

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**MEDIA ALERT:**

**AWARD WINNER INFORMATION EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER.**

**National Child Protection Week Awards in Northern Territory  
Including Q&A Forum on Preventing Child Abuse**

National Child Protection Week starts annually on Fathers' Day each September (Sunday 2nd - Saturday 8th September this year) to support the message that 'Protecting children is everyone's business'.

"Children thrive when their families are well supported and their communities are connected and strong. National Child Protection Week is an opportunity for all Australians to find ways to 'play their part'", says NAPCAN CEO, Richard Cooke.

"NAPCAN's Play Your Part Awards are designed to recognise the diverse ways that committed Australians are working together to create a safer community for all children and young people.

"NAPCAN warmly congratulates the Red Cross HomeRunners program as an innovative example of how we can use mentors and sport to build stronger safer communities for children and young people."

The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect ([NAPCAN](#)) will be presenting the annual [Play Your Part Awards](#) to the Northern Territory winners on 4 & 6 September during [National Child Protection Week](#) (2 – 8 September). The two events will also include Q&A Forums about the importance of primary prevention in addressing child abuse and neglect.

**DARWIN** Play Your Part Awards presentation and Q&A Forum

**When:** 7.30am-10.30am, **Tuesday 4 September**

**Where:** Darwin Convention Centre, Exhibition Room 1, 10 Stokes Hill Road, Darwin

**Special guests attending:**

- Daryl Higgins, Director of ACU's Institute of Child Protection Studies and expert on public health approaches to protecting children
- Charlie King, committed children's advocate
- Natalie Cole, Children's Worker, Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter
- Lesley Taylor, National Manager - Prevention Strategies, NAPCAN

**ALICE SPRINGS** Play Your Part Awards presentation to Red Cross HomeRunners and Q&A Forum

**When:** 7.15am-9.30am, **Thursday 6 September**

**Where:** Mercure Alice Springs Resort, 34 Stott Terrace, Alice Springs

**Special guests attending:**

- Shirleen Campbell - Coordinator, Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group
- Professor Frank Oberklaid - Foundation Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital, Co-Research Group Leader (Policy, Equity and Translation)

at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne

- Veronica Turner - Senior Arrernte Educator, Children's Ground Central Australia
- Felicity Hayes - Senior Arrernte Educator, Children's Ground Central Australia
- Lesley Taylor - National Manager, Prevention Strategies, NAPCAN

**2018 Northern Territory Award Winner:**

**Australian Red Cross for: HomeRunners (to be presented at the Alice Springs event 6 September)**

HomeRunners works with vulnerable young people aged between 10 and 17 who experience social exclusion and who are disengaged from other structured supports, such as school and the broader community. Red Cross staff and trained and qualified volunteers support and mentor 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. By engaging in sports, the young people involved increase fitness and skills; in turn contributing to their physical and mental health as well as self-confidence. The program also provides them with additional supports and social networks and enhances their experiences of community connectedness whilst also providing concrete support for parents and caregivers and aiming to improve community perceptions of vulnerable young people. Contact:

**Note: A Confidential Individual Award will also be presented at both the Darwin and Alice Springs events**

Note: Play Your Part Awards are awarded to at least one project in each of Australia's States and Territories, as well as to an overall National Winner. **For a full list of National Child Protection Week activities, visit [www.napcan.org.au](http://www.napcan.org.au).**

**For media attendance, interviews, further information and/or images please contact:**

Helen Fogarty | 0410 541997 | [helen.fogarty@napcan.org.au](mailto:helen.fogarty@napcan.org.au)