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For immediate release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **'Child abuse comes to the attention of local MP'**

Member for Woodridge, Desley Scott met with representatives from Save the Children and NAPCAN to discuss ways that all parties can work together to tackle the issue of child abuse. The meeting took place at Woodridge North State School on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

Cathy Baker, State Manager for NAPCAN (National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) provided Ms Scott with background information on the subject of child abuse and outline how NAPCAN are addressing this issue within her constituency.

Marie Stuart, Program Manager from Save the Children introduced Ms Scott to the members of Woodridge North State School Playgroup and discussed the services provided by Save the Children within the Woodridge area.

Cathy Baker, State Manager, NAPCAN commented, 'Research shows that one of the best ways to prevent child abuse and neglect is by building communities that support and value children and families. It was great to have the opportunity to discussing with Ms Scott ways how we can create child friendly communities for people living within the Woodridge area.'

Desley Scott commented, 'Child Abuse is a really difficult issue for decision makers to tackle. It was wonderful to meet with the staff from NAPCAN and Save the Children to hear first hand how the community can work together for the benefit of children in their area. Programs such as the ones offered by these two services help to create an environment where our children are supported and the whole community has a shared sense of responsibility for their safety.'

**Ends**

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **Notes to the editor:**

NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) is Australia's leading advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. NAPCAN's goal is to bring about the changes necessary in individual and community behavior and in government policy to stop abuse and neglect before it starts.

NAPCAN also works directly with children and young people conducting innovative programs to strengthen protective behaviors build resilience and life skills. NAPCAN also assists 'at risk' parents through face-to-face programs and works in local communities building inclusive networks and strengthening local support of children and families. A charity, NAPCAN is governed by a national board with the support of professional sub-committees and state and territory councils. For further information go to: [www.napcan.org.au](http://www.napcan.org.au)