

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**MEDIA ALERT: <DATE>**

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

**National Child Protection Week Awards in Western Australia on 7 September  
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 Investing in Our Youth and commends its commitment to building stronger 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 Western Australian recipients on 7 September during [National Child Protection Week](#) (2 – 8 September).

**What:** Play Your Part Awards Presentation

**When:** 10am-11am Friday 7 September

**Where:** Exhibition Hall, Level 2, 140 William St

**Dignitaries attending:**

- The Hon. Simone McGurk, Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
- Colin Pettit, Commissioner for Children and Young People WA
- Jackie Tang, Assistant Director General, Service Delivery, Metropolitan Communities, Department of Communities WA
- Tony Pietropiccolo AM, Director, Centrecare
- Lesley Taylor, National Manager Prevention Strategies, NAPCAN

NAPCAN's Play Your Part Awards recognise inspiring initiatives that promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

**The Western Australian winner for 2018:**

**Investing In Our Youth** is 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. Investing In Our Youth also runs a variety of programs and two Child and Parent Centres. The organisation works to connect organisations and form partnerships as well as advocating for investment in prevention including lobbying local government. Contact:

**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)

**Additional information about the Award Winner:**

### **Investing in Our Youth**

The fundamental protective factor in the early years of life is quality, consistent care giving.

Investment in the early years through support for families with young children pays great dividends in later life. Children who have strong and positive development experiences in the early years tend to be more likely to be physically healthy, succeed academically, have greater employment options, and are less likely to commit crime, be engaged in child protection systems or dependant on welfare in the long term.

All Investing In Our Youth programs and activities are evidence based or evidence informed and aim to work in partnership with parents and carers: through the two State Department of Education funded Child and Parent Centres (located in Bunbury and Collie); through the federally funded HIPPY program with a focus on first and new Australians; through our intensive parenting support workshop series 'The Incredible Years'; and through The Pod service, which offers support to child care educators.

#### **TESTIMONIALS:**

"They listen to me about my concerns regarding (my daughter's) active nature and offer very comforting and sound advice. The variety of activities really stimulates her while the consistent routine has helped her learn to behave in a way that is expected. As a parent with very low income I feel positive in my role as a mother because I can bring my children to such positive and stimulating environments whilst not having much money."

"I think Play Café is awesome. Not only is it a learning place for children but also adults. (The play leader) is a lovely person inside and out. She puts her all into helping our children, and even us adults. Play Café is also a good place to socialise. My children love it here at Play Café. They love the singing, making stuff, and playing with other children. I feel a lot happier when I leave the Centre."

"Thanks for making the Centre a very inviting place to come."

"Since attending the Incredible years program, I have completely grown in confidence. The program helped to provide the basic tools in how to be an effective parent which also boosted my self confidence in how I dealt with my kids at home and in public."



