



## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 7 May 2018

### **New HIPPY provider announced for Alice Springs**

HIPPY Australia is proud to announce a new provider for HIPPY, the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters, in Alice Springs. Congratulations to Tangentyere as they join a network of local providers delivering to over 4500 families per year in 100 communities. Tangentyere will be delivering HIPPY in Alice Springs from 1 July 2018.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a two-year, home-based early learning and parenting program that empowers parents to be their child's first teacher and assists the child to be school ready. The program addresses the long-term social consequences of disadvantage and supports the increased workforce participation of parents.

HIPPY is achieving outcomes for children, and families on the program, supporting local training and employment and building strong communities. Since establishment in Alice Springs in 2009, HIPPY has employed a number of local staff through the community.

HIPPY Australia National Manager Marian Pettit said, "HIPPY assists children to be more confident and competent at school, which lays the foundations for greater achievement in life. We welcome Tangentyere to our network, recognising their understanding of the Alice Springs community and their commitment to giving families opportunities. We aim to get families learning together."

HIPPY has been subject to rigorous independent research evaluation, which has shown that children who took part in HIPPY generally begin the program with numeracy and literacy skills well behind the Australian average. After two years they had caught up, and their cognitive skills equalled those of other children. HIPPY achieves outcomes for families with over 80% of parents being more confident as their child's first teacher and 87% of children being school ready after two years in HIPPY.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence started HIPPY in Australia in 1998 and is responsible for supporting the community organisations that operate it across the nation. The Brotherhood of St Laurence holds the licence to operate HIPPY in Australia. The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Transition of the program to the new provider will commence shortly, with existing families transferring to the new provider from 1 July 2018.

For more information about HIPPY, see the website at [www.hippyaustralia.org.au](http://www.hippyaustralia.org.au).

**For more information about HIPPY in Alice Springs, contact HIPPY Australia on 03 9445 2400.**