

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MEDIA ALERT:

National Child Protection Week Awards in SA on 5 September **Puddle Jumpers win State Award**

National Child Protection Week starts annually on Fathers' Day each September (Sunday 2nd - Saturday 8th September this year) to support 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."

"NAPCAN warmly congratulates Puddle Jumpers for their Community Food Nights, which is an inspiring example of how community connection can support families and improve the lives of children."

Thanks to Award sponsors 'Northhaven Private Wealth and the Lynes Family', Puddle Jumpers will receive \$2500 in prize money to invest in their work.

Puddle Jumpers intends to use the funds to upgrade their kids area by building a beautiful nature playground, which work as a sensory and sound playground for the children to thrive and grow in.

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect ([NAPCAN](#)) will be presenting the annual [Play Your Part Awards](#) to the South Australian recipients on 5 September during [National Child Protection Week](#) (2 – 8 September).

The event will also include a Q&A Forum of high-level speakers on the topic of preventing child abuse, presented by NAPCAN, Healthy Development Adelaide, and the Australian Centre for Child Protection at University of South Australia.

What: Play Your Part Awards presentation and Q&A Forum (Note: Very popular event with 500+ registrations)

When: 9am-11am Wednesday 5 September

Where: Elder Hall, University of Adelaide

Speakers:

- Professor Tim Moore - Deputy Director, Australian Centre for Child Protection
- Rachel Sanderson MP - Minister for Child Protection
- Helen Connolly - SA Children's Commissioner
- Cathy Taylor - Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection South Australia
- Joseph Akot - Consumer Representative for Young People, SA Health

- Detective Chief Inspector Denise Gray - Special Crimes Investigation Branch (139), South Australia Police
- Anne Sim - Principal, Northern Adelaide Senior College
- Teresa Scott - NAPCAN Board President

2018 South Australian Winner:**Puddle Jumpers Incorporated for: Community Food Nights**

Community Food Nights is a family targeted and child friendly food relief service that allows families to collect free food and occasional clothes, toys and homewares through a donation of pantry items. The program also provides tea, coffee, haircuts and a children's play area along with volunteers to provide a fun, safe environment for children whilst parents and carers collect their goods. The Food Nights also allow new relationships and friendships to form between children, families and volunteers and create a sense of belonging and connectedness within the community. Those who attend regularly have also implemented and assisted with safety, wellbeing and behavior policies relevant to the community.

Media spokesperson for Puddle Jumpers: Melanie Tate CEO & Founder - 0400 999 349

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 media attendance, interviews, further information and/or images please contact:

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Available images:



