



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**22 August 2018**

### **Bringing the community together one stitch at a time**

Doomadgee's Veronica Walden and Anthea Chong, travelled to a Global Citizen event in Brisbane, representing the Moon Sick Care Bag (MSCB) project. They accompanied project lead Yolonde Entsch, showcasing the community's work to make personal care products for Papuan Community Rangers.

Yolonde, who has partnered with My Pathway to support women's activities in Doomadgee, was invited to be a part of the Global Citizen panel discussing empowering women and girls. Veronica and Anthea were able to speak with other attendees about their project and how it has affected their community.

My Pathway Supervisor, Veronica Walden, said when she first heard about women in Papua New Guinea (PNG), she was upset they weren't getting the care and support they needed.

"It broke my heart to hear that women and girls in other parts of the world were denied proper personal care products and support," she said.

"Making the Moon Sick Care Bags includes handmade drawstring bags, sanitary pads, face washers and bush medicine soaps. These products are not only benefiting the PNG ladies, but it has brought the Doomadgee women and girls together.

"The project has made us closer and made us communicate. Now the community is tight-knit, we are finding new friends and learning new skills together.

"I came into the project sewing by hand, and now I know how to use a sewing machine. I have learnt how to order things online and have even done some media interviews. These are opportunities that are only available to me because of the MSCB initiative."

Women's Coordinator, Yolonde Entsch, said the MSCB initiative has really put Doomadgee on the map and is a major talking point in the community.

"Community organisations and individual residents are popping in to look at what the ladies are doing. There's a bit of hype around the project, and everyone is using it as an opportunity to connect," she said.

"Many of the ladies had never imagined they'd be at the heart of connecting their community, linking to other women in PNG or networking at global events in Brisbane. The simple act of making the moon bags has enabled all of this."

Next for the Doomadgee ladies will be the chance to meet two of the female Rangers, who will be receiving the MSCB's, when they come to Burketown for a Rangers' conference in September. Veronica and Anthea will then travel to PNG in October to meet other Rangers, women and girls they will be helping.

The MSCB activity in Doomadgee is being run as part of the Community Development Programme (CDP), which is an initiative of, and fully funded by the Australian Government. My Pathway is the local CDP provider.

Global Citizen is an international organisation with over eight million members. The Brisbane event launched their #ShelsEqual campaign, which hopes to help raise awareness that society treats women and girls differently, which can hold them back in many aspects of life — in school, by governments, by health systems, and in the workplace.

## **ENDS**

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## **About My Pathway**

My Pathway is a community and economic development organisation providing employment, training, labour hire, enterprise development, project and facilities management services.

We have been operating in regional and remote locations across Australia for more than a decade aiming to build stronger communities.

My Pathway has grown from humble beginnings as a small family-run business to employ around 1,000 staff, support thousands of job seekers and facilitate hundreds of community programs.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners past, present and emerging on whose land we walk, work and live.