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Herald Sun

News

Morcombes presented with Child Protection Week award before embarking on national tour

- by: Peter Hall
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Bruce and Denise Morcombe were the winners of the Media and Communications Award in the Queensland Child Protection Week awards. The couple are leaving for a national tour to raise awareness of the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Source: News Limited

WITHIN an hour of picking up a state award for their child safety campaign, the parents of Daniel Morcombe drove off to spread their message across the nation.

After being presented with the Media and Communications Award at the Queensland Child Protection Week 2013 awards at Parliament House, Bruce and Denise Morcombe zoomed off on a national Keeping Kids Safe tour.

With Bruce behind the wheel of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's red utility, the tireless couple will visit every state and cover more than 17,000km, talking to schools and meeting with education ministers.

Mr Morcombe told The Courier-Mail the aim of the tour was to promote the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum, already in use in Queensland schools, and also involvement in Day for Daniel.

He said they would return to Queensland in time for the Day for Daniel on October 25.

"We were thrilled that the foundation won the state award. This was, of course, a team effort and event planners and committee people are among those who have contributed over the past eight years," Mr Morcombe said.

"We stayed for a quick afternoon tea and then it was off on our road trip. Already we are getting toots and waves from other motorists as we travel into NSW on the first leg of our journey. First stops are Ballina, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie."

Mr Morcombe said the three key messages of the child safety curriculum were "recognise, react and report".

He said the program was already seeing results in Queensland with three "disclosures" at different schools from students who came forward to tell of wrongs committed against them.

"Two cases have been in the past few weeks," he said. "It's very sad. This is real-life stuff."

Mr Morcombe said that in another case, two Year 8 girls had a lucky escape with an online predator they thought was a 15-year-old boy.

He said the situation was recognised and police introduced "just in the nick of time" and the man was apprehended.

The Queensland Child Protection Week 2013 award winners included staff and volunteers dedicated to helping protect children and young people from abuse and neglect.

Recipients included:

- Professional (Government) Award: Tricia Smith, South Burnett Child Safety Service Centre.
- Professional (Non-government) Award: Denise Coputt, Save the Children Australia.
- Volunteer Award: Lavina Little
- Regional Program Award: Love Bites Program, Bundaberg and District Steering Committee
- Education Initiative Award (two winners): Safe Is project, The Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School Inc. Gilimbaa and Family Planning Queensland and SUPA Kids, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.
- Youth Participation: CREATE Foundation, This Roadmap is our future: Young people having a say in the Carmody Inquiry.
- Media and Communications Award: Day for Daniel Campaign, Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

- Community Initiative Award: Youth Cultural Hot Spot Response, delivered in partnership with Micah Projects and Queensland Police.
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