



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK – AWARD WINNER

Award Category: Professional (Non-Government)

Award Description: Outstanding contribution to promoting child protection issues in their capacity as a professional working in the child protection (or related) field

Winner: Holly Brennan OAM

BIO

Holly has worked between the fields of education and child protection in Queensland for more than two decades. Throughout her career she has worked proactively and successfully to advocate for and protect the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Her achievements include her recently completed leadership position as the Manager of Research and Program Development at Family Planning Qld and as a past Chair of the Queensland Child Protection Week Committee.

Holly has been instrumental in developing sexuality education and child protection resources for school systems and educators across Queensland. She is well known as an outstanding professional, working with integrity, mixing a calm, balanced and inclusive approach.

Influential in raising awareness of the connection between sexuality education and child protection, Holly has been a tireless advocate for the principle of “positive and protective”, working so that child sexual abuse prevention education sits within broader sexuality education. She has shown dedication and perseverance in significantly raising the profile of sexuality education and child protection as dual components in victimisation prevention.

Holly has also authored sexuality education programs, training and resources for children and young people, parents/carers and professionals working in the child protection, education, disability and the early childhood sectors.

Holly is also known as someone with an outstanding ability to facilitate partnerships with key people and agencies in the field; to form strategic and creative collaborations with stakeholders to ensure relevant and responses to emerging issues; to possess an intelligent and critical use of evidence-based practice to “look over the horizon” and anticipate issues that may impact on students, teachers and schools with respect to education and child protection so that her organization remains informed and aware; to be able to conceptualise and design new ideas and to extend professional development and training for school personnel; and to be able to carefully influence how children’s sexuality is addressed within educational institutions.

Holly was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (2012) in recognition of her outstanding service to Australian children and her leadership promoting sexuality and relationship education as a primary prevention strategy.

Location: Sunshine Coast

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