



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**



MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland communities prepare to bring light to child abuse and neglect

Queenslanders will be reminded *'Protecting Children is Everybody's Business'* during Child Protection Week, which runs from Sunday 6 – Saturday 12 September.

The campaign will launch with an awards ceremony at Parliament House this Thursday, 3 September – when our state's most significant child protectors will be acknowledged in nine different categories.

The awards aim to publicly acknowledge the efforts, commitment and energy of community members who make a significant contribution towards preventing child harm and neglect.

****FULL LIST OF WINNERS BELOW****

Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree heads a committee including representatives from 21 of the state's leading child protection, education, health and welfare agencies, as well as law enforcement and government.

"Our board was once again blown away by the calibre of brave and inspiring nominees this year," said Ms Dupree.

"It is with great joy that I announce the 2015 Queensland Child Protection Week winners."

"I hope this year's award recipients encourage more Queenslanders to safeguard the wellbeing and protection of our innocent children."

More than 100 community events are to be held right across the state to create awareness of child protection and educate Queenslanders - they include dance acts, theatre performances, music productions and more.

Grants of \$1,000 and \$3,000 have been awarded respectively to community groups and organisations that have enthusiastically gathered locals to imaginatively produce an event or routine based on the key messages of Queensland Child Protection Week.

For more information on Queensland Child Protection Week events and award recipients, visit www.childprotectionweek.org.au

2015 Queensland Child Protection Week Winners

AWARD: 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 (Sunshine Coast)

Holly has worked with children in Queensland for more than 20 years. She is a dedicated worker who advocates for the rights and safety of children and provides education on sex for school systems across Queensland.

AWARD: Professional (Government)

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Outstanding contribution to child protection at a practice, policy or service development level within the public service.

WINNER: Detective Sargent Tania Plant (Ipswich)

Detective Sargent Tania Plant has worked for Queensland Police Services for 26 years and has been instrumental in many child protection matters. She is described as a "mentor and role model, building a future group of investigators".

AWARD: Volunteer

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Invaluable contributions to child protection made by volunteers working in government or non-government agencies.

WINNER: Luise Manning (Springfield Lakes)

Springfield Lakes Butterfly Wings Parent Child Program was founded by Luise Manning who is a community member dedicated to providing informative sessions that support parents with young children in the community.

AWARD: Regional Program

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Program that operates within part of, or across, a region to address some aspect of child protection.

WINNER: Young Families Connect (formally known as Pregnant and Parenting) (Ipswich)

Young Families Connect works with students from across Inala to Ipswich schools to ensure young parents are able to further their education in a supportive environment.

AWARD: Education Initiative

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Development of an innovative approach, research or resource to promote child protection.

WINNER: Darling Downs Crime Prevention Unit – Children’s Safety Pantomime (Toowoomba)

This group of Queensland Police Officers volunteer their time to educate young children on the warning signs associated with abuse, through pantomime. Protective behaviours messages have been adapted into a pantomime so that children can listen, watch, sing and talk with the characters and thereby use all the different learning styles to carry the messages.

AWARD: Youth Participation

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Involvement of young people in the planning of a local activity to promote child protection.

WINNER: Young People Making a Difference (MAD) (Central Queensland)

MAD is a young peoples’ program (12-18 years of age) based around peer support and adult mentoring. It consists of five weekend camps per year and on average 30-45 young people attend each of the camps held at Tannum Sands. The peer support and adult mentoring model of MAD recognises that adolescents experience many challenges including alcohol, drugs, family violence, mental health distress, self-harm, suicide and child abuse.

AWARD: Media & Communications

AWARD DESCRIPTION: An article, news story, series, publication, campaign or communications strategy that demonstrates a significant contribution to highlighting child protection issues.

WINNER: Daniel Morcombe Foundation (Sunshine Coast)

The ‘Keeping Kids Safe Resource Kit’ and educational DVD supports the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum, which is presented to every school in Queensland and reinforces the important personal safety and awareness messages: *Recognise, React and Report*.

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

AWARD DESCRIPTION: Outstanding contribution to addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children and young people through policy, programs or practice.

WINNER: Isabel Toby (Doomadgee)

Isabel works with the parents and children in her community and is known for her work in assisting families through trauma and supporting her Aboriginal community’s traditions and culture.

AWARD: Community Initiative

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

WINNER: Let their voices be heard: Child and Youth Protection Partnership – Charter Working Group (Bundaberg)

Through Bundaberg’s Child and Youth Protection Partnership in collaboration with individuals, organisations, and services who assist or work with local children, a three stage child and family friendly project was developed to build Bundaberg as a child friendly city. The Let Their Voices Be Heard community resources were created by gathering, recording and presenting the views of Bundaberg’s children.

For full bios or award winner contact details, please telephone or email:

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