



QUEENSLAND
CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

KEEPING 71,000 QUEENSLAND KIDS SAFE IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION AWARD WINNER

A student protection officer from the State's largest non-government school system will tomorrow be named as the winner of the Queensland Child Protection Week Awards – Professional (Non-Government) category.

Sue Diggles is currently a Senior Education Officer with responsibilities for student protection within Brisbane Catholic Education, where she has worked for 15 years. Brisbane Catholic Education has some 71,000 students enrolled across 137 schools in Queensland's south east.

The award acknowledges Ms Diggles' "outstanding contribution to promoting child protection issues" in the course of her professional work. A record nine categories have been awarded in 2014. Past award winners include Bruce and Denise Morcombe, and Braveheart's Hetty Johnston.

"Colleagues have commended Sue as a person who makes things happen," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree. "They said Sue doesn't just talk about things, but identifies a need, examines the data, develops practical solutions that really make a difference, then drives initiatives and achieves outcomes."

Child protection measures developed and championed by Ms Diggles include:

- establishing a centralised, professional and responsive Student Protection Services Team;
- engaging all members of school communities in child protection;
- delivering protection programs for students, as well as parents and carers; and
- establishing 'student protection contacts' in every school, to help protect students in school and out.

"Schools are an essential part of the child protection equation," Ms Dupree said. "Children spend a significant part of their lives at school, school communities often report abuse and neglect, provide support for abused children, and educate their wider communities on how to better protect children and detect abuse."

The Awards' ceremony will include the official launch of Queensland Child Protection Week. The week is run by a committee including 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 the week.

More than 100 events will be held across the State during Queensland Child Protection Week 2014, which runs from 7-13 September. Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/>

Further information

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