

Media Release

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KAYE WORTH OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA NAMED BARNARDOS AUSTRALIA'S MOTHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010

Kaye Worth from Gosnells in Western Australia was today named Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year 2010 at a gala dinner held at the Ivy in Sydney. Kaye was presented with her award by The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women who commended Kaye for the commitment she has shown as a foster carer.

Kaye was overwhelmed, humbled and honoured by the announcement and paid special tribute to her grand-daughter Amy who nominated her. Kaye congratulated the other seven deserving finalists, making special mention of all their extraordinary stories.

This award acknowledges the achievements of an exceptional woman who exemplifies all the best qualities of Australian mothers. Kaye's devotion to fostering and caring for some of the most vulnerable children in our community won her acclaim amongst the judges and her heart-warming story is inspirational to all Australians.

At 68, with her own three children married with their own families, Kaye should be taking time out for herself. Instead, she started fostering 15 years ago and has fostered more than 50 babies and children – many of whom have had disabilities or were suffering from alcohol or drug withdrawal – as well as providing respite care. She currently has a newborn baby in her care.

Kaye says that, apart from bringing up her own children, fostering has been one of the most fulfilling and rewarding things she's ever done.

"There was a family at my local church that used to do pre-adoptive fostering and being a 'baby person' as I call myself it was something I wanted to do," says Kaye. "One day I got this feeling right in the pit of my stomach and I knew I had to start fostering."

Such is Kaye's caring and loving nature that no matter how long she has a baby in her care – whether it's just a few days or months – she puts together a photo album of the baby's development to give to the biological parents.

"Often the babies are in my care for several months before they go to adoption so we put together an album of photos, a lock of hair from their first hair cut and other little mementos that goes with them as it's all part of their life story," she says.

"Kaye has an extraordinary love and has given numerous babies a wonderful start in life that they might otherwise not have had," says her grand-daughter Amy who nominated her. We affectionately call her home the 'fat farm' as the babies in her care are often very underweight or malnourished and they leave chubby and healthy. When anyone ever needs anything she makes it happen – whether it's baby equipment for a refugee family or helping a new mum feed her baby. She is an inspiration to many."

"I congratulate Kaye on being awarded Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year 2010," said Minister Plibersek. "Kaye's dedication and devotion to not only her own children and grand-children but also to all the foster children and babies she's cared for is inspirational. I also commend Barnardos in honouring all mothers through these national awards."

As the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year 2010, Kaye receives a brand new Ford Fiesta from City Ford Sydney; a Murray River cruise from Captain Cook Cruises; a 42 inch digital LCD TV and a 19 inch LCD TV with DVD player from ALDI Stores; an Almay luxury cosmetics hamper; a flower arrangement from EasyFlowers.com.au; and a Lindt chocolates hamper.

The awards gala dinner also represented the official launch of Barnardos' winter appeal the aim of which this year is to raise vital funds to support teenagers and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect, enabling them to turn their lives around. To find out more call 1800 061 000 or visit www.barnardos.org.au.

For more information contact Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia on 02 9743 2790 or 0419 272 237 or email sofey@bigpicture.com

Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
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