



**ALITHIA INCORPORATED**

ABN: 21369165660

W: [alithialearning.org.au](http://alithialearning.org.au)

E: [info@alithialearning.org.au](mailto:info@alithialearning.org.au)

A: 671 Valla Road, Valla, NSW, 2448.

P: 0466.586.089

Friday 26th October 2018.

Alithia was founded over 2 years ago and is a registered charity in Valla.

For over 18 months we have been organising workshops for families who have children aged 12 years and under.

These workshops have mostly been free-of-charge.

We have been organising professional mentors to facilitate mostly on a volunteering basis, some have been covered for their time.

We are all volunteers that run Alithia and the resources, materials and venues have, so far, been donated from the community.

The family workshops have been with nature-based educators, indigenous cultural leaders, scientists, astronomers, social workers that run arts programs, physical artists and drama teachers, music teachers (who are also music therapists)....

We have ran free positive communication workshops for parents and educators. These equipped people with techniques for supporting the positive development of our children and for improving peer-to-peer relationships. These tools are creating supportive healthy relationships both within the family and within the community.

Alithia has become a support network for many families, a nurturing hub that is creating social capital and social cohesion. We have formed an **inclusive** environment where individuals from all backgrounds in this community are getting together, understanding each other better and building positive relationships. We are building community capacity. The benefits to the the mental health and well being of these families are detailed in support letters and it has been really rewarding to see that level of impact on our community. And people want more....

Families are asking for a **permanent space** where they can come together to connect, the children and their families can access **regular workshops**, we can store all our resources and materials, and store the larger continuous projects the children begin engineering and building at our workshops and events.

We can offer regular paid employment to mentors from the community.

My husband and I recently purchased a property which has our home and garden on one side, and on the other is a huge paddock and forest that we are happy to donate to the community....

People here at the Nambucca Council have been really helpful taking us through the requirements that are needed for a community facility like this. We had an architect draw up the site plans for a DA. However, once we did the costings and looked into funding, it began to look impossible.

So, sadly, that dream was put on hold. But Alithia is continuing to grow and so is the demand for this community facility.

Recently the Australian government opened up applications for the Building Better Regions Fund; supporting projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure for regional areas. This would provide us with everything we need to open a community facility.

We are submitting an application.

Fingers crossed.

We have numerous letters of support from families, educators and psychologists in the community, as well as other organisations (such as the BCU and other councils) that have attended our events and recognise the importance of this project for our community. I'm here today to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to be involved in any capacity, or offer advice along the way. its important to us to work alongside our community and our council.

Our reach, via word of mouth, has grown quite far. We have people moving from Melbourne, Sydney and Tweed Heads that wish to be involved next year. We are offering a supportive system that seems to be in very high demand and we are filling a much needed gap for young families and children in our community. I hope we can inspire support from you all here today too.