



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**



MEDIA RELEASE

31st August 2016

Queensland community group marks 30 years of shining a light on child abuse and neglect

Queenslanders will be reminded *protecting children is everybody's business* during Queensland Child Protection Week, Sunday 4 – Saturday 10 September, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

Queensland's Child Protection Week raises the profile of all issues connected with child protection including child abuse prevention, treatment, research, and education.

This week launches with an awards ceremony, to be held at Parliament House this Thursday, 1st of September.

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

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

Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Elisabeth Kobierski 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 committee was greatly heartened and inspired by the calibre of brave and outstanding nominees this year," said Ms Kobierski.

"It is with great joy and hope for our young people that I announce the 2016 Queensland Child Protection Week winners."

"I hope this years' award recipients inspire more Queenslanders to safeguard the wellbeing and protection of all our children and young people."

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

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



2016 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: Kids Helpline, Yourtown

Kids Helpline (KHL) is Queensland's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25. KHL has been operating for 25 years with Counsellors connecting tens of thousands of QLD children and young people to services and information so that coordinated care responds to their diverse needs.

AWARD: Professional (Government)

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

WINNER: Raymond Ho - Deputy Director/Clinical Services Program Manager, Child and Youth Academic Unit, Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services.

Metro South Health Integrated services are critical to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in care. Raymond Ho has been a strong and effective leader in establishing a more collaborative approach between Child Safety and Queensland Health in the Logan area so that vulnerable children and young people have access to timely mental health services.

AWARD: Volunteer

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

WINNER: The Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland (CPPAQ) Board members

The Child Protection Practitioner Association of Queensland (CPPAQ) was established in 2010 with the aim of raising the profile of child protection law in Queensland and to improve professional collaboration across legal and social science professionals across Queensland.

AWARD: Regional Program

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

WINNER: Laci Christiaen & the Youth Engagement Program, Elanora Police Beat

Laci Christiaen is the Youth Engagement Officer employed at Elanora Police Beat by the Police Citizens Youth Club. Laci has case managed over 150 young people in an 18 month period and has developed several different programs tailored to meet various complex needs within our schools and community.

AWARD: Education Initiative

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

WINNER: Veronica Taylor, Senior Practitioner Bundaberg Child Safety Service Centre

Veronica is a role model to all staff who are lucky enough to work with her. Her passion for the work, her attention to technical aspects of legislation and policy and her commitment to her own ongoing professional development is unsurpassed.

AWARD: Youth Participation

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

WINNER: NEXTSTEP After Care

Create Foundation, Uniting Care Community (UCC), Life Without Barriers (LWB), South Burnett CTC, Integrated Family and Youth Services (IFYS) and Youth Empowered Towards Independence collectively and individually have an extensive history supporting young people in foster care or other out of home care arrangements to build independent lives.



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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: Child2Child Promoting Protection Day

Bundaberg Child2Child Promoting Protection day is testimony to the successful support and involvement of the YMCA, the Education Department and also the Queensland Police who conduct a discussion session with young people around protective behaviours and safety hand concepts.

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: Brisbane North Side Elders

Brisbane North Side Elders have formed a committee/governance group to influence key government and non-government reform, with the aim of improving the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families in the North Brisbane area. The region has rolled out key reforms, including Indigenous Family and Child Connect services.

AWARD: Community Initiative

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

WINNER: The BEAR Plan, Bundaberg North State School

Implemented by the Guidance Officer and School Chaplain in response to the 2013 Bundaberg floods, the BEAR plan is an innovative approach to assisting traumatised children to develop self-regulation skills.

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

Chantel Keogh - chantel@p4.com.au | 3854 1455 or 0431 156 679