

2009 QLD SHORT-LISTED FINALISTS

Rosemary Dailly, 49, from Gympie, QLD: (*Nominated by her daughter, Miffawny Dailly*)

Although blessed with her own five children Rosemary Dailly has also experienced the sadness and devastation of losing a child. Rather than allowing her grief to crush her Rosemary became determined to try and make a difference in the lives of children in need and continues to grow and add to her family whenever possible. Rosemary loves children and insists on caring for any child in need of a home, love and support who comes her way. So it is no wonder with such a strong love for children that two of Rosemary's passions are to foster and teach. Rosemary is a foster carer, works as a children's special needs support co-ordinator and as an adult support worker. With the help of her husband she also set up a home for children in need but unfortunately Rosemary became ill and after five months she was unable to continue at the home. However, Rosemary is one mum who will not lie down, she is back on the mend, continues to spread her care and love, and has not given up on the dream of someday again opening a home for children.

Rosemary's top tip: "You will understand when your older"



Barbara Pope, 67, from Blenheim, QLD: (nominated by son, Dan Pope)

Despite having three children of her own Barbara Pope 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 is paramount and she instilled this message in all her children teaching them all to love, share with and respect everyone including those less fortunate than themselves. Money has always been tight and Barbara's life is always busy – from running holiday camps to rodeos - but for her it is love and support that matters and no birthday or special occasion ever went forgotten. She may be small in stature but as Barbara herself says, "special things come in small packages."

Barbara's Top Tip: "You only get out of life what you put into it"



Kathy Smith, 39, from Jimboomba, QLD (*nominated by Garry Begley on behalf of the Jimboomba Rotary Club*)

Over the last 15 years, whilst raising four of her own children, Kathy has opened her home and her heart to make a positive impact on the lives of around 100 foster children while also running a successful business and fulfilling countless roles within her community. Kathy is tirelessly caring for children from all backgrounds, all ages, and for any length of time. This community-minded mother felt it was important to provide these children with the experience of a caring, loving environment. It was her belief that if she could show these children love, patience, compassion and respect that they may carry these life skills into the future, helping them to become responsible citizens. In turn she witnessed the positive impact these important lessons had on her own children.

Kathy's Top Tip: "Kids are our future and they deserve to be happy and loved"

