



Child Abuse PREVENTION

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The National Child Protection Clearinghouse serves as an interchange point for information, research and initiatives supporting work in the field of child abuse/neglect prevention.

The Clearinghouse is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, under the auspices of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

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National child abuse prevention awards

“All children are valuable members of Australian society and have a right to a safe and loving environment free from abuse and neglect. Adults have a responsibility to ensure children’s rights are respected and maintained.”

The inaugural National Child Abuse Prevention Awards were presented at the official dinner of the 7th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect on Tuesday 19 October 1999.

The Awards acknowledge and praise individuals and/or organisations for significant contributions to preventing child abuse and neglect. The National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse, funded by the Department of Family and Community Services, recommended the establishment of the Awards as a means of increasing community awareness of child abuse issues and giving recognition to achievements in this field.

Much of the effort that goes into addressing these issues is often unrecognised and unrewarded. The Awards have been established in the hope that they will inspire others to continue to work towards ensuring that our children grow up feeling safe and loved. The Awards also recognise collaborative efforts and help to raise and sustain the level of public awareness in the community about issues surrounding child abuse and neglect, and of the need to do something about it.

Nominations for the Awards were sought in May 1999 through a national media campaign, selected mailouts and the Department of Family and Community Services’ Website.

More than 150 nominations were received for individuals and organi-



Chair of the Council, Professor Kim Oates, announcing the Award winners.

sations in the community services in Australia.

An Award was given in each of the following five categories: innovation; excellence; volunteering; valuing cultural diversity; and rural and remote.

Each Award was judged on one of the following three criteria: one, making a sustained and positive impact on the quality of life of children and young people who have been abused, or are at risk of abuse; or two, making a sustained and positive difference to people working with children and young people who have been abused, or are at risk of abuse; or three, improving community education in child abuse prevention through activities such as information campaigns and contributions to local or national community events.

It is intended that the Awards be presented every two years in conjunction with the Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

THE WINNERS

Winning and highly commended entries in each of the five categories are presented below.

INNOVATION CATEGORY:
Recognising innovation in the community services field by individuals, small or large community service organisations, or government bodies.

Winner

Kidz Business Enterprise Project Hampstead Primary School Greenacres, South Australia

Kidz Business Enterprise Project was initiated in 1994 and was adopted by the school in 1995 in response to concerns about child abuse/neglect, the 'victim' mentality, non-assertiveness of many 'at risk' students, lack of skills transference from school to the real world and non-participation of many upper primary students. It builds on the core curriculum, pro-active climate, structures and processes of the school.

The Kidz Business Enterprise Project uses various project strategies, for example: explicit teaching of enterprising attributes and skills; students, parents and staff working together; teams contributing to the wellbeing of other 'at risk' children; and fundraising, performances and murals.

The project has been very successful in reducing 'victim' mentality, by developing students self-esteem, encouraging participation in the school/community, building quality child/adult relationships, developing parents' pride in the children, and 'real life' experiences.

"The strength of the Kidz Business Enterprise Project is the involvement of the whole community. It has changed the nature and culture of the community, given children confidence and skills and given parents recognition for their children. It has changed people's perceptions of the school as being 'poor' and not significant, to one of being recognised and happy."

Highly commended

The Jannawi Kids Project Jannawi Family Centre New South Wales

The Jannawi Kids are members of an innovative team of workers at Jannawi Family Centre in Lakemba, a specialist child protection service. They use a group of puppets that have played a unique role over the past five years in entertaining people, while raising public awareness about child abuse and the need for prevention.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program Victoria

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program began in 1994 and was the first school-based program to focus specifically on child sexual abuse and prevention. The Program was the winner of the 1998 Australian Violence Prevention Award.

EXCELLENCE CATEGORY:
Recognising excellence in supporting individuals and communities in the field of child abuse prevention, and in community development.



The Award for Excellence is accepted by Director, Julie Baturynsky on behalf of the Cottage Family Care Centre.

Winner

Cottage Family Care Centre Campbelltown New South Wales

The Cottage Family Care Centre was established in 1981. It is a community-based program serving the City of Campbelltown local government area. The program provides special services for families with children up to five years of age caught in the generational cycle of physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect.

The Cottage Family Care Centre works with the whole family. Its goal is to help parents adopt a method of care for their children and themselves that is rewarding and conducive to the optimal development of the child.

For 18 years, the Cottage Family Care Centre has been committed to providing intervention, support and care for families in a unique way. They have made a sustained and positive impact on the quality of life of hundreds of children who have been abused or neglected.

"The Cottage Family Care Centre is well-respected by families and workers in the Campbelltown area and elsewhere. The majority of parents who have participated see it in a very positive, supportive way."

Highly commended

Family Visiting Program Anglicare Western Australia

The Family Visiting Program provides the opportunity for separated parents to have contact with their children in an environment which is child-focussed, safe and supervised. Operating in Perth and Bunbury, the service has demonstrated quality outcomes for children and parents and prevented the potential for ongoing abuse of children.

Abused Child Trust Queensland

The Trust provides intensive long-term counselling, therapy, education, health and family support programs to abused and neglected children from birth to 8 years and their families. They have been running for ten years and have helped over 600 families.

Early Intervention Program Benevolent Society New South Wales

Series of early intervention programs (Home Start, Infant-Parent, Families Together) support parents who are experiencing problems during pregnancy and their children's early years. Early intervention has been an important part of the work of the Benevolent Society for almost twelve years and the Benevolent Society has developed a unique understanding of the issues to do with child abuse over that time.

Dr Peter Eastaugh Consulting Paediatrician Victoria

Dr Eastaugh is a consultant paediatrician in the Shepparton area. For the past two decades, he has started a free clinic for children in Fitzroy,



National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse

The Council advises the Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services on national issues to support and protect all Australian children and families, by providing advice and community perspectives on preventing child abuse and neglect, and on supporting parents. The Council has a membership of 14 comprising ten community members, three State Government members, and one Commonwealth member.

founded the Shepparton Early Intervention Committee which has been adopted as a model throughout Victoria, begun personal safety programs for children with disabilities, started the Shepparton child abuse prevention group (Sheppcan) and has been an outstanding advocate on behalf of children.

VOLUNTEERING CATEGORY:
Recognising commitment to supporting others in the community services field or contributions to promoting the well being of children and the prevention of child abuse.



The Founding Director, Mrs Dorothy Ginn, accepts the Volunteering Award on behalf of CAPS.

Winner

Child Abuse Prevention Service (CAPS)
Ashfield
New South Wales

The Child Abuse Prevention Service was established over 26 years ago. CAPS offers a community response to child and parent stress through a 24 hour a day, 7 days per week national freecall crisis help line, telephone counselling and support, home or personal visits and drop-in centres for parents and children.

The Service is provided by volunteers, many of whom are parents themselves, and professionals offering their time and services. It is an example of how volunteers can provide an essential service over many years and how this provides a key link to those seeking help.

"Many of the CAPS volunteers have life experiences that help in establishing a rapport with parents who ring for help. This is something that set it apart from other services from the beginning and that has sustained it for more than two decades."

Highly commended

Parent Helpline Volunteer Program
South Australia

The Parent Helpline is the only 24 hour, 7 days per week telephone service

THE AWARDS PANEL

The Assessment Panel for the 1999 National Child Abuse Prevention Awards consisted of seven government and community members of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and representatives from the Create Foundation.

Ms Muriel Cadd, Chair, Secretariat, National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency; *Mr Robert Fisher*, Chief Executive Officer, Family and Children's Services, Western Australia; *Ms Dale Bagshaw*, University of South Australia; *Ms Wendy Machin*, President, Save the Children Fund of New South Wales; *Ms Jan Owen*, National Director, Create Foundation, Queensland; *Ms Em Travers*, Create Foundation; and *Ms Alison Stanford*, Director of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse Secretariat, Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, Canberra.

in South Australia to successfully integrate volunteer and professional staff in a primary prevention service. It offers information, support and counselling in the areas of health, behaviour and relationships for parents. The volunteers have become an essential and vital part of Parent Helpline and contribute greatly to a supportive environment for families to care for and protect their children.

Clan Midland Incorporated
Western Australia

Started in 1993, this volunteer-based home visiting service helps disadvantaged families in the Midlands District of Western Australia. Clan Midland uses home visiting as a primary form of service delivery, and in response to community need has developed a respite program once a month for children of high need families. Twelve volunteers provide support for ten families in the district.

Home-Start, Newcastle
The Family Action Centre
New South Wales

Home-Start is an innovative voluntary home visiting program in which volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to young families who are under stress or facing

difficulties in their home. It was the first Home-Start program (using the English model) in Australia and is well regarded by the Newcastle community.

SA Association of School Parents' Clubs Inc
South Australia

In South Australia, volunteers in schools, including parents, are mandated to notify suspected child abuse. The Association is the only parent organisation in Australia that conducts mandatory notification information sessions in schools.

VALUING CULTURAL DIVERSITY CATEGORY: Recognising individuals and/or services, which are accessible to people from Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Winner

Dr Cary Ooi
New South Wales

Dr Ooi is recognised for his long-term commitment in the area of developmental delay and child abuse. He has worked in community education on these issues for many years ▶

NEW ON THE WEB SITE

www.aifs.org.au/

As part of updating the Internet site for the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, a new page has been developed for Counselling Services for Parents and Children.

This provides references to Australian organisations and links focusing on counselling support. Organisations are listed according to whether they have a national or statewide focus, and then divided into state or territory. Information on the organisation's aims and objectives are provided, along with contact details.

and has successfully raised awareness among the general population as well as the medical community. His personal and professional commitment to child abuse prevention is exceptional.

"Dr Ooi's drive and determination in his work to prevent child abuse and educate the community is outstanding. His special interest in, and commitment to children has had a sustained and positive impact on the quality of their lives."

Highly commended

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation Western Australia

Yorgum was first established in 1993 as a result of Aboriginal members who recognised that no culturally appropriate counselling support for Aboriginal people in the area existed. From this broad beginning, Yorgum developed this project of culturally appropriate counselling and treatment services to assist individuals and fam-

ilies where intra-familial sexual abuse has occurred. It is one of the very few such services throughout the country and, although has only been running a short time, it has already demonstrated excellent work that will inform services in many other areas across Australia.

RURAL AND REMOTE CATEGORY: Recognising excellence in responding to the unique priorities of rural and remote communities.

Winner

Prevention and Education – Child Abuse and Neglect (PECAN) Territory Health Service Northern Territory

PECAN was established in 1996 and has worked to improve community awareness and education of the prevention of child abuse and neglect

through coordinating and participating in information campaigns such as the National Child Protection Week. It also coordinates, develops, implements and evaluates a range of primary and secondary child abuse prevention programs in the Northern Territory. The program's particular strength is the way it has gained acceptance in remote communities, through engaging the community and allowing them to develop their own approach to child abuse prevention with assistance from PECAN.

"PECAN has a remarkable presence in many communities. They look at the individual needs of each community and try to assist them in their activities rather than imposing something on them. Their level of consultation within communities is also remarkable and they do this across the entire Territory on a very limited budget."

"Feedback from workers and people in the communities all show that this is seen as one of the most positive programs in the Northern Territory."

Highly commended

Protective Behaviours Program Mullewa District Western Australia

The area is an isolated one with limited access to services. Before the program was introduced, there was a significant degree of violence and child maltreatment that went unreported. People generally kept silent and children had few safety options.

The Protective Behaviours Program in the school changed much of that. It allowed people to acknowledge violence and child maltreatment in the town and to set up a network that enabled children to feel safe.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For further information on the Awards, and the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse:

- Write to: The Department of Family and Community Services, Secretariat to the National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Relationships Branch, Box 7788, Canberra Mail Centre, ACT 2610.
- Internet: Visit the Family and Community Services Website at: <http://www.facs.gov.au> under Who's Who, Family Relationships.
- Phone: The National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse Secretariat (02) 6212 9185.
- Fax: The National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse Secretariat (02) 6212 9299.

NATIONAL AUDIT OF ACTIVITIES

Have you returned your questionnaire for the National Audit of Child Abuse Prevention Programs?

Be in it – return your audit questionnaire now!

The audit is relevant to you if you provide:

- family support, parent education and/or support;
- maternal and child health services;
- respite or early intervention services;
- community education on child abuse issues (including training);
- child or youth empowerment program, child counselling service, personal safety program;
- home visiting service to at risk or new parents;
- family violence service to mothers and their children;
- offender rehabilitation;
- at risk youth support program; and
- other prevention activity.

By participating in the audit you will receive a copy of the audit report for your state and nationally. Additionally, your service or program will be included on a programs database, accessible to you on the National Child Protection Clearinghouse Web site.

For further information and additional copies of the audit questionnaire, contact the Audit Project Officer, National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Phone: 1800 352 275 or (03) 9214 7811. Or access the questionnaire on the Internet: www.aifs.org.au/nch/