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## Laci Christiaen applauded for child protection achievements

Former Youth engagement officer Laci Christiaen has been awarded a Queensland Child Protection Award for her outstanding contribution to preventing child harm and neglect.

A Youth Engagement Officer employed by the Police Citizen Youth Welfare Association, based at the Elanora Police Beat, Laci developed several programs to meet various complex needs within local schools and communities. She also managed the cases of more than 150 young people over an 18-month period.

Laci was also an integral member of the Project Booyah team, working with at risk and disengaged teenage girls. She now works as a Youth and Community Programs Coordinator at the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, based at Tingalpa.

This week, Laci Christiaen was awarded the *Queensland Child Protection Award – Regional Program* category, recognising her efforts in creating and facilitating outstanding programs that addressed aspects of child protection.

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.

“The causes of harm to children and young people are numerous. Each cause can have a detrimental effect on a child or young person’s physical or emotional health and wellbeing. It is so important that we teach young people how to be kind to themselves and to focus on positive ways to deal with their challenges,” Ms Christiaen said.

“There are a lot of young people hurting in current situations and past situations. We need to continue to encourage people to speak up about child protection and also ask young people about how we can help them through programs and initiatives rather than tell them what they need to do.”

Queensland Child Protection Week Chair Elisabeth Kobierski said the Committee congratulated Laci on her 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 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.



QUEENSLAND  
**CHILD**  
**PROTECTION**  
**WEEK**

## Media Release

More information on Queensland Child Protection Week is available at:  
[www.childprotectionweek.org.au](http://www.childprotectionweek.org.au)

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