

Media Release: 31 August 2018

National Child Protection Week kicks off with announcement of Play Your Part Award winners

National Child Protection Week 2018 officially kicked off today with the announcement of the National, State and Territory winners of this year's Play Your Part Awards.

The awards highlight the great work that Australians are doing to prevent child abuse and neglect, rather than waiting until abuse has already occurred - a classic case of 'prevention is better than cure'.

National Child Protection Week is organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect ([NAPCAN](#)), to promote the message that, 'protecting children is everyone's business' and that we all have a part to play.

NAPCAN CEO, Richard Cooke, urges all Australians to find out more and to get involved with National Child Protection Week.

"All children need love, nurturing and good role models in their lives. This means having families that are well supported and communities who are aware and invested in the wellbeing of all children - not just their own," Mr Cooke said.

"This year's National Winner is an excellent example of a program that supports the needs of parents and their children.

"ReachOut Parents coaching service provides free personalised guidance to parents concerned about any aspect of the mental health and wellbeing of their teenager.

"Run as a collaborative project between ReachOut Australia and The Benevolent Society this program is helping parents to navigate their teenagers through everyday issues and tough times, and give them the tools and resilience to thrive.

"For all Australians it's important to remember that the little things we do every day can make a big difference. We can start by noticing children and valuing their needs and their voices. We can be kind to children and parents, supporting them rather than judging them. Even just saying 'hi' to your neighbours or getting involved with your local community can help create a better environment for children."

During National Child Protection Week from 2 - 8 September, each state and territory will host its own events, including the presentation of 12 State and Territory *Play Your Part Awards*.

The winners of the NAPCAN National Play Your Part Awards 2018 are:

National Award Winner:

[The Benevolent Society and ReachOut Australia for: ReachOut Parents Coaching Program](#) - a collaborative project between ReachOut Australia and The Benevolent Society that aims to "help parents support their teenagers through everyday issues and tough times", offering coaching support and practical tools to parents concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of their teenager.

ReachOut Australia Media Contact - Tessa Anderssen, Media and Communications Manager - Mobile 0411 708 587 - Email tessa@reachout.com

Benevolent Society - Media Contact – Susan Darwiche, Media Relations (Mon-Wed only) - Mobile 0414 706 704 - Email susan.darwiche@benevolent.org.au

ACT Winner:

[AIDS Action Council for: Encampment](#) - a program run by and for LGBTIQ and questioning young people from Canberra and the surrounding region. The program is designed to build resilience and protective factors in young people ages 12-18 who are at risk because of their emerging feelings around sex and gender questioning. Encampment facilitates sessions and activities throughout the year and an annual camp with volunteer mentors who are all under the age of 25.

NSW Winners:

[National Council of Jewish Women of Australia \(NCJWA\) - NSW Division for: Mum for Mum](#) - a weekly home visiting program run in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. The program offers home-based family support by matching trained and supervised volunteers with new mothers and women (from more than 50 nationalities) in the last trimester of pregnancy who are in need of a supportive connection.

[Paediatric Department, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for: Domestic Violence Routine Screening in Paediatrics](#) - developed to identify mothers and female carers who are victims of domestic violence and to offer them support and assistance. The project involves education of all nursing staff, domestic violence screening on the Children's Ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the development of both social work and legal response pathways for mothers and female carers experiencing domestic violence.

Northern Territory Winner:

Australian Red Cross for: HomeRunners - Red Cross staff and trained volunteers support and mentor vulnerable young people and assist them to engage in various sport activities by providing uniforms, basic brokerage funds, transport and nutritious food whilst also providing encouragement and friendship.

Queensland Winner:

Puuya Foundation for: Kuunchi Kakana (Families Together) Centre & Program - a community-led, community-run family centre in the Lockhart River remote community in Queensland. Family members who have a key role in each child's upbringing attend alongside their children, learning together and developing new skills to help them into the future.

South Australia Winner:

Puddle Jumpers Incorporated for: Community Food Nights - a family targeted food relief service that allows families to collect free food and occasional clothes, toys and homewares through a donation of pantry items. The program also provides tea, coffee, haircuts and a children's play area along with volunteers to provide a fun, safe environment for children whilst parents and carers collect their goods.

Tasmania Winners:

Ines Carver (individual) - Ines identified a gap in resources to support and empower Tasmanian teenagers and and their parents. As a result, she created 'Tassie Teen' as a way of identifying the issues that concern children and young people and locate local services to support them.

Child Health Association Tasmania (CHAT) - a statewide organisation that aims to connect, support, educate and inspire Tasmanian families. CHAT provides positive and inclusive opportunities for children and their families to come together through a variety of activities and programs including pram walking, playgroups, special interest groups, information sessions, retailer discounts and the Family Food Patch.

Victoria Winner:

Me and My Dad Playgroup - a bi-weekly gathering of 3 to 10 fathers at the Sebastopol Primary School in Ballarat. Dads, granddads, uncles and male carers can all attend the playgroup which has been running since 2013, providing comfortable space for dads to bond with their children and with other dads.

Western Australia Winner:

Investing In Our Youth - a not for profit organisation that aims to promote the healthy development of children and young people in the south west region of Western Australia. The

organisation works across the community to implement programs in response to local needs determined through the local advisory committee and parent surveys.

2018 Events

National Launch & Prevention Forum - 10am Monday 3 September at Department of Education Theatre, 50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra

State and Territory events:

NT, Darwin - Prevention Forum & Breakfast - 7.30am Tuesday 4 September

Qld, Brisbane - Prevention Forum - 9.30am Tuesday 4 September

SA, Adelaide - Prevention Forum - 9am Wednesday 5 September

ACT, Canberra - ACT Event - 10am Wednesday 5 September

Tasmania, Hobart - Prevention Forum & Breakfast - 7am Thursday 6 September

NT, Alice Springs - Prevention Forum & Breakfast - 7.15am Thursday 6 September

WA, Perth - Prevention Morning Tea - 10am Friday 7 September

Victoria, Ballarat - PYP Awards Morning Tea - 10.30am Friday 7 September

NCPW is from 2 – 8 September and involves community events all around Australia.

To find out what's happening near you and when awards are being presented, visit

www.napcan.org.au

Media Contact:

Helen Fogarty | Helen.fogarty@napcan.org.au | 0410 541997

Note: Individual State and Territory releases will be distributed for each of the separate awards and events.