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

**Recipients: Partnership between QEC and Mildura Aboriginal Corporation**

**For: Bumps to Babes and Beyond**

**Based in: Mildura, Victoria**

### **Background:**

Bumps to Babes and Beyond (BBB) is a new program which commenced in February 2012, and is offered through the Mildura Aboriginal Health Service (MAHS). BBB, which is based on Queen Elizabeth Centre's (QEC) successful "Tummies to Toddlers" pilot program, aims to help parents learn about their baby's development so they can start getting to know their baby even before birth.

BBB supports parents, particularly mothers, to develop skills around positive interactions with their babies, improve their connectedness to support networks, reduce depression and anxiety and assist with the development of secure parent/child attachments. BBB combines home visiting and group sessions, engaging pregnant women and their partners from about 26 weeks and continuing until their babies are around 18 months of age. BBB are supported to link in with other services both within the Mildura Aboriginal Corporation and externally as needed.

The Mildura community has warmly embraced the program as evidenced by the large number of interested community members who attended the BBB launch in June, where attendees had a great time sharing food and enjoying local talent who provided the entertainment. A local artist, Sharon Kirby, designed the art that has become the BBB logo and she will also be involved with the evaluation phase of the project where women who are involved in the program will share their ideas about what it means to be part of BBB and this will then be reflected in a series of art works to showcase their ideas and perceptions.

The partnership between the QEC and the Aboriginal Health Corporation in identifying and addressing the needs of the community is worthy of recognition.

### **Recognition of achievement**



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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. Supporting young mothers has been recognised as an important strategy in the creation of child friendly and connected communities. The partnership between QEC and the Mildura Aboriginal Corporation is an excellent example of responsive community networking which facilitates safe communities for children, and is the reason that this initiative is being awarded the NAPCAN Play Your Part Award Victoria (Regional) 2012.