

# Media Release

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## SANDRA HUNT NAMED BARNARDOS' NSW MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In an emotional ceremony hosted today by Barnardos Australia and presented by The Hon Kristina Keneally MP, Premier of NSW, Sandra Hunt of Bolwarra Heights was announced as the NSW Mother of the Year in the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010.

Sandra will now attend the national announcement gala dinner in Sydney on Thursday, 6 May 2010, just prior to Mother's Day at The Ivy along with the other seven state and territory finalists where one of them will be named the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year 2010.

At six weeks old Sandra, who is indigenous, was adopted by a white family. She says she never felt any different to her siblings and it was her adopted mother, also a foster carer, who inspired Sandra to foster herself.

With three children of her own, Sandra felt she had more love to give and decided to foster. She eagerly fostered two children and then two more soon followed. All of the children she has fostered have behavioural problems and one has disabilities, however, due to Sandra's love, dedication and compassion the children have blossomed.

Sandra also embraces her indigenous heritage and volunteers for the Land Council monthly meetings. She encourages all her children to also become familiar with and understand the Aboriginal culture.

"I knew what I wanted to do and I am in exactly the right place doing what I love best," Sandra says.

"Sandra has a natural way with children. All the children are thriving due to Sandra's support and devotion to them. They now have a stability and normality in their lives that they didn't have before," says Deborah Gorman, Sandra's friend who nominated her.

Sandra says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the NSW Mother of the Year. "There are so many amazing mums doing incredible work and I feel very privileged to have been chosen to represent NSW," she says.

"It was very difficult for the judges to narrow down the entries, as there were so many remarkable mothers who deserve to be recognised," says Glynis Sequeira, Marketing Director for Barnardos Australia. "However, Sandra's devotion not only to her own family but also her commitment to other children won her acclaim amongst the judges.

As the Barnardos NSW Mother of the Year 2010, Sandra was presented with a Johnson & Johnson gift pack, a Telstra digital tutorial and a Samsung phone and prepaid card, a Captain Cook Sydney Harbour Cruise, an ALMAY cosmetics hamper, a Lindt chocolate hamper, EasyFlowers.com.au flower arrangement, a copy of Paul Mercurio's book Mercurio's Menu, an autographed copy of Damien Leith's latest album Remember June and his book of the same name, a framed certificate to mark the event and flights and accommodation to Sydney to attend the national announcement gala dinner.

Celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year, Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards is the only national event that recognises the achievements of mothers and their enormous contribution to the Australian community.

The awards also aim to raise public awareness of the nurturing role Barnardos plays in the lives of thousands of children in Australia each year.

**For more information contact Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia on 02 9743 2790 or 0419 272 237 or email [sofey@bigpicture.com](mailto:sofey@bigpicture.com)**

**Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year**  
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