

# Media Release

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## CURLY CORLETT NAMED BARNARDOS' SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In an emotional ceremony hosted today by Barnardos Australia and presented by Senator Simon Birmingham, **Curly Corlett** of **Flagstaff Hill** was announced as the South Australian Mother of the Year in the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010.

Curly 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.

Curly has touched and changed the lives of many children. As well as raising her own two children, over the past 20 years she has fostered countless children of varying ages and backgrounds, whilst ministering in some of the roughest suburbs in Melbourne. Curly has since adopted three of the children she initially fostered. Two of them are indigenous siblings Les and Allison, now in their late 30s, whose dying father specifically asked Curly to care for them.

The other is 20 year old Becky who came to Curly when she was just 10 days old and has Downs Syndrome. Over the past few years Becky has suffered several massive strokes and then a virus left her with holes in her heart. Becky now requires constant care as she has lost her speech and needs to be fed pureed food.

Additionally, Curly has suffered her own adversities. Three years ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer which she has thankfully beaten. Then last year her beloved husband of 41 years, Ian, passed away after a massive stroke, leaving Curly as the sole carer and provider for Becky. "She is the most caring, loving and giving person I know," says her friend Rebecca who nominated her.

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

"These awards are a wonderful way of providing some well deserved recognition to just some of the millions of unsung heroes that are the mums of Australia," says Senator Birmingham. "The Awards play an important role in recognising and promoting positive parenting and we wish Curly all the best at the national awards.

"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 Bill Petch, Marketing Manager for Barnardos Australia. "However, Curly's devotion not only to her own family but also her commitment to other children won her acclaim amongst the judges."

As the Barnardos South Australian Mother of the Year 2010, Curly 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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