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NAPCAN Play Your Part Award 2012 - West Australian Recipient

Recipients: Yaandina Family Centre

For: A family focused community

Based in: Roebourne Western Australia

Background:

The Yaandina Family Centre commits itself to:

- Providing culturally appropriate services to individuals and families that promote a respect for culture, dignity, social justice and a healthy lifestyle
- Empowering and educating individuals and families about their rights and responsibilities
- Promoting and supporting self-determination
- Facilitating the introduction of knowledge and skills required for the development and management of community initiatives
- Establishing and maintaining productive links with all government and community organisations

There are a number of programs that are facilitated in each of those areas. The initiatives are targeted at families who are located in the Roebourne/Wickham region.

In particular the Youth Centre, Child Care, Child Therapy, Mingga Patrol and Family Support all play a huge part in the community through providing a safe and trusting place for them to learn, speak about issues, engage with others and develop. This is done through the specifically designed programs that suit the needs of the community and by linking in with other Departments and services in order to ensure young people and children are able to have that right to feel safe and cared for.

There are several standout services, such as:

The Youth Centre is dedicated to giving children a safe place to meet outside of school hours where they offer educational activities for the children to participate in that will allow them to not only have fun but become educated – education is the key to success, knowledge is power!

Family Support – offers support to those families who require it in the community.

Mingga Patrol – Make sure that children who are found roaming the streets after dark are picked up and taken home.



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Child Therapy – The child counsellor is working extremely hard with the young people using music and art therapies. She should be commended for her efforts with the dedication and such a large workload.

The Yaandina Centre was officially opened on 20th April 1975, initially providing nursing services by the Sisters of St John of God. In May 1982, the sisters had to withdraw their services and the organisation evolved into a community owned not-for-profit association, which was incorporated in 1987. The aim of Yaandina Family Centre, as it is now known, is to provide care and services to address the needs of the mainly Aboriginal community of Roebourne and outlying areas.

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 well-being of children and young people. Driven by the Yaandina Community Centre the staff go above and beyond their professional duties when caring for the children and young people in their community. NAPCAN has awarded the Play Your Part, Western Australian Award 2012 to Yaandina Community Centre for efforts in providing an outstanding community hub.