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NAPCAN Play Your Part Award 2012 - Tasmanian Recipient

Recipient: Jane Fleming
For: Being an outstanding advocate for the elimination of violence
Based: Launceston, Tasmania

Background:

Jane is currently the State-wide Manager of the Family Violence Counselling & Support Services (FVCSS) within Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); she has held that position since February 2012. This position entails Jane travelling to all regions of Tasmania and supporting FVCSS work practice and service development and more widely maintaining a community awareness of matters relating to family violence.

FVCSS is a Tasmanian Government service, under the Department of Health and Human Services. FVCSS provides support to victims of family violence; female, male or same gender. It is an integral part of the Tasmanian Government Safe at Home Strategy to address family violence in the community.

Prior to this Jane was the Regional Manager for the North and North-West for the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service. Before joining the Department of Health and Human Services Jane spent a number of years within Student Support Services in the Department of Education (DoE) where she held a range of roles, including Senior Social Worker and project manager for a project of national significance, looking at the correlation between child sexual assault of girls, rates of homelessness and academic achievement. Many of the findings went on to inform DoE policies on inclusion of marginalised children and gender equity in school settings.

Since joining DHHS Jane has been interested in raising community awareness of family violence and has been instrumental in the promotion of White Ribbon Day and the Candle Light Vigil. In 2012 at the White Ribbon Day Ambassadors event, Jane invited Angela Barker to speak. Angela Barker is a young woman who experienced severe violence at the hands of her boyfriend. Angela Barker is also the recipient of NAPCAN's Victorian Play Your Part award and also Young Victorian of the year 2011.



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Along with these campaigns Jane was successful in securing a National Child Protection Grant in 2009 and introducing to the State the nationally acclaimed LOVE BiTES program which looks at respectful relationships for young people. In 2011 Jane was instrumental in the promotion of White Ribbon Day across the North & North West of the State and in partnership with the various community organisations and staff from FVCSS lifted the numbers of White Ribbon Day ambassadors from 14 to 80.

Jane holds a Diploma of Music, Bachelor of Social Work & Master of Social Work Practice (with Distinction); her thesis examined the social construction of childhood in public policy and how the voices of children are frequently marginalised and dismissed in various arenas, including the development of public policies.

Jane is currently undertaking preliminary research towards a Doctoral thesis in Social Work, relating to the issue of violence by an intimate partner perpetrated on a woman who is pregnant or postpartum.

Recognition of achievement

NAPCAN'S 2012 Play Your Part Awards are about acknowledging individuals, communities or organisations that work towards strengthening communities and ultimately creating safer communities for children and young people. It is widely accepted in the Tasmanian community that Jane has gone above and beyond her professional role to bring relevant programs to Tasmania. Her energy and passion for both Tasmania and for creating safe communities is the reason that Jane is being awarded the NAPCAN Play your Part Tasmanian award 2012.