

Media Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 AM MONDAY 12 APRIL, 2010

KAYE WORTH NAMED BARNARDOS' WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In an emotional ceremony hosted today by Barnardos Australia, **Kaye Worth of Gosnells** was announced as the Western Australian Mother of the Year in the Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010. She was presented with her award by Minister Robyn McSweeney, Minister for Child Protection, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering and Women's Interests.

Kaye will now attend the national announcement gala dinner in Sydney on Thursday, 6 May 2010, just prior to Mother's Day, 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 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, some with disabilities, as well as providing respite care. She currently has a new born baby in her care.

At various times, her home has also been a haven for family friends, neighbourhood children and also homeless people from the hostel where her husband used to work. 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.

"Kaye has an extraordinary love and has given numerous babies a wonderful start in life that they might otherwise not had," says her grand-daughter Amy who nominated her. "When anyone ever needs anything she makes it happen – whether its baby equipment for a refugee family or helping a new mum feed her baby. She is an inspiration to many."

Kaye says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the Western Australian 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 Western Australia."

The Barnardos Western Australian Mother of the Year 2010 announcement was proudly sponsored by the Western Australian Government.

"Being a mother is the most important job in the world," says Minister McSweeney. "Our mothers are Australia's unsung heroes, who give so much to shape children's lives in a positive manner. Barnardos also deserves our thanks and support for highlighting the important role of mothers."

"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 Carol Lockley, Senior Manager, Barnardos. "However, Kaye's devotion and determination to open her heart and home to many children in need at a time in her life when she could be doing things for herself won her acclaim amongst the judges."

As the Barnardos Western Australian Mother of the Year 2010, Kaye 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.

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Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
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