

# I love my mum because...



## 2009 NSW SHORT-LISTED FINALISTS

### **Christina Cross, 45, from St. Clair, NSW:** ***(Nominated by her daughter, Tracy Willson)***

Keeping family together is of paramount importance for Christina. So five years ago when a relative was no longer able to care for her five children – aged seven, six, three, two and four months – Christina unhesitatingly took them in. Despite having her own two children aged 15 and 13 at home at the time as well Christina has fought to keep the children together and give them a proper childhood. Now their legal guardian the children have flourished under her care and are getting the chance to have the childhood they deserve. “Mum was on the verge of getting her life back but she put all that on hold so that the children could have a proper childhood and not be separated,” says her daughter Tracy. **Christina’s top tip: “Be yourself and not who others want you to be” and “If you can help, move heaven and earth to do so”.**



### **Rhonda Fry, 53, from Bolwarra, NSW: *(Nominated by her son, Tobias Fry)***

Rhonda’s love, care and devotion extends not just to her own family but also to the foster children she has taken in and many others in need. With three biological children, Rhonda has also been a foster carer for 10 years and currently has a 10-year-old girl in her care who has been with the family for eight years. Rhonda also gives of her time voluntarily to disadvantaged families organizing housing and food packages or just being a shoulder to lean on. After the 2004 Tsunami in Aceh, Rhonda volunteered in an orphanage for several weeks. Wanting her own children to experience and appreciate the diversity and richness of other cultures, Rhonda took them to a remote indigenous community in the Northern Territory for six months to help out with families less fortunate than themselves. Her son Tobias says that his mum does a good deed for someone else almost every day. “If every mum was like ours the world would be a much better place,” he says.

**Rhonda’s top tip: “It is much better to give than receive.”**



### **Kaye Grant, 49, from Kelso, NSW: *(Nominated by her daughter, Janessa Grant)***

It was the tragic death of Kaye’s own mother, leaving her to care for her five siblings when she was just 16 that her daughter Janessa believes made her the nurturing, selfless, “idol of all mothers”, that she is today. Kaye went on to have three children of her own, and despite at times having to work as many as five jobs to give her kids a good life, she didn’t stop there. She also took in a young girl from a broken home whom she and her husband became legal guardians for and has since opened her heart and home to other children who needed a safe and loving home. Janessa says that even though times were tough her mum selflessly and willingly gave to others: “She not only gives her heart to us, her family, she gives her heart to everybody.”

**Kaye’s top tip: “Don’t stress the small things.”**

