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## **NAPCAN Play Your Part Award 2012 - NSW Urban Recipient**

### **Recipients:**

Nicole Ryan - Coordinator

Cecily Williams - Child specialist worker

Elena Julca - Administrator/Assistant

**For:** Multimix Mob (an indigenous playgroup)

**Based in:** Marrickville, NSW

### **Background**

Multimix mob are an indigenous playgroup based at Connect Marrickville in the grounds of Marrickville West Public School. The program runs every Tuesday of school term from 10am-2pm, providing a nutritious lunch and a warm and safe atmosphere for families. The mob is for children 0-5 years, where they are equipped with the social skills to start kindy. Multimix mob engage a number of family support agencies to be available weekly to assist participating families on their request.

The Multi Mix Mob receives support from a circle of local organisations, including Barnardo's Aboriginal Early Years Project, the Metro Migrant Resource Centre, Marrickville Community Health, CatholicCare, TAFE Outreach and Marrickville Council. Connect Marrickville runs a peer support program in collaboration with the Multi Mix Mob and the Early Literacy Initiative, which involves older children reading to preschool children during playgroup.

The Multi Mix Mob playgroup would not be the success it is without the efforts of the coordinator, Nicole Ryan. Nicole is an extraordinary woman who has amazing energy and enthusiasm. Not only has she ensured that Aboriginal mothers have a supportive playgroup; she has ensured that the women who attend are involved in broader community and educational activities. An issue close to Nicole's heart is speaking out against domestic violence. In 2011 Nicole and the women from the Multi Mix Mob organised an event for White Ribbon Day in Marrickville. The young women from the playgroup worked extremely hard to make the day a success. Nicole and her team are an asset to the community.

### **Recognition of achievement**



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NAPCAN'S 2012 Play Your Part Awards are about acknowledging individuals, communities or organisations that work towards strengthening communities and thereby creating environments that support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Supporting young mothers has been recognised as an important strategy in the creation of child friendly and connected communities. The leadership shown by Nicole, Cecily and Elena in working in partnership with their community in developing a responsive program which facilitates the safety and wellbeing of the children and families they work with, is the reason that this initiative is being awarded the NAPCAN Play your Part NSW (Urban) award 2012.