

Media Release

Wednesday, 21 January 2010



A CELEBRATION OF MOTHERHOOD - LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE QUEENSLAND'S INSPIRING MUMS

Do you know the best mum in Queensland? 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 Queensland 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 Queensland Government through the Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) urges everyone in Queensland 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 Queensland Government's Department of Communities, with both recognising the invaluable role of mothers and the immense contribution they make to building strong communities of the future.

Child Safety Minister Phil Reeves said the Bligh Government was proud to continue their sponsorship of the awards by providing \$15,000 this year as part of \$42,000 since 2008 because it acknowledges the unsung heroes in our community – mothers.

"We believe it is important for government, Barnardos and the Queensland community to recognise the enormous contribution mothers make in nurturing and shaping our future generations," Mr Reeves said.

The Barnardos' Queensland Mother of the Year will be announced at a morning tea ceremony in Brisbane on Wednesday, 31 March 2010. That mum will then represent Queensland 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.

Barbara Pope, the 2009 Barnardos' Queensland Mother of the Year is also encouraging local people to nominate a great mum they know. A mother of three, Barbara has fostered and adopted children from desperate situations since 1977. Short-term, long-term, emergency care and pre-adoption - infants were rarely turned away. One of Barbara's strongest beliefs is that equality and respect for others is paramount – especially those less fortunate than themselves.

"I felt very privileged and honoured to have been nominated and subsequently chosen to represent the mothers of Queensland," says Barbara. "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 Australia's Mother of the Year Awards is the only national awards which celebrate Australian motherhood. 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 Queensland 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. And 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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