

NEWS RELEASE



5 May 2014

FNQ Medicare Local supports the Indigenous Marathon Project

FNQ Medicare Local were proud to support the visit to Thursday Island on 30 April by Australia's former World Champion Marathon runner Mr Robert De Castella. The aim of the visit was to trial potential Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members for the Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP).

The IMP was established to address the incidence of chronic disease and inactivity within Indigenous Australia and to enable talent from remote and urban communities to train for the New York City Marathon. The IMP aims to change lives by:

- promoting healthy and active lifestyles throughout Indigenous communities nationally;
- reducing the incidence of Indigenous disease;
- creating Indigenous role models who inspire other Indigenous people.

For the first time the IMP ran trails in the Torres Strait and many local participants got involved: Elsie Seriat, Olive Tamwoy, Thelma Savage, Kathleen O'Brien, Anastasya Sagigi, Renee Guilgo and Harold Matthew (the only male runner). A small group of locals showed their support cheering on the runners as they ran along the waterfront.

FNQ Medicare Local CEO Dr Michael Wilson said:

"FNQ Medicare Local's vision is to enable individuals and communities to succeed in managing wellness. So we are pleased to support the IMP as it promotes the sort of healthy, active lifestyle that also works toward this vision. Our team on Thursday Island hosted an IMP dinner at the Gab Titui Ilan Café for 25 community members and stakeholders.

"During the dinner Mr De Castella provided an insight into the journey of the young indigenous people involved. He described how challenges and preparations lead to significant life change for participants as they approach the seemingly impossible task of completing a 42km marathon in New York City.

"Our Senior Manager, Vonda Moar-Malone, is now in discussions to partner with the IMP on a series of fun runs in the Torres Strait region and we expect the first fun run to occur in early June. We're seeking interest from the community to form a working group to support these fun runs either through donations or in-kind support"

Community members wishing to get involved with the fun run may contact the following FNQ Medicare Local staff:

- Vonda Moar-Malone on 0408 847726
- Patricia Akee on 0448 227577

For more information about the IMP visit: www.imp.org.au

For more information about FNQ Medicare Local visit: www.fnqmedicarelocal.com.au

ENDS

FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS CONTACT

Michelle Street Marketing & Communications Officer
m 0438 416 232
e mstreet@fnqmedicarelocal.com.au

www.fnqmedicarelocal.com.au

36 Shields St
Cairns QLD 4870
Ph: 07 4044 8900 Fax: 07 4053 5578