



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Volunteer BIO:

### Susie Stafford Smith – Volunteer with Yalari

Established in 2005 by Indigenous educator Waverley Stanley, Yalari is a not-for-profit company, dedicated to creating a national network of educational opportunities for Indigenous children. Now supporting 193 children enrolled in 33 partnership schools throughout Australia. This includes 69 children who attend schools in Queensland.

Suzie Stafford-Smith is our wonderful volunteer who coordinates activities, one of which is the Cool Clothes program. She liaises with a number of schools whose communities donate good quality clothes and accessories which we make available to the children on our program.

Suzie began volunteering several years ago when her children became more independent and she had some spare time.

“I was fortunate not to have any financial pressure to seek paid work so that allowed me to get involved in something I was truly passionate about. I have always chosen causes that involve children because that's where I feel a real connection.”

Her first volunteering role was as a Ward Nanny at the Mater Mothers where she got to cuddle babies and help new mothers. “I loved it!” exclaims Susie.

“Now, I am just as passionate about working for Yalari not only for the contact with the Indigenous kids but I truly believe that this is the best way forward for our fellow Australians!”

“The most amazing thing about volunteering for a worthy cause is that some days when I'm busy with my own life I think I don't have the time to give and it takes some effort to do my bit. Then comes along a day when something really wonderful will happen while I'm volunteering and it touches my soul and I know why I'm involved! The experience really does give back!”

“The rewards are many..... but for me I love meeting new people particularly special ones like Waverley Stanley and his wife Llew (the Founding Directors of Yalari) and being part of their team and helping them make a real difference to these Indigenous kids lives!!”

To learn more about volunteering options on the Gold Coast that may be suitable for your unique interests, head to [www.volunteeringgc.com.au](http://www.volunteeringgc.com.au)

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