

25 March 2024



MEDIA STATEMENT

AEIOU TOWNSVILLE FIRE

The following is attributed to AEIOU Foundation CEO Alan Smith

It is with great sadness that we address a recent fire incident which occurred at AEIOU Foundation's Townsville centre.

In the early hours of Saturday, 23 March 2024, our facility experienced a devastating fire, which occurred when no children or staff were onsite.

While we are grateful there were no injuries, the loss of this centre is distressing and heartbreaking for our entire community.

AEIOU employs 18 staff members in Townsville, and provides full-time therapy, specialist education and care for 17 children in the centre, in addition to parent training and support.

Our immediate priority is the wellbeing of staff, children and families affected by the incident, and we are working to source urgent alternative arrangements to provide the therapy, education and specialist care our clients rely on.

We are in communication with local authorities, who are conducting a thorough investigation regarding the cause of this fire.

We extend our gratitude to the first responders who arrived on the scene and who worked so hard to contain the fire.

The fire has occurred approximately four months before AEIOU planned to move to a new centre, currently under construction in Idalia. The new centre is made possible with capital funding from the Queensland Government's Resources, Infrastructure and Community Fund, the Australian Government and fundraising support from organisations including Chain Reaction Challenge Foundation and Perpetual Trustees.

As we navigate and guide our team and clients through this challenging time, we thank all of those who have extended their support. We are grateful to be part of such an extraordinary community.

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ABOUT AEIOU Foundation: AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We provide evidence-based therapy, education and specialised care, in addition to family training and support. Operating from 11 locations, AEIOU enrolls children aged 2 to 6 years. For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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