



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

TRAUMA EXPERT & 20-YEAR CHILD PROTECTION WORKER WINS QLD'S TOP PROFESSIONAL PROTECTION HONOUR

A "remarkable man" with nearly 20-years experience as a child protection worker, foster carer, policy officer, vicarious trauma researcher and educator will tomorrow receive the State's most prestigious child protection award in the Professional (Government) category.

Social worker Matthew J Armstrong will be honoured in the 2014 Queensland Child Protection Week Awards for his "outstanding contribution to child protection at a practice, policy or service development level within the public service." Previous winners include Bruce and Denise Morcombe, and Braveheart's Hetty Johnston.

Mr Armstrong has worked in the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for almost 20 years, the past 10 in the South Burnett region. His vicarious trauma research is cited in Australia's leading social work and child protection textbooks.

"The public may not have heard of Mat or be familiar with his work, but generations of children have better lives because of him," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree. "He may not have written the book on social work and child protection, but his worked is quoted in them – literally.

"Over a long and distinguished career, Mat has lead and contributed to some very significant projects that protect kids and provide children in care with new opportunities that lead to better lives."

Mr Armstrong is currently on secondment from the South Burnett Child Safety Service Centre, to the department, where he is developing a project to give continuing support to young people in care after they turn 18.

The Queensland Child Protection Week Awards' Ceremony will be held tomorrow afternoon from 1-3pm at Queensland's Parliamentary Annex. Queensland Child Protection Week is run by representatives from 21 of the State's leading child protection, education, health and welfare agencies, as well as law enforcement and government.

More than 100 events will be held across the State marking Queensland Child Protection Week, from 7-13 September. The State Government provides nearly \$107,000 to support and promote the week. Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/>

Further information

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