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

**Recipients: Doug Gordon**  
**For: Youth Dance Ensemble**  
**Based in: Dubbo, NSW**

### **Background:**

The Dance and Band groups created by Doug Gordon were initiated on a volunteer basis to support young people in his community and school to get involved in positive activities.

With a particular focus on boys aged 12 to 15, the main purpose of this program is to help the boys develop better self-esteem and confidence to overcome issues of embarrassment. Doug's program aims to educate the boys with regard to respect for themselves, others and their culture, fostering a sense of pride and self-discipline.

Doug has become a respected mentor to the boys helping them with issues they may have experienced, both positive and negative. It is well recognised in the Dubbo community that Doug has directly contributed to the boys increased school attendance. In addition Doug has created an opportunity for the boys to become mentors themselves to teach younger students about their culture. The boys are also taught how to play the Didgeridoo and other instruments related to their culture. This program has been running for 3 years. The boys have performed at TAFE, community events and at NAIDOC celebrations in many areas of the Dubbo Community.

### **Recognition of achievement**

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. Doug Gordon has worked tirelessly to assist the young people with whom he works with to develop a positive sense of self worth and build resilience. Doug's commitment to these young people as seen them develop a greater value in the benefits of education, consequently these boys have a greater chance of realising their potential. For these reasons this initiative is being awarded the NAPCAN Play your Part NSW (Regional) award 2012.



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