



27 January 2017

## Local community champion helps teenagers re-engage with learning

A quiet achiever in Boggabilla has recently been recognised by Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion.

Drug ARM school attendance officer Aunty Thora Wightman has been a mentor for over three years, providing inspiration to students and families in the Boggabilla community.

The Minister publicly praised the work of Aunty Thora through social media for her efforts in ensuring students get to school every day.

"I've heard some good things about school attendance in Boggabilla." posted Minister Scullion.

"Thank you to Aunty Thora and all my Remote School Attendance Strategy champions out there doing the most important task of getting kids to school!"

Since the scheme's inception in 2014, local influential community members such as Aunty Thora have been supporting students in remote communities to go to school every day.

The strategy empowers the local community to create local solutions to school attendance issues.

Community elders such as Aunty Thora play a pivotal role at the Centre, nurturing students with connection to culture.

Drug ARM's Executive Officer Jody Wright is excited for the outcomes that the local program is seeing.

"Every young person has his or her own hopes and dreams. Our workers know that each student is different and are committed to working with the young people to create a plan for their future."

With students set to return to classes at Boggabilla Central School next week, the staff at Drug ARM are encouraging local community members to get in contact if they need any information.

"Remember to get to #SchoolEveryDay and you might just meet up with Aunty Thora!" staff said.

If you have a question about preparing for the school year, contact the Remote Schools Attendance Strategy Team at Winangalabaa (Place of Knowledge) Centre on 07 4676 2410 or drop by 134 Merriwa St, Boggabilla NSW 2409.

ENDS

Contact to organise a photo opportunity with Aunty Thora at Winangalabaa (Place of Knowledge) Centre.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release, please



**Drug ARM**  
Australasia

**About Drug ARM:** Drug ARM provides vital care and compassion to support people, families and communities throughout Queensland with a range of programs and services that include education, outreach, prevention and treatment.