

NSW

MEDIA ALERT:

National Child Protection Week Awards in NSW announced Domestic violence screening at RPA and mentors for new mums

National Child Protection Week starts annually on Fathers' Day each September (Sunday 2nd - Saturday 8th September this year) to promote the message that 'Protecting children is everyone's business'.

"Children thrive when their families are well supported and their communities are connected and strong. National Child Protection Week is an opportunity for all Australians to find ways to 'play their part'", says NAPCAN CEO, Richard Cooke.

"NAPCAN's Play Your Part Awards are designed to recognise the diverse ways that committed Australians are working together to create a safer community for all children and young people."

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect ([NAPCAN](#)) will be presenting the annual [Play Your Part Awards](#) to the NSW recipients on 4 September during [National Child Protection Week](#) (2 – 8 September).

In 2018 two NSW Play Your Part Awards will be presented to:

MUM FOR MUM NCJWA - a program of National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW

MUM FOR MUM NCJWA is a confidential non-denominational home visiting program where trained volunteers who are mothers themselves visit a mum every week in the last trimester of pregnancy and for the first year of their baby's life in order to provide emotional support. MUM FOR MUM NCJWA aims to relieve isolation and reduce anxiety and depression by creating a safe and caring space for mums to delight in their babies and develop secure attachment. This is proven to be critical to long term outcomes. MUM FOR MUM operates in both the Eastern Suburbs and North Shore of Sydney. www.mumformum.org.au

Contact for more information about Mum for Mum: Nadene Alhadeff Executive Director MUM FOR MUM NCJWA and Eastern Suburbs Coordinator - nadene@mumformum.org.au - 02 9363 0257

Paediatric Department, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for: Domestic Violence Routine Screening in Paediatrics

The Domestic Violence Routine Screening (DVRS) in Paediatrics project was developed to identify mothers and female carers who are victims of domestic violence and to offer them support and assistance. The Children's Ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is the first Paediatric ward in Australia to roll out a program of DVRS for the mothers/female carers of the children we care for. The project involves education of nursing staff, domestic violence screening on the Children's Ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the development of both social work and legal response

pathways for mothers and female carers experiencing domestic violence. The project also aims to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence, reduce stigma amongst healthcare workers, families and the general public and encourage other health services to consider how they could play a role in reducing the impact of domestic violence on women and children.

“It’s great that you’re shining a light on DV. There has been silence about this important issue for too long.”

“What a valuable initiative. Thank you for starting a conversation about DV with mothers like me on the Children’s Ward.”

Contact for more information about DV screening at RPA: Dr John Cass-Verco (Acting Head of Department Paediatrics, RPA Hospital) - 0403 838 912

Note: Play Your Part Awards are awarded to at least one project in each of Australia’s States and Territories, as well as to an overall National Winner.

For a full list of National Child Protection Week activities, visit www.napcan.org.au.

For interviews, further information and/or images please contact:

Helen Fogarty | 0410 541997 | helen.fogarty@napcan.org.au

Additional information about Award Winners:

MUM FOR MUM NCJWA

Message from Executive Director and Eastern Suburbs Coordinator Nadene Alhadeff

With MUM FOR MUM NCJWA in its 10th year of operation, we can derive enormous pride from the fact that we have 60 trained volunteers in the Eastern suburbs, while the North Shore program which we launched in January 2017 has 30 trained volunteers matched with vulnerable mothers - reaching approximately 100 mothers projected to be supported in 2018.

Trained volunteers - who are experienced mothers - visit isolated and vulnerable mothers in their homes once a week for the first year of their baby’s life, extending vital emotional support. About 30 per cent of the recipient mums are born in Australia, the others coming from over 50 countries, ranging from single mothers, mothers with twins and triplets and mothers who do not have family living close by. We have supported approximately 500 mothers to date. Most mothers are referred through the hospitals and professional agencies as being flagged as vulnerable and at risk.

Every baby needs a mother who is attuned to his or her needs to build a foundation of trust and safety in the world. If a mother is depressed and highly anxious, this affects her ability to delight in her child and to respond appropriately to her child’s needs. This can have long-term repercussions for the social, emotional and intellectual development of the baby. Our program goes a long way to relieve isolation.

The secret to the success of the program is the passion and commitment of the volunteers to undergo ongoing training and fortnightly supervision. This creates a highly professional volunteer

body who are clear about boundaries, understand how to deal with mothers struggling with depression, anxiety or domestic violence, and help them access the appropriate resources. The saving to the government of having someone visit a new mother once a week for a year are significant as they do not have the allocated funding to provide these longer term commitments.

Knowing the impact that the volunteer-mother relationship which is built up over the year has on the mothers' wellbeing, it is my wish for the program to be offered far and wide. The simplicity of our referral process and the expectation of the volunteers to commit to regular supervision and ongoing training, makes the program an excellent model to reproduce.

"MUM FOR MUM NCJWA provides a unique service that in my 30 years in the field I have seen many organisations strive for and few able to achieve. This is weekly emotional support and mentoring by the same highly trained volunteer for an entire year. Given the vagaries of the healthcare system I know this is extremely hard to achieve", Ambassador of MUM FOR MUM NCJWA Professor Marie-Paule Austin, Director of Perinatal Psychiatry at Royal Hospital for Women and Director of St John of God Mother-Baby Unit.

Quote from a recent recipient: "I am continually recommending the program to other mothers. I think it should be run around the whole of Australia and the world. Everyone I have been in contact with has shown such compassion, thoughtfulness and warmth. It is like a life-line."

"I owe MUM FOR MUM a great deal. Quite possibly my life."

Quote from a volunteer: "Just saw Sarah for the last time. I'm so proud of her, she's gone from a terrified bundle of jelly to a strong, confident woman with a goal, a strategy and direction. She's going to be great!!"

Photos available.



**Paediatric Department, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for: Domestic Violence
Routine Screening in Paediatrics**

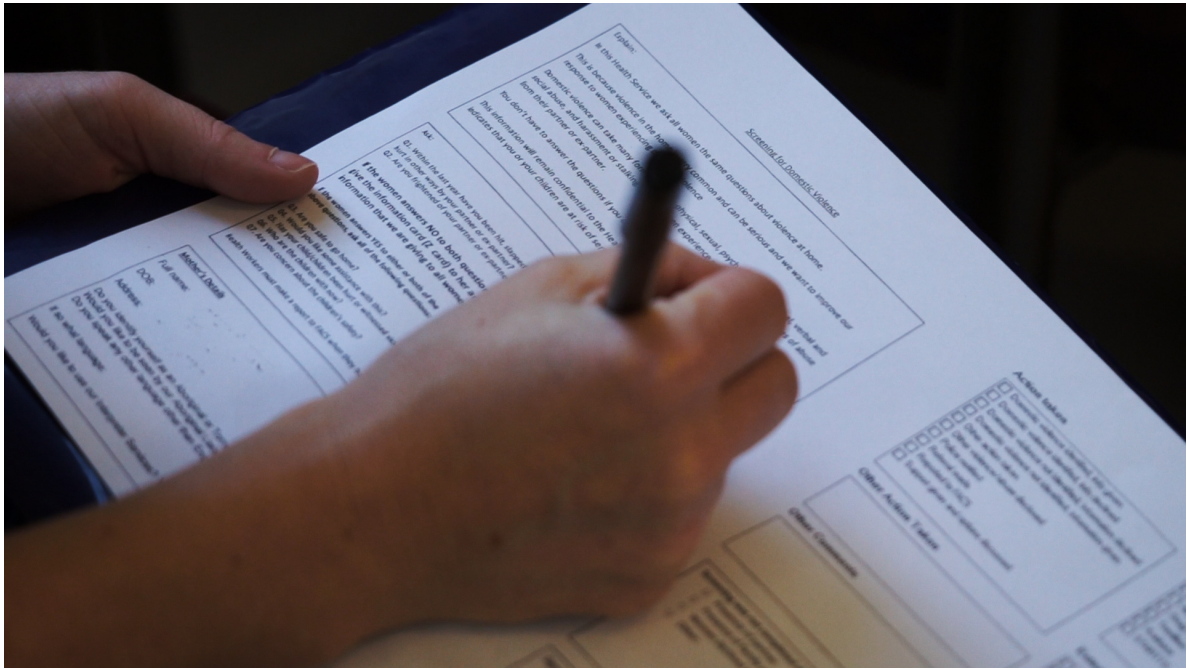
Images available:



Team



Caption: Mock screening



Caption: Filling in the screening form.