



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

Media Release

1 September 2016

Kids Helpline applauded for child protection achievements

Kids Helpline has been awarded a Queensland Child Protection Award for its outstanding contribution to preventing child harm and neglect.

This year, Kids Helpline celebrates 25 years of operation, providing Queensland's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 years.

In 2015, Kids Helpline responded to 1,035 contacts from young people with concerns about child abuse, including domestic and family violence. Of these contacts, 63% were either experiencing current abuse or at risk of abuse. Kids Helpline partners with child protection agencies, emergency services and specialist mental health services to support positive outcomes for children's safety and wellbeing.

This week, Kids Helpline was awarded the *Queensland Child Protection Award – Professional (Non-Government)* category, recognising its outstanding contribution to promoting child protection issues.

The Queensland Child Protection Awards comes ahead of Queensland Child Protection Week, which runs from 4 to 10 September, promoting the value of children and focusing attention on issues of child abuse and neglect.

Kids Helpline CEO Tracey Adams said the service was created to give children and young people somewhere to turn when they needed help, particularly in relation to concerns such as abuse and neglect.

"To be acknowledged for our role in protecting children and young people is something everyone involved in the service is very excited by and proud of," she said.

"Kids Helpline was started 25 years ago to ensure that all children knew that there was someone there for them - to listen, to protect and to care at anytime.

"The service, like our young people and our communities, has seen many changes during the past 25 years. What has not changed is the need for children and young people to be heard. We made that promise when we started Kids Helpline and we remain committed to it."

Queensland Child Protection Week Chair Elisabeth Kobierski said the Committee congratulated Kids Helpline on its award win and for providing inspiration to others.

"The annual Queensland Child Protection Awards provide an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the efforts, commitment and unreserved energy of many people who make a significant contribution to our community to prevent child harm and neglect," she said.

Queensland Child Protection Week is co-ordinated by the Queensland Child Protection Week Committee and funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and



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Queensland Family and Child Commission. The week focuses attention on child protection being everyone's business and ensuring that all across Queensland communities take responsibility for children being protected and experiencing well-being.

More information on Queensland Child Protection Week is available at:
www.childprotectionweek.org.au/

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