

# I love my mum because...



## South Australian shortlisted finalists 2010

### Curly Corlett, 62 from Flagstaff Hill (nominated by her friend Rebecca Pahl)

Curly has touched and changed the lives of many children. As well as raising her own two children, over the past 20 years she has fostered countless children of varying ages and backgrounds, whilst ministering in some of the roughest suburbs in Melbourne. Curly has since adopted three of the children she initially fostered. Two of them are indigenous siblings Les and Allison, now in their late 30s, whose dying father specifically asked Curly to care for them. The other is 20 year old Becky who came to Curly when she was just 10 days old and has Downs Syndrome. Over the past few years Becky has suffered several massive strokes and then a virus left her with holes in her heart. Becky now requires constant care as she has lost her speech and needs to be fed pureed food. In the meantime Curly has suffered her own adversities. Three years ago she was diagnosed with breast cancer which she has thankfully beaten. The last year her beloved husband of 41 years, Ian, passed away after a massive stroke, leaving Curly as the sole carer and provider for Becky. "She is the most caring, loving and giving person I know," says her friend Rebecca who nominated her. "She can turn even the saddest situations into something positive."



Nominee's top tip: "Never take someone or something for granted. You don't know how long you'll have it."

### Kerry Skinner, 42 from Port Lincoln (nominated by a member of the community, Shona McKeen)

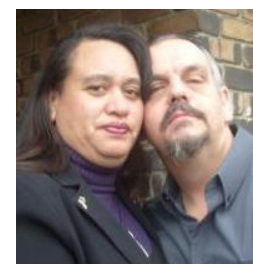
Kerry's never die attitude is what has helped her and her family get through tough times. In 2005 she and her husband, Rodney, and their three children were caught in the Black Tuesday fires and lost their farm which they'd spent seven years building. Kerry was instrumental in supporting her family and many other families through the emotional and stressful ordeal of that time. Kerry has tirelessly supported her children in their sporting endeavours and has made countless trips to doctor's appointments in Adelaide as all three of her children have hearing problems and have had various operations. She often has to do all this single-handedly as her husband works at the Roxby mines and is away for many days at a time. On top of this she has been the backbone of fundraising for numerous community groups including organising sponsorship for basketball and football programs –and most recently fundraising to provide a family whose son suffers from cystic fibrosis with equipment to help his condition and enable them to take a family holiday. "She is an inspiration to me and the wider community for her soldier on attitude and most importantly for providing a loving and nurturing environment for her family," says her friend and nominator Shona McKeen.



Nominee's top tip: "We'll get there."

### Lucy Van der Zee, 46 from Oakden (nominated by her daughter Patricia-Lee Pearce)

Lucy's love, care and devotion for children extends not just to her own family but also to the countless foster children she has taken in as well as to many others in need. She has seven biological children and that would be enough for most people, however, Lucy has also been fostering for the past 26 years. She also adopted a boy who came to her when he was just four weeks old – he is now nine. Over the years, her home has also been a halfway house for many others who needed a safe haven. Recently, Lucy was diagnosed with a heart condition, however this hasn't slowed her down. She feels there's still more she could be doing to help and always puts the children first. "She is an angel that helps everybody in need," says her daughter Patricia-Lee who nominated her. "She is my mentor and my role model. I am the person I am today because of my mum." (Lucy and her husband Mark pictured)



Nominee's top tip: "Just be yourself and tell the truth."

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