

# Media Release

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## JENNY PIEMONTESE IS BARNARDOS' TASMANIAN MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In an emotional ceremony hosted today by Barnardos Australia and presented by Senator David Bushby, **Jenny Piemontese of Sandford** was announced as the Tasmanian Mother of the Year in the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010.

Jenny 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.

Looking after the most vulnerable in our community is of paramount importance to Jenny. So five years ago whilst pregnant with her third child, Jenny started fostering. Since then she has fostered around 15 children, most of whom were premature babies who suffered drug and alcohol withdrawal.

Jenny says it was wonderful to see the babies get stronger each day but it was extremely tough to give them back as most of them had been in her care for at least 12 months. She currently has two foster children in her care – a four year old boy and a seven week old girl.

Jenny was also a volunteer for three years for Lifeline providing counselling and support for another vulnerable section of the community. Last year, Jenny won the Tasmanian and National Pride of Australia medal for "care and compassion." She says it enabled her to draw attention to foster caring and the importance of building positive relationships for challenged children, their parents and the carers.

Jenny says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the Tasmanian Mother of the Year. "There are so many amazing mums doing incredible work and I feel very privileged to have been chosen to represent Tasmania," 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 Bushby. "The awards play an important role in recognising and promoting positive parenting and we wish Jenny 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, Jenny's devotion not only to her own family but also her commitment to other children won her acclaim amongst the judges.

As the Barnardos Tasmanian Mother of the Year 2010, Jenny 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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