

Media Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 AM WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2010



CHARMAINE MANN NAMED BARNARDOS' QLD MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a special ceremony hosted today by Barnardos Australia, proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government and presented by Minister Phil Reeves, Minister for Child Safety and Sport, **Charmaine Mann of Tannum Sands** was announced as the Queensland Mother of the Year in the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010.

Charmaine 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.

Charmaine's home has always been filled with children. With six biological children, now aged 20 to 31, her door was always open to any child who needed a roof over their heads, a shoulder to lean on or just somewhere to hang out while they sorted things out with their family. Some of the children Charmaine has assisted have had drug issues or come from drug affected households and she has successfully put them back on the straight and narrow. At one stage there were 15 people in her home!

Known as "Aunty Mum", "Mum Mann", or "Aunty Nana" Charmaine has never asked for government assistance for all the extra children and respite children she's taken in. She just worked longer hours and a variety of jobs including delivering pamphlets and picking macadamias to make ends meet – often taking the children with her to show them you don't get anything for nothing.

Her daughter Emma who nominated her says her mum has made such an impact on so many people lives. "She's a miracle worker. She's so patient and caring and always has the right advice."

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

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 of Barnardos Australia. "However, Charmaine's devotion and determination to care not only for her own family but to also open her heart and home to many other children in need won her acclaim amongst the judges."

As the Barnardos Queensland Mother of the Year 2010, Charmaine 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 15th 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

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Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
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