



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

BUNDABERG'S INDIGENOUS LEADERS WIN TOP AWARD FOR MAKING 'SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE' TO CHILD PROTECTION

A keystone report which has led to the development of an accredited training program for Queensland-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community workers, has won the 'Media & Communications' category of the 2014 Queensland Child Protection Week Awards.

The award honours "an article, news story, series, publication, campaign or communications strategy that demonstrates a significant contribution to highlighting child protection issues". Previous Queensland Child Protection Week Award-winners include Bruce & Denise Morcombe, and Hetty Johnston.

The report is the landmark work of Bundaberg's Yarning Up steering committee, a voluntary group elected by the local Indigenous community. It follows 13-months of consultation, where data was collected in culturally sensitive ways. Among topics canvassed in the report are social taboo and shame, sexual and family violence, historic and structural issues, and a "lack of culturally appropriate services".

A total of 62 people from Bundaberg's Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander communities, as well as community workers from mainstream and Aboriginal community organisations were involved. The report is already credited with making a "significant difference" to child protection and has been used by community leaders and workers within Bundaberg's Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and South Sea Islander communities to identify key concerns about sexual and family violence.

Key recommendations within the report include:

- strengthen community action;
- educate the community and the community workers;
- provide culturally appropriate and safe organisations and staff; and
- address the legal responses to sexual and family violence.

"The over-representation of Indigenous Queenslanders in the child protection sector is a shameful problem which the community needs to unite to address," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree. "Yarning Up's report will result in an accredited training program that will improve services for Indigenous Queenslanders traumatised by sexual or family violence."

Tomorrow's awards' ceremony marks the official launch of Queensland Child Protection Week. The State Government provides nearly \$107,000 to support and promote the week. More than 100 events will be held Statewide to celebrate Queensland Child Protection Week, which runs from 7-13 September. Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/>

Further information

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