



Daniel's parents honoured for child safety work

Suzanne Dorfield

WATCHED on by an audience wearing red T-shirt pins, Denise and Bruce Morcombe spoke of their son as they accepted a Queensland Child Protection award as part of Child Protection Week.

There was a moment's silence for Daniel at the start of the ceremony at Parliament House yesterday afternoon where they were awarded the Education Initiative Award for their efforts to inform people

about child safety through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

"This is my first ever award, my first trophy," said Mrs Morcombe. "Daniel's story is very sad, but with the right focus we can use it in a positive way."

Mr Morcombe said that he'd be getting a congratulatory pat on the back from his children when he took the award home.

"We've known for a short time so we told the kids and they're thrilled for us," he said.

"We all share the heartache and we all will share in this award as well as a tight family unit. We're really chuffed that the recognition has come to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation."

He said the foundation's profile had grown "enormously" in the past three weeks as the search at Beerwah intensified.

Minister for Child Safety Phil Reeves congratulated the family on their achievement. "Bruce and Denise Morcombe

have continued in the face of personal adversity and hardship since the abduction of their son Daniel to promote the ongoing message of child safety," he said.

Five other people and organisations were recognised, including Legal Aid Queensland and volunteer organisation Bravehearts.

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AWARD WINNERS

Professional Award (Government): Corelle Davies, Child Safety Director, Qld Health

Professional Award (Non-government): Hetty Johnston, founder and executive director of Bravehearts

Volunteer Award: Jill Wesche, child witness support volunteer with Protect All Children Today

Regional Program Award:

Thursday Night Live initiative by Mt Isa Youth Services Collaborative

Education Initiative Award: Bruce and Denise Morcombe for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation

Youth Participation Award: Legal Aid Queensland child protection unit and youth advocate



INSPIRATIONAL DUO: Bruce and Denise Morcombe with their award at Parliament House yesterday. Picture: Annette Dew