An Invitation to show your support for Closing The Gap Wednesday 1st March 2017

Karyn Walsh, CEO of Brisbane community organisation Micah Projects, is calling on the people of Brisbane to show their support for Close the Gap Day on Thursday 16th March, 2017.

"The recent Prime Ministerial report on meeting the Close The Gap benchmarks revealed a dismal picture of poor performance and missed targets," said Ms. Walsh, "so it is critical we all remain focused on the goals of the Close The Gap campaign.

"2017 sees two key milestones in Australian history," she said, "the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which went some way to granting equal rights to First Peoples, and the 25th Anniversary of the momentous Mabo Decision in 1992, which paved the way for the granting of Native Title and Land Rights in Australia.

"Today we acknowledge the leadership and the gains made by Indigenous leaders and community managed organisations, especially in the area of health care," said Ms. Walsh, "and we acknowledge that more needs to be done."

To mark Close The Gap Day on Thursday 16 March, a number of activities are planned for the small park at 155 Boundary Street, West End, between 11am and 2pm.

Micah Projects will be joined by Oxfam, ANTaR (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation), Community Plus (West End Community House) and ATSICHS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service) on the day.

Local community worker and Elder Sam Watson will get things underway with a rousing call to action, with other guest speakers to follow.

A range of informative and educational materials will be available, highlighting the gap in life expectancy - and other key benchmarks – between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A representative from ATSICHS will report on the steps being taken to improve Indigenous health locally, and a clinical nurse from Micah Projects' Inclusive Health Service will be offering free blood pressure checks.

There will also be kids' activities and a hands-on art project where everyone will be invited to express their support visually for Closing the Gap, and a petition will be available for guests and passers by to sign.

Musical entertainment will be provided by a number of local performers including Rod Tyson, Jenny Pineapple, Jon Formosa, Gresham Brown, Dawn Daylight and the West End Community House music group, and a local business will be providing a free sausage sizzle.

For more information:

Karyn Walsh, CEO Micah Projects 0413 619 785 Kerrod Trott, Media Liaison 0412 029 663