



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

QLD CHILD PROTECTION WEEK AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED TOMORROW

Winners have protected thousands from abuse & neglect

- Queensland's highest child protection honours
- >100 Australian children classified as abuse/neglect victims daily in 2011/12¹
- A record 9 categories awarded in 2014
- Previous winners include Bruce & Denise Morcombe, and Hetty Johnston

A real life 'angel', a volunteer who's given 40,000 gift packs to help comfort children fleeing abuse, neglect and violence, a whole school staff from a small primary school where 30% of kids are at-risk of psychiatric disability, and the man who – literally – is quoted in child protection and social work textbooks ...

These are the homegrown child protection heroes who will be honoured tomorrow afternoon, during the 2014 Queensland Child Protection Week Awards ceremony.

2014's award winners are drawn from a wide cross section of the community, and include Indigenous leaders, school, voluntary and regional workers, a foster-carer artist and a student protection officer whose remit includes the protection oversight of 71,000 school aged children in 137 schools across South East Queensland.

The Queensland Child Protection Week Awards cover professional, voluntary, regional and education initiatives, youth and community categories, along with media and communications. New in 2014 is an award for work addressing Indigenous over-representation in the child protection sector. Residents from the Bundaberg Region, which endured a natural flood disaster last year, have won two awards.

The awards come as abuse and neglect rates rise nationally. By contrast with the Federal Royal Commission into sexual abuse – which continues to spotlight shocking historic crimes committed against children – these awards highlight the best of human nature.

"Keeping children safe is everybody's business and these awards honour those who've stepped-up and given their all to protect our children," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree, a long time protection leader.

"Rates of substantiated child abuse and neglect have risen across the nation," Ms Dupree said.

"At the frontline of Queensland's responses are today's award winners, who've helped protect thousands of Queensland children.



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QLD CHILD PROTECTION WEEK AWARD WINNERS CONT.

“By stepping-in and stepping-up, these ordinary Queenslanders illustrate the life-changing impact individuals can make when they decide to make child protection their business.”

The awards' ceremony will be hosted by the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Minister, Tracy Davis, at Queensland's Parliamentary Annex, from 1-3pm tomorrow.

Queensland Child Protection Week, which runs from 7-13 September, will also be officially launched at the ceremony.

More than 100 community activities and events will be held during during Queensland Child Protection Week – 7-13 September – from the Torres Strait, to the outback, to inner city Brisbane.

The week is run by a committee comprising representing 21 child protection, education, health and welfare agencies, as well as law enforcement and government departments. The State Government provides nearly \$107,000 to support and promote the week.

Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/> for further details

Further information

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1. <http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/relationships/alarm-at-soaring-number-of-kids-in-foster-care/story-fnet0hc2-1226592799589>