**PROGRESS SNAPSHOT:**

- We are seeing sustained high levels of Wolbachia in 17 of our first 18 suburbs.
- More than 6700 residents have signed up to support our field trial.
- 564 students have participated in our world-first Wolbachia Warriors school program.
- We are still looking for participants in Kelso, Condon, Rasmussen, Pallarenda and Rowes Bay.

*Dengue research showing signs of success*

A year and a half after releasing the first mosquito with *Wolbachia* in Townsville, we are excited to announce that almost all *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are now carrying *Wolbachia* across the Stage 1 area. *Wolbachia* levels in Townsville City, South Townsville, North Ward, Belgian Gardens, Castle Hill, West End, Garbutt, Gulliver, Currajong, Vincent, Aitkenvale, Mundingburra, Hyde Park, Pimlico, Mysterton, Hermit Park and Railway Estate are all between 80% and 100% and we hope to see this trend continue long-term. In Rosslea, we hope to see *Wolbachia* levels continue to rise to high levels in the near future. We are making strong progress towards our goal of establishing *Wolbachia* in Townsville’s mosquito population, and reducing the risk of dengue transmission in our city.

Meanwhile, communities in Cranbrook, Heatley, Kirwan, Thuringowa Central and Mount Louisa have been the first to grow and release their own *Wolbachia* mosquitoes using DIY Mozzi Boxes. *Wolbachia* levels in these suburbs are increasing and we will continue to monitor the population as the release phase in these areas comes to an end.

We are grateful to the more than 6700 locals who have joined our team. Townsville is setting an example for what communities can achieve when locals lend a helping hand. Whilst we are encouraged by these positive results, we remind you to continue to protect yourself from mosquito bites.
WHAT’S NEXT?

Do you know someone living in Kelso, Condon, Rasmussen, Pallarenda or Rowes Bay? Encourage them to sign up today at signuptownsville.com

We will continue using the Mozzie Boxes during the next stage of our field trial. These containers are easy to use, allowing residents to carry out DIY mosquito releases. It takes less than a minute to set up the Mozzie Box in a shady place outside, which we deliver right to your door every fortnight for approximately 10-12 weeks. Our work in Townsville will help us refine our approach so that we can improve the health and wellbeing of the millions around the world who are vulnerable to dengue.

WOLBACHIA WARRIORS

It has been an exciting start to the year for Eliminate Dengue’s Wolbachia Warriors program with over 400 Kirwan and Heatley State School students taking part in this fun and educational program. With the support of school staff, Townsville students have contributed directly to our research by undertaking Wolbachia mosquito releases at home.

Science-loving brother and sister duo, Isabella (9) and Zachary (7) from Kirwan State School are part of the newest generation of scientists in Townsville. Both correctly identified all stages of the mosquito lifecycle, providing documented evidence of their successful Wolbachia mosquito releases. They are just two of the many young researchers who make us excited about the Wolbachia Warriors program and the future of Australian science.

We would like to congratulate all the students and their families on their terrific effort!

We are currently talking to other primary schools about the opportunity to take part in the program in 2016, allowing more local children to contribute to international research from their own backyards.