities. Each unique canvas will be part of a larger artwork.

This will take place across two days at Lions Park, Gladstone on Wednesday, 25 November (2pm-5pm) and Thursday, 26 November (9am-noon). RSVP essential.

The Community Art Project is supported by the Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre and Department of Communities, Disability Services & Seniors.

Please visit <https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/social-inclusion-week-2020> for more information on how to become involved in Social Inclusion Week.

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