

Media Release

Wednesday, 21 January 2010



A CELEBRATION OF MOTHERHOOD - LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S TOP MUMS

Do you know the best mum in the Northern Territory? Someone who is loving, caring, brave, strong, compassionate, nurturing...that is, an all round fantastic mum? With only 10 days to go before nominations close don't miss the opportunity to nominate an extraordinary Northern Territory mum in the **Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards 2010**.

Nominations can be made via the Barnardos website – www.barnardos.org.au and close at midnight on 31 January 2010.

Barnardos Australia, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government through the Department of Health and Families urges everyone in the Territory to show that wonderful mum they know just how much they're appreciated by nominating them today!

Whether it's your own mum – biological, foster or adoptive – your wife, partner, sister, friend, daughter, someone in the local community or anyone else who you believe is truly worthy of the title '**Australia's Number One Mum**' – nominate them now.

There is a direct synergy between Barnardos Australia and the NT Families and Children, both organisations recognising the invaluable role of mothers and the immense contribution they make to building stronger communities of the future.

Northern Territory Minister for Children and Families, Kon Vatskalis said that it is important that mothers in the NT were recognised for the critical role they play.

"I encourage all Territorians to think about nominating their mum for Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards," said Mr Vatskalis. "We cannot thank Territorian mums enough for their vital contribution and this is one way in which we can show our appreciation."

The Barnardos' Northern Territory Mother of the Year will be announced at a morning tea ceremony in Darwin on Wednesday, 14 April 2010. That mum will then represent the Northern Territory as a finalist for the title of **Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year**, to be announced at a gala dinner in Sydney in May - just prior to Mother's Day.

Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards is the only national awards which celebrate Australian motherhood and recognise the enormous contribution mothers make in shaping Australia's future generations.

Joan Stokes, the 2009 Northern Territory Mother of the Year is also encouraging local people to nominate a great mum they know. Joan, an indigenous woman, has raised more than 34 children over the past 31 years as well as her own four children and an adopted boy. Joan's ambition was to save these children from street life, educate them and provide them with a chance to grow and develop safely.

"I felt very privileged and honoured to have been nominated and subsequently chosen to represent the mothers of the Northern Territory," says Joan. "I urge people to go to the Barnardos website and nominate a mum they know for these wonderful awards. It truly will make them feel very appreciated and loved."

"Barnardos cares for thousands of children who are robbed of the foundation of life – their childhood – so every year we hold these awards to show what an important role mums play in giving kids a good start in life," said Glynis Sequeira, Marketing Director of Barnardos Australia

"It would be a terrible shame if a Territory mum did not receive the recognition she deserves because people were too busy to nominate," Ms Sequeira continued. "She also has the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes."

Those prizes include a new car, Johnson & Johnson gift packs, a Telstra digital tutorial and a Samsung mobile phone and prepaid card, a Captain Cook cruise, Easyflowers.com.au flower arrangements, Lindt chocolate gift hampers, Almay cosmetics hamper, a Canon camera and more. Every nomination receives a commemorative certificate so you can show them just how wonderful you think they are.

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For more information contact Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia on 02 9743 2790 or 0419 272 237 or Email: sofey@bigpicture.com

Nominate her for Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
www.barnardos.org.au

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