

# I love my mum because...



## New South Wales shortlisted finalists 2010

### Sandra Hunt, 48 from Bolwarra Heights (nominated by her friend Deborah Gorman)

At six weeks old Sandra, who is indigenous, was adopted by a white family. She says she never felt any different to her siblings and it was her adopted mother, also a foster carer, who inspired Sandra to foster herself. With three children of her own, Sandra felt she had more love to give and decided to foster. She eagerly fostered two children and then two more soon followed. All of the children she has fostered have behavioural problems and one has disabilities, however due to Sandra's love, dedication and compassion the children have blossomed. Sandra also embraces her indigenous heritage and volunteers for the Land Council monthly meetings. She encourages all her children to also become familiar with and understand the Aboriginal culture. As Sandra says: "I knew what I wanted to do and I am in exactly the right place doing what I love best."

Nominee's top tip: Children are sent to us, sometimes on borrowed time, and we have to love them and care for them at all times."



### Dominique Jacobs, 45 from Gloucester (nominated by her daughter Breeanna Jacobs)

A television program showing children living in a caravan park was the impetus for Dominique to start fostering almost 10 years ago. Living on a large property she and her husband knew they could provide a wonderful environment for children to live and thrive. They now have five foster children in their care aged three to 13, one of whom has an intellectual disability, as well as their own two biological children Ray, 21, and Breeanna, 19. Their home is also open to many other children requiring short-term and respite care. Dominique says the motivation for her to foster is to see the healing and subsequent behavioural changes of the children when they are given a stable, loving environment. Her daughter Breeanna who nominated her says, "Mum selflessly loved all the children equally and enriches their lives with fun and laughter."

Nominee's top tip: "Mum says always to look after the environment otherwise it won't be here for our children."



### Roslyn Morgan, 50 from Balmoral (nominated by her son Matthew Holihan)

Roslyn was nominated by her 17 year old son, Matthew, as a special 50<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to recognise and appreciate her hard work and dedication to her family. Roslyn credits her own parents who instilled in her strong family values and were wonderful role models and mentors. Roslyn has two biological sons and three step-daughters – the eldest son has Aspergers and Roslyn says it is an experience where every day is met with new challenges for both of them, one of the difficulties is that not many people understand the condition or treatment. Despite being a full time working mother supporting her sons, Roslyn furthered her education completing various degrees and is now undertaking a Masters in Indigenous Studies. Roslyn is passionate about assisting Indigenous youth obtain higher education and employment. She is a board member of the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence. Roslyn feels enormous responsibility for the greater community. "She is tough, fair, inspirational and not afraid to fight for unpopular decisions for the greater good," says Matthew. (Roslyn and Matthew pictured)

Nominee's top tip: "My mum says no matter what I do she will always be proud of me, as long as I try my hardest."



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