



QUEENSLAND
**CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

7 - 13 September 2014

ISSUED UNDER EMBARGO | EMBARGO EXPIRES 1PM THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

DEVASTATING NATURAL DISASTER HASN'T STOPPED BUNDY GROUP'S VITAL CHILD PROTECTION WORK

The Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group will tomorrow be announced as the winner of the 'Regional Program' category of Queensland's most prestigious child protection awards.

The 'Regional Program' gong is one of nine to be presented tomorrow afternoon at the Queensland Child Protection Week Awards' Ceremony, at the Parliamentary Annex, Brisbane. Past award winners include Bruce and Denise Morcombe, and Braveheart's Hetty Johnston.

"The Bundaberg action group is one of Queensland's most energetic child protection advocates, and works almost year round to make their community safer, more aware and more connected to each other," said Queensland Child Protection Week Chair, Lorraine Dupree. "Year after year, this group creates new activities and works with different sectors of the community to highlight the fact that protecting children is everyone's business. The impact of their work is incalculable."

Ms Dupree also acknowledged the impact of last year's catastrophic floods on the Bundaberg community, and acknowledged the impact natural disasters can have on children, families and communities: "Generally speaking, the research tells us that children are made extremely vulnerable following a natural disaster."

Some Bundaberg business have not re-opened since the 2013 floods, economic losses have been significant and 2013 stats from the Australian Local Government Association suggest the Bundaberg region has Australia's highest unemployment rate (16.4%) and highest proportion of working-aged people on social security¹.

Since 2009, the Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group has planned and delivered region-wide activities promoting child protection, and raising community awareness of child abuse and neglect. Free activities are a key focus. Past events include community breakfasts and breakfasts for fathers, activities for Under 5s and family fun days, as well as information and education campaigns. Comprising members from 20 local NGO and government agencies, the Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group spends 10-months of every year planning activities, education and awareness-raising programs that focus on child protection.

Bundaberg's Yarning Up steering committee has won the award's 2014 Media & Communication's category.

More than 100 events will be held across the State during Queensland Child Protection Week (7-13 September), which will be formally launched at tomorrow's awards' ceremony. The Queensland Government provides nearly \$107,000 to support and promote the week. Visit <http://childprotectionweek.org.au/>

Further information

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1. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/bundaberg-battling-back-a-year-after-floods-20140117-3106r.html#ixzz3BXtcz7eI>