



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

SMALL SCHOOL WINS TOP CHILD PROTECTION HONOUR FOR GROUND-BREAKING STUDENT INITIATIVES

- 30% of school's students at-risk of psychiatric disability
- Partnership with University of Queensland Medical school
- Socio-economically disadvantaged community, often impacted by trauma

A small government school in one of Brisbane's most socially and economically disadvantaged areas has won Queensland's top child protection award for an 'Education Initiative'.

Carole Park State School's Principal, Wendy Hoskin, will accept the honour – on behalf of the entire school staff – during the 2014 Queensland Child Protection Week Awards ceremony tomorrow afternoon. Previous Queensland Child Protection Week Award-winners include Bruce & Denise Morcombe, and Hetty Johnston.

Built between two motorways on an industrial estate on Brisbane's western fringe, the 230 children who attend Carole Park are often impacted by trauma. The school's in-house Art therapy program has assisted 30% of students at risk of 'psychiatric disability'. It is one of a suite of programs targeting student disadvantage, trauma and learning challenges.

The school works not only with students, but with students' families and the broader community – including universities and non-government organisations – to provide in-house mental health service, and additional educational support. A partnership with Queensland University's Medical School helps deliver art therapy and social work services to Carole Park's most vulnerable students.

"Ensuring that children have the best opportunity to achieve at school is paramount to changing the circumstances in which they find themselves," said Principal Wendy Hoskin. "It takes a village to raise a child and at Carole Park we ensure that the village is drawn upon to raise our children."

"It really is the little school that could," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree. "Carole Park is tackling very complex and entrenched problems head-on and changing their students' lives for the better, forever."

Queensland Child Protection Week is jointly run by representatives from 21 of the State's leading child protection, education, health and welfare agencies, as well as law enforcement and government. The State Government provides nearly \$107,000 to support and promote Queensland Child Protection Week, which in 2014 will include >100 events between 7-13 September. Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/>

Further information

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