



People laying flowers on the memorial plaque



Chris Brocklebank playing gentle music



Mayor Damien Ryan giving a heartfelt speech



Paul and Lynne watching on

## In Alice Springs ...

For the fourth year, MHACA's Life Promotion Program organised a healing ceremony in honour of WSPD, held on the memorial lawns beside the Todd River. This year was the first time that the Mayor of Alice Springs has officially spoken, and Mayor Damien Ryan spoke sensitively as a long-term resident of this town. Sarah O'Regan, NT Government Suicide Prevention Coordinator, gave a warm insightful introduction. Ricky Mentha, an Aboriginal man from Victoria and currently working for the Baker Institute of Research, delivered a moving speech that reflected a common story for Aboriginal men. This story is about inevitable difficulties and pain, recovery through an inner strength and through the support of family, friends and service providers. Charlie Hodgson also took to the microphone this year and bravely shared some of his own personal struggles with suicide; he thanked the people of this town for giving him the opportunities to work and feel valued again. Maya Cifali highlighted the difficulties that migrants and refugees have in settling in new and foreign countries and the responsibility we all have in helping these people to feel welcome here.

Thank you to all the speakers who shared their stories; to Chris Brocklebank who played gentle music while people laid flowers in honour of those who have died by suicide and those bereaved by suicide; and to Brian (in Alice Springs) and Jay (in Tennant Creek) for all their efforts in organising these events.

*Laurencia Grant*



Ricky Mentha



Charlie Hodgson



Sarah O'Regan



Maya Cifali



The laying of flowers



Workers from CARHDS showing their support



The WSPD tribute was a healing ceremony for all who attended

