



## QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONS OF CHILD PROTECTION AWARDED TODAY

Today is our State's chance to say *'thank you'* to the Queenslanders who give so much of themselves to help keep vulnerable children and young people safe, as Queensland Child Protection Week 2019 (QCPW) is launched at Parliament House.

QCPW Chair Anna Nolan said the awards ceremony today was an important opportunity to acknowledge some very special Queenslanders, many of whom often don't seek credit for the loving care and genuine support they give at-risk kids.

"The recipients of this year's ten awards work with young Queenslanders – from newborn babies to troubled teens. These children's lives are profoundly impacted and made all the better because of the intervention of these champions of child protection," said Ms Nolan.

QCPW kicks off this Sunday, 1 September (Father's Day) and runs until Saturday, 7 September. The week will be celebrated with a variety of activities being held across the State that have been organised by rural, regional and metro organisations that were awarded grants of up to \$5,000.

"All of the events held around Queensland during Child Protection Week are created to shine a light on child protection and educate communities about the important message that protecting children is everybody's business," said Ms Nolan.

"We are excited to have introduced a new 'community engagement' grant this year that offered \$5,000 to an indigenous lead agency for the first time to work with other organisations to promote events in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during QCPW."

Child Protection Week was formed 33 years ago by the Management Committee of Protect All Children Today (PACT). The committee organised a coalition of agencies involved in child protection to stage the first annual Child Protection Week in Brisbane in 1986. It is now a national event that is celebrated across the country.

The QCPW Committee is made up of 27 organisations - all concerned with child protection issues, who work together to coordinate a community campaign. The week-long event is funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, Queensland Police, the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

Minister for Child Safety Di Farmer said Child Protection Week was an opportunity to promote the value of children and focus attention on the issues of child abuse and neglect, while also supporting and valuing the professionals and volunteers who supported young Queenslanders who had been harmed or were at risk of harm.

"I am honoured to be able to personally thank and acknowledge this year's award winners for their dedication to protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children," she said.

"Child Safety really is everyone's responsibility, and together we can work towards making sure every Queensland child has the same hope and opportunity as the next."

[ENDS] Thursday, 29 August (Biographies of QCPW Award winners & media contact details follow).

## BIOGRAPHIES - QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2019 AWARD WINNERS

Professional (Non-government) Award:

### **Lucas Moore**

Lucas has been a part of the CREATE family since March 2008, starting as Community Facilitator, then Queensland State Coordinator and is now the National Marketing Communications Manager. Lucas has worked tirelessly during his time with CREATE and has been a key advocate for young people's voices in care. Lucas has an intimate understanding of the child protection system and continues to be a lead advocate for young people in care. Lucas was instrumental in G-Force, a community organisation led group that works towards improving the lives of young people in care and sharing best practice. Its thanks to the strength of these relationships that CREATE can do the work it does. This work continues to lead the way especially around providing transition support for young people exiting care, mental health, wellbeing support and more.

Professional (Government) Award:

### **Reeny Jurczynszyn**

Reeny Jurczynszyn is a champion for children and young people in care. As Manager of the Queensland Children's Health (QCH) Child Protection and Forensic Medical Service (CPFMS) she has played an integral leadership role in driving systems change for children and young people that research and literature consistently reveal have persistent high and unmet health needs. Reeny has tirelessly worked to initiate and implement Priority Access across CHQ while leading the operational development of Navigate Your Health, which has facilitated health checks and health care coordination to approximately 500 children and young people in care to date. Reeny is fearless in pursuing system wide advocacy and actively engages her peers and seniors to role model that young people with care backgrounds can achieve significant outcomes.

Volunteer Award:

### **Kathleen Cady – Foster Carer**

Kath has been a foster carer for 26 years and has demonstrated her ability to work collaboratively with Child Safety, Churches of Christ Care, schools, Evolve Therapeutic Services and counselling/psychologists to meet and support the needs of children. Kath has a well-developed understanding of childhood trauma, the impacts on brain development and behaviours resulting from trauma. Kath strives to continue learning through training opportunities and her own personal self-driven study of child psychology. Kath provides a nurturing home in the countryside with space for children to explore, have their personal space and provides opportunities for children to learn self-regulation, empathy and love. There is opportunity for the children to take responsibility for the care of animals in an age appropriate manner. Kath strives to model a sense of family and belonging, respect for others, self, diversity and property. Kath also provides respite for other children in care.

Regional Program Award:

### **Street C.R.E.D.**

Project Street C.R.E.D (Collaborate, Re-engage, Empower, Deter) was developed and led by Gold Coast District Police within the Surfers Paradise, Southport and Broadbeach Police Divisions as a multi-agency approach to improve service responses to 'at risk' young people on the streets, in order to keep them safe and reduce youth offending and recidivism. It provided the first multiagency outreach team to deliver services to vulnerable young people on the streets of the Gold Coast. Key stakeholders all agree this project has resulted in improved responses to young people who are at risk of harm, including Child Safety and Youth Justice clients. The Project has facilitated timelier, appropriate responses by a multiagency team, and greater engagement with services by previously hard to engage young people.

Community Initiative Award:

### **Shaun Slater**

Shaun's commitment to ensuring cultural connection and knowledge for his young family members lead him to identify an unmet need and barrier for many children and young people living in Indigenous communities. Shaun identified that some children were unable to engage with their local rugby league team because they did not have any football boots. Shaun has worked relentlessly to develop and coordinate BootsFourKids. This program is designed to develop community connections and collect new and used football boots for children and young people who may not have had access to them previously. Shaun has developed a program which not only meets a physical need for children and young people in these communities, but also has increased awareness amongst his community of the complexities and need within many Indigenous communities. Shaun has collaborated with individual community members, business, community organisations and those involved in the National Rugby league to donate over 750 pairs of boots for children and young people so far. *Shaun goes above and beyond volunteering his time, energy and petrol in delivering boots to kids in their communities.*

Community Initiative Award:

### **Redlands Integrated Early Years Place**

The Redlands Integrated Early Years Place (RIEYP) is an integrated service which is delivered through a partnership between Goodstart Early Learning and The Benevolent Society. The RIEYP is an innovative model working in partnership with local community agencies in the Redlands to deliver programs and services which improve child and parental wellbeing, strengthen family resilience, promote children's development and build community connection for families. The positive engagement with community partners through the Community Advisory Committee has enabled the local community agencies, parents and prescribed entities to work together to co-design opportunities, programs and services which promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children in the Redlands.

Education Initiative Award:

**Do You Know the Signs? Child protection mentoring program. Yvonne Black and Annie Park**

Do You Know the Signs? Child protection mentoring program is a composite primary and secondary prevention program ultimately aiming to reduce child sexual abuse through the provision of training, mentoring, and resources to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) centres, including early childhood educators and parents and carers of young children. 'Do You Know the Signs? Child protection mentoring program' aims to assist centres, educators and parents/ carers to support healthy sexuality, sexual behaviours and protective factors in early childhood to ultimately help children to be safer.

Youth Participation Award:

**SPEAK UP Program**

The Speak Up Program is an empowerment program available to all young people with a care experience aged 14-25 years, across all states and territories. The Speak Up Program is designed to empower young people to know their rights as a young person in care and connect them with Government or sector decision makers so they have influence over decision that effect their lives. Since 2010, the Speak Up Program has had just under 300 young people who have completed the Speak Up Program. This means we have over 300 Young Consultants who are trained up and willing to participate more actively in consultations, meetings, CSO Training and speaking engagements with the sector and wider community to help highlight issues that are important to young people in out of home care.

Media and Communications Award:

**Amanda Lampe - Senior Media and Public Affairs Officer, QPS & Cameron Browne - Content and Multimedia Officer, QPS**

This award is in recognition of a specific body of work by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Media and Public Affairs Group (MPAG), specifically Ms Amanda Lampe, Senior Media and Public Affairs Officer, and Mr Cameron Browne, Content and Multimedia Officer. Amanda and Cameron developed an innovative public awareness campaign designed to enhance community understanding to positively impact on children's lives. The campaign sends a pointed message to parents about the many real dangers for children engaging on the internet while unsupervised – particularly social media platforms. It addresses the potential for ongoing psychological damage from child harm and neglect, parental awareness of their child's online activity, the need for parents to consider their own behaviour by restricting oversharing of their children's images and/or videos and encouraging parents to talk to children about any concerns they have about online activity. The video campaign was distributed through a multichannel strategy to an audience of more than 1.1million. Further amplification was achieved through social media, boosting reach by a further 620,000 people with the footage viewed more than 180,000 times.

Addressing Overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children and young people in the child protection system Award:

**Renee Bull - Qld Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC)**

Renee, as Project officer for QAIHC, has successfully consulted, negotiated and developed a 'Breakthrough for Families' package addressing Aboriginal and Islander community's health, in the true holistic family sense with specific regard to the impacts of 'ICE' in remote communities throughout regional Qld. Most importantly, Renee developed the package to address the support of families in or surrounded by those affected by ICE. The resource material developed by Renee and QAIHC is exceptional in its language and art, using both to engage and provide a clear message to remote communities on harm and support mechanisms. The package was developed in consultation with and the Aboriginal and Islander communities. Renee has been widely accepted by elders and her package warmly received by those delivering and receiving the package. By supporting regional and isolated families, Renee is providing the best possible approach for those many children that need the family support structure to attain and maintain a healthy lifestyle in the community.

For more details on award winners or grant recipients, please email [media@childprotectionweek.net](mailto:media@childprotectionweek.net) or telephone Danyelle Nolan on 0408 410 930.

To find a QCPW event near you, visit <https://childprotectionweek.org.au/events/>

