

MEDIA RELEASE Thursday 8th December 2022

AEIOU Canberra's Class of 2022 shines bright - graduates gain foundation skills to support them in their next education setting

Next Wednesday 14th December will mark the final day for 15 of the children in the <u>AEIOU Canberra Region</u> graduating class of 2022, as they prepare to transition to their next learning environment.

"We are all so very proud of these children in reaching this milestone. For them and their families, graduation is such a momentous occasion, with many of the children having high support needs when commencing at AEIOU," said AEIOU Manager, Service Delivery, Schahana Clark.

"During their time with us, these children have been supported to develop foundation skills which will help them in their next education settings, and also to participate more meaningfully within the community," Ms Clark continued.

AEIOU Canberra Region class of 2022 is a group of 15 students all aged five and six, who contribute to the almost 100 children who are graduating across all eleven AEIOU centres throughout Queensland, South Australia and the ACT this year. The children enjoyed an off-site end of year celebration last week, and will this week have graduation gowns wrapped proudly around their shoulders, and mortar boards positioned just right on their young heads as children who have made outstanding progress in AEIOU's therapy-based education program.

"AEIOU Canberra opened 18 months ago, with the centre made possible with thanks to the support and partnership from <u>John James Foundation</u>. Graduations in our centres are milestone occasions for our team, as well as the children and families we support. I wish every child and their family well as they embark on this exciting new chapter", said Alan Smith, CEO of AEIOU Foundation.

"Our graduations are so important as it's now when we really get the chance to stand back and appreciate just how much progress these children have made overall, and how life-changing these changes are.

"We wish our transitioning families the brightest of futures, and we look forward to welcoming more families for what will be another rewarding year in 2023," Ms Clark concluded.

Enrolments for places in AEIOU Canberra Region's fourth classroom are open and interested families can discuss joining the waitlist by contacting AEIOU on 1300 273 435. For more information visit www.aeiou.org.au

MEDIA CONTACT: For more information, images or interviews contact Lauren Griffiths, Threesides Marketing, on 0417 409 264 or lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au

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ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:

AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing evidence-based therapy and education. AEIOU Foundation is a family-focused profit-for-purpose organisation established in 2005, which provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating in Queensland, South Australia and the ACT, AEIOU enrols more than 350 children each year, who are aged 2 to 6 years.

AEIOU Canberra Region was made possible thanks to the vision and partnership of the John James Foundation.

For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.