



MEDIA RELEASE

29 August 2013

Queensland Child Protection Week 2013 award winners announced

Excellent programs, staff and volunteers dedicated to helping protect children and young people from abuse and neglect will be recognised at the Queensland Child Protection Week 2013 Launch and Awards ceremony today.

Queensland Child Protection Week Committee Chair, Kelly Bucknall, said the awards would be presented at a ceremony on Thursday 29 August at 1.00 pm at Parliament House, following the launch of Child Protection Week 1-7 September.

“The awards honour the hard work of the champions who work to protect children and young people from neglect and abuse,” Ms Bucknall said. The following awards will be presented today:

Professional (Government) Award Winner: Tricia Smith, South Burnett Child Safety Service Centre

CONTACT: tricia.smith@communities.qld.gov.au 0487 294 290

Tricia says: ‘I am very honoured to receive this award but many people have ownership of it. I am privileged to lead a wonderful team in South Burnett and work in a community that truly gets that child protection is everyone’s business.’

Professional (Non-Government) Award Winner: Denise Copcutt, Save the Children Australia

CONTACT: copcutts@bigpond.net.au 0427 698 616

Denise says: ‘I was delighted to win the Queensland Child Protection Week Award. I feel a sense of pride that my work in refuge, with children who have been impacted by domestic and family violence has been acknowledged. I am equally proud to be on the Save the Children team whose focus is to ensure that all children have a safe, protected environment.’

Volunteer Award Winner: Lavina Little, Phoenix House

CONTACT: brucelavina@hotmail.com 0422 642 577

Lavina says: ‘What Phoenix House is doing is really positive. My work is really rewarding. We need look after the little ones because they are the future.’

Regional Program Award Winner: Love Bites Program, Bundaberg & District Steering Committee

CONTACT: Senior Constable Danielle Loftus, Loftus.DanielleE@police.qld.gov.au (07) 4153 9111

Senior Constable Loftus says: ‘Winning a Queensland Child Protection Week award is a proud moment. The award recognises the commitment, passion and dedication of a team from government and non-government organisations working collaboratively to engage with and empower our youth to grow and develop respectful healthy relationships.’

Education Initiative Award (joint winners): **1.** The ‘Safe is...’ project. The Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School, Gilimbaa and Family Planning Queensland

CONTACT: Janelle Weissman communications@fpq.com.au 0423 408 830

Holly Brennan from FPQ says: ‘It is an honour to be acknowledged for the *Safe is...* project. We believe helping children be safe is one of our most important duties. Children are never too young to learn about being safe and about who they can talk to if they need help. All of us can play our part and *Safe is...* is a resource we are proud to share.’

2. The SUPAKIDS Program, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc.

CONTACT: Amy Compton-Keen director@domesticviolence.com.au (07) 5591 4222

Amy Compton-Keen says: ‘We are thrilled to receive this award for the SUPAKids program. This program educates school students about safety, positive and healthy relationships and anger awareness. One in four children witness domestic violence against their mother. Programs such as SUPAKids are a chance for child witnesses to develop alternative views to unhealthy relationships. Children learn what they live and live what they learn.’

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Special Recognition Award Winner: Joanne Stout, Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health Services, Recognised Entity CONTACT: jstout@taihs.net.au 0409 898 700

Joanne says: 'Winning the award fills me with pride for my staff who have been committed and passionate with some outstanding achievements and outcomes for our children and families.'

Youth Participation Award Winner: The CREATE Foundation

CONTACT: Lucas.Moore@create.org.au 0423 626 384

Lucas says: 'Given the high quality of past Child Protection Week Awards winners and some of the amazing things they have achieved, we are humbled to receive this award. This award is for each one of the young people who shared their story and views about the care system with CREATE and the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. They spoke up, were heard and made a difference.'

Community Initiative Award Winner: Youth Cultural Hot Spot Response, Micah Projects and Queensland Police Service CONTACT: Senior Sergeant Corey Allen allen.coreym@police.qld.gov.au 0405 060 570

Senior Sergeant Corey Allen says: 'Acknowledgement of this partnership between front line police and support services is an important milestone for city police. The relationship between uniformed police and young people at risk is complex and difficult. This project showed that by respecting culture and community, front line police can be the right people to make a big difference in the lives of young people who are sleeping rough in risky locations. Police officers in all roles agree that protecting children is everyone's responsibility and one we can do together.'

Media and Communications Award Winner: Day for Daniel Campaign, Daniel Morcombe Foundation

CONTACT: Bruce Morecombe bruce@danielmorcombe.com.au 0417 617 824 or Greg Poultney greg@danielmorcombe.com.au 0418 159 984

Bruce says: 'Day for Daniel is our premier child safety education event. It brings enormous pride to all who have contributed to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation over its nine year history. With over 1,000,000 participants, it is recognised as the largest event of its type in Australia. Our work is not done however, as we all know we can achieve so much more in the future.'

Child Protection Week events receive more than \$105,000 in Queensland Government funding to promote the message that protecting children and young people is everybody's business.

MEDIA CONFERENCE: 12 midday (sharp) on Thursday 29 August, Speakers' Green, Parliament House Brisbane.

AWARDS CEREMONY: Premier's Hall, Parliamentary Annexe, Level 4, Parliament House. Media welcome to both.

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