



QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK – AWARD WINNER

Award Category: Community Initiative

Award Description: Any community operated program, initiative, event or campaign that focuses on enhancing child protection in our communities.

Name: Let their voices be heard – Child and Youth Protection Partnership – Charter Working Group

BIO

Let their Voices be Heard is a whole of community project coordinated by Bundaberg's Child & Youth Protection Partnership in collaboration with individuals, organisations, and services who assist or work with local children. This has been a 3 stage child and family friendly project with the longer term aim to build Bundaberg as a child friendly city.

In 2013 the Multi Service Charter Working Group was established to guide the project, the first step being the development of a local Charter for the Wellbeing of the Children and Young people of Bundaberg.

In 2014 they then used the Charter to guide activities to create **Let Their Voices Be Heard community resource** through gathering, recording and presenting the views of Bundaberg's children. This included ensuring that practitioners engaging with children and young people developed age appropriate activities to gather the children's voices and was a critical part of the process. Material from the schools, childcare centres and other agencies was included. Creative and cultural groups were on board to help engage young people in a contemporary way.

Children not only participated, the activities empowered them. As a result their participation provided a tapestry of creative and thoughtful responses and beautiful artwork that highlight their views. The children's words and pictures give us a glimpse into how they see their world. It is a world of diversity and positivity where the children of the Bundaberg region express their strong connection to family and their community regardless of the obstacles and complexities they may face.

Stage three is encouraging an even wider commitment to the Charter's principles across the whole community.

Location: Bundaberg

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