

# I love my mum because...



## Queensland shortlisted finalists 2010

### Eileen Doherty, 52 from Mango Hill (nominated by her foster daughter)

A car accident when she was just 16 left Eileen confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. However, this didn't diminish Eileen's spirit and, as she says "she just got on with life." She met her husband Vic in 1978 when he was a bouncer at a nightclub and he carried her up the stairs. They've had four children now aged from 30 to 18. Their inspiration to foster came from a friend of their youngest son Daniel who was a foster child. Eileen started fostering in 2003 as well as providing respite care for many others. In 2005, Eileen was asked to take in three siblings, two of whom have intellectual disabilities for a weekend. Five years later they are now in Eileen's permanent care. Her foster daughter who nominated her says Eileen provided her and her siblings with a stable life and unconditional love. "She's such a great mum to all her kids and it's inspiring to know that someone does care and is willing to go out of their way to help others."



Nominee's top tip: "Mum says that one of the most important things in life is honesty."

### Charmaine Mann, 50 from Tannum Sands (nominated by her daughter Emma Brackley)

Charmaine's home has always been filled with children. With six biological children, now aged 31 to 20, (Charmaine lost a baby at birth), Charmaine's door was always open to any child who needed a roof over their heads, a shoulder to lean on or just somewhere to hang out while they sorted things out with their family. Some of the children Charmaine has assisted have had drug issues or come from drug-affected households and she has successfully put them back on the straight and narrow. At one stage there were 15 people in her home! Known as "Aunty Mum", "Mum Mann", or "Aunty Nana", Charmaine has never asked for government assistance for all the extra "foster" and respite children she's taken in. She just worked longer hours and a variety of jobs including delivering pamphlets and picking macadamias, to make ends meet – often taking the children with her to show them you don't get anything for nothing. Her daughter Emma who nominated her says her mum has made such an enormous impact on many people lives. "She's a miracle worker. She's so patient and caring and always has the right advice."



Nominee's top tip: "Don't poke holes in the air because you will poke an angel."

### Lillian Stranic, 62 from Boronia Heights (nominated by her son David Stranic)

Lillian migrated to Australia from Yugoslavia on her own at just 14 years old to reunite with her father. Unfortunately, it wasn't the wonderful reunion Lillian had hoped for and, after running away, she became a ward of the state. Thankfully, this adversity changed Lillian's life for the better and she was fostered by a loving, caring foster mum whom she still keeps in touch with. It was this upbringing that inspired Lillian to become a foster carer herself in 1987. She has also taken in homeless people including an 96-year-old man who was sleeping at a train station; a 19-year-old drug addict who she helped through rehab; and a family of three who she took in until she managed to find them a place to stay. She has done all this single-handedly as her husband, who suffered a mental illness, took his life in 1986. Lillian has been described as "an angel without wings" and despite her own problems and struggles always has time for others.



Nominee's top tip: "If you see anyone that needs help, and you are able to help, then help them."

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