



Queensland Child Protection Week Award Winners 2024

Professional Non-Government – Australian Child Maltreatment Study Team

The Australian Child Maltreatment Study Team revealed for the first time just how widespread child maltreatment is across Australia. Their work highlights the need for a coordinated government approach and sustained investment in the field. After conducting a nationwide survey of Australians (16 years and older) the research team found 32% of Australians experienced physical abuse in childhood, 28.5% experienced child sexual abuse, 30.9% experienced emotional abuse, 8.9% experienced neglect, and 39.6% experienced exposure to domestic violence before age 18. The groundbreaking study also documented the significant and long-lasting harm associated with child maltreatment which occurs early and lasts across life. Findings show child sexual abuse and child emotional abuse are particularly harmful. This new reliable data about the prevalence, impact and nature of child maltreatment will enable government and service providers to make evidence-informed decisions and policies to better prevent and respond to child maltreatment in Queensland and across Australia.

Professional Government - Tara Winsor-Banwell

Tara Winsor-Banwell works as the Manager of the Placement Support Services Unit in Ipswich within the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services. Through her commitment, creativity and advocacy, Tara individually and in support of her team has demonstrated creative and strategic thinking through a project focused on transitioning children under 12 from Residential Care to family-based care and then onwards to reunification with their family where possible. Tara's approach has resulted in positive outcomes for all children involved, changing what could have been a child's future trajectory to set them up for success. Tara is influencing this change, not just talking about it!

Regional Program - Jayur House

In the Far North Qld region, Jayur House provides placement, encouragement, and support for some of the most vulnerable young people aged 15 to 18 years with complex support needs. Operated by Southern Cross Support Services, Jayur House provides support with persistence to apply a vision of purpose, belonging and security that addresses the immediate needs of young people being supported but also empowers them to develop essential life skills, build resilience and work towards the future they want. Ensuring the house is a 'home', Southern Cross Support Services are focused on young people being respected and listened to and that they know they are cared about. Jayur House provides a safe place called 'home' when young people are disengaged from any other placements.

Education Initiative – Julia Hayes

Julia Hayes is a proud Aboriginal woman and single mother of two with a combined 25 years of personal lived and professional experience in the foster care and social work sector. With a degree in Human Services and completing post graduate studies in Neuroscience and Mental Health, Julia works as a Child Safety Officer, has more than 13 years' experience in system advocacy through the CREATE Foundation and is a current member of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition's Youth Reference Group. Identifying a gap in resources for children, Julia wrote, 'My Body, My Choice', closely followed by 'No is a Complete Sentence', resource books available to support anyone in a parenting role to educate children in age-appropriate ways around body autonomy and identifying safe adults. Julia has used her expertise to develop a lasting resource to ensure the important messages of child protection and autonomy are understood in the wider community.

Volunteer – Phillipa Fleming

Phillipa Fleming has been a foster carer for 9 years though originally studied criminology and psychology. Always wanting to foster and with a passion for helping children, Phillipa has cared for 29 children over the last 7 years whilst being supported by Key Assets and has participated in many successful reunifications. Phillipa is passionate about advocating for all children who come into her care. Always going beyond expectations, Phillipa always goes the 'extra mile' and establishes positive working relationships with biological parents and grandparents or the best outcome for children. For a 12month old aboriginal child, Phillipa drove 2.5 hours from her home to the grandmothers to familiarise him with his mob and support him being able to return to Country to live with his grandmother and extended family. Described as 'one of a kind', everything Phillipa does for foster children is done with dedication and wholeheartedness, she's in it to support the children and help them back to their family.

Youth Participation

yourtown has invested in a project to co-design a new and impactful Youth Engagement Strategy for 2024-2026. Central to this initiative was a dedicated project team consisting of six young people and a project coordinator. This team of young people played a crucial role in conducting research, consulting stakeholders, synthesising data, and developing the strategy. The resulting yourtown Youth Engagement Strategy is an exciting and innovative plan that integrates youth engagement practices across all aspects of business operations. This ambitious strategy, which has received endorsement, aims to embed young people in governance and decision-making processes. This includes active roles on a yourtown National Youth Council, the establishment of a youth network, as well as participation opportunities in key organisational committees and employee recruitment panels.

Our Children Our Future – CQID, REFOCUS & DCYJMA (Sunshine Coast & Central Region)

A targeted response to reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children in the care system, Delegated Authority or DA is a process where powers for First Nations children have been delegated to CEOs of two First Nations community-controlled organisations, REFOCUS & CQID. The processes enlivening this approach were co-designed across the Fitzroy & Mt Archer Child Safety Service Centres with CQID and the Maroochydore and Caloundra centres with REFOCUS with a clear view to ensuring First Nations voices were amplified. The voices of children & families have been a clear focus with reflections of healing and self-determination for the First Nations families involved. The strength in collaboration in walking alongside one another is key to the excellence of this work and CQID, REFOCUS and the Department have truly evolved in their partnerships.

Thriving Communities – Brisbane Northside Elders Group (Kurbingui Youth & Family Development)

Established in 2015, the Brisbane Northside Elders Group commenced work in collaboration with Child Safety Brisbane and Moreton Bay regions, establishing strong professional relationships with membership on key advisory and consultative groups throughout the regions. Supporting Child Safety staff, the elders support culturally sensitive practice and are key in providing support and advocacy for struggling community members. In 2021, along with Brisbane South, the Brisbane Northside Elders were presented with a 'Statement of Commitment' by the department acknowledging the significance of their role in the child protection sector ensuring better practice and outcomes for their children who may be in care.

Transition 2 Success – Dean Loram – Dulux Territory Manager

Dean Loram is the Dulux Trade Territory Manager for Central Queensland, he approached T2S in 2022 and proposed the idea of a community project to expose young people to the painting industry whilst also giving back to community organisational and businesses and providing valuable work experience in the process. Since 2022, Dulux & Rockhampton T2S have completed four successful community projects giving back to local band groups, sporting organisations, scout groups and the Salvation Army. A fabulous outcome for one T2S graduate with him obtaining a Painting & Decorating apprenticeship after discovering an interest whilst involved in the project. Dean's dedication, time and creation of the project in partnership with local accredited painters has ensured positive outcomes for the young people engaged in the project.

Media & Communications – Rebecca Sparrow

Rebecca Sparrow is an author, influencer, and media superstar with a campaign approach to helping tweens and teens and their parents traverse the tricky path from childhood to adulthood and how to navigate school friendships, have more positive experience online and understand that despite what society tells them they are enough just as they are. On her Facebook page, Bec advocates for parents and kids sharing book reviews, free resources and answering anonymous parent questions to help parents feel less alone as they raise kids in a digital age. Bec is also the host of the popular ABC podcast 'Parental as Anything Teens' where she speaks to parents and experts on the tricky aspects of raising teens including alcohol, drugs, eating disorders, cyberbullying, anxiety and porn to name a few. In the words of one appreciative parent, Bec – you will never know the impact you will have on someone's life – you helped us save our son from online grooming!

Child Safe Organisation – Goodstart Early Learning & Thinka

Goodstart Early Learning in partnership with Thinka have developed a learning solution to enhance child protection training aligned with the national principles for child safe organisations with the program feature being a 36-page illustrated storybook for adult learners and five micro-learning modules. Whilst clearly an education initiative, the implementation of this program was tailored to engage over 5000 employees in Qld and more than 15,000 nationally to ensure crucial child safe practice was embedded within the organisation. The strong partnership and evidence-based approach has effectively promoted safeguarding for children and embedded cultural change within Goodstart Early Learning to create sustainable child safe practices.