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## **NAPCAN Play Your Part Award 2012 - Queensland**

**Recipients: Junior Advisory Group - Bay Islands**

**For: Junior Advisory Group**

**Based in: Southern Moreton Bay Islands, QLD**

### **Background:**

As part of a Speak Out activity, a Junior Advisory Group (JAG) was formed in time for Youth Week in 2011 to give the young people an opportunity to find out what their peers thoughts and feelings were about the environment they lived in and to give the children and young people living on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands a voice. The young people spent 6 weeks with the Play A Part Project Facilitator, designing their posters deciding on the question they wanted to ask and preparing the 'Speak Out' materials to use to gather information.

On completion of the Speak Out, a report was collated and shared with the Redland City Council and other key stakeholders in the area. The report highlighted two key components for action; a) the lack of activities for young people on the Islands, and b) transport issues.

The Junior Advisory Group decided they would work towards establishing a Bluelight Disco – and were the driving force behind the Bluelight Disco Association being formed. The young people called a community meeting and presented the concept to local residents and their parents. A management committee was formed (which includes key community members and key stakeholders, such as parents, QPS and Chamber of Commerce) and the Bluelight Disco became a reality for the young people; with an under 12's disco held earlier in the evening to ensure that all children and young people were included. This is now a quarterly event with the whole community in support.

Transport issues were also identified (a result of the Speak Out), with concern over the large numbers of children and young people left unattended in public areas; particularly at the jetty where young people disembark from the ferry and catch the bus to school. Issues such as truancy, smoking and bullying were identified. After consultation with the local council, ferry and bus services, it appears these issues were resolved. The



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resolution was as simple as synchronizing the bus and ferry services so as to restrict the amount of time the young people had waiting for each service.

As a result of the Speak Out report, the young people were later invited to speak with the Redland City Council, Town Planner/Sports and Recreation Officer and the Youth Development Officer. The information the young people provided was included in the development of the Council's 2030 Town Planning Report, which won a National Award for Excellence, for Child Friendly Community Initiatives - For Inclusive Consultation.

Another result of the consultation with the young people was to address the issues of boredom on the islands. Funding has been promised by Council to build a Skateboard Ramp in the new recreational area being developed on Macleay Island. Work is due to commence in late 2012.

### **Recognition of achievement**

NAPCAN'S 2012 Play Your Part Awards are about acknowledging individuals, communities or organisations that work towards creating safer communities for children and young people. The work of the Junior Advisory Group is an inspiration to all individuals; particularly children and young people, showing that they too have a voice and can contribute enormously to their community. Their work has contributed to creating a safer, more inclusive and recreational community and is the reason that the Junior Advisory Committee are being awarded the NAPCAN Play Your Part Award Queensland 2012.