

I love my mum because...



April 2, 2009

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PAMELA DEACON NAMED BARNARDOS' VIC MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a ceremony hosted today by **Barnardos Australia**, and presented by Maxine Morand, Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development and Women's Affairs, **Pamela Deacon from Southbank** was announced as the **Victorian Mother of the Year** in the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards**.

Pamela will now attend the national function in Sydney on **Thursday, May 7** (just prior to Mother's Day) along with the other seven state and territory finalists where the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year** will be announced.

Pamela's love of children and determination to have a large family meant that she underwent 16 years of IVF treatment to have five children – one of whom is blind and has cerebral palsy and needs round the clock care. Seven years ago, during a school excursion to Vietnam, Pamela's daughter Alice contracted an undiagnosed illness and still requires regular hospitalisation.

Pamela has also fostered numerous children and is currently trying to organise a social group for young disabled adults who are not able to attend day placements. "Mum has the wonderful ability to turn a negative situation into a positive," said her daughter Alice who nominated her.

Pamela says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the **Victorian Mother of the Year**. "There are so many amazing Mums out there doing incredible work and I feel very privileged to have been chosen to represent Victoria."

"This year we had thousands of nominations for truly remarkable mums from around this country of ours," says Glynis Sequeira, Marketing Director for Barnardos Australia. "However Pamela's determination and devotion to care for her family won her acclaim amongst the judges."

"The women nominated for these awards are inspirational role models," said Minister Morand. "I congratulate Pamela Deacon, and each of the Victorian finalists, and I thank Barnardos for their long-term commitment to recognising the vital role of women, through this awards program."

As the **2009 Barnardos Victorian Mother of the Year**, Pamela was presented with a Johnson & Johnson gift pack, a motherInc.com.au pamper pack, a Lindt chocolate hamper, a Canon digital camera, a 12-month subscription to Practical Parenting magazine, a Captain Cook Sydney Harbour Sightseeing Coffee Cruise, a deluxe flower arrangement from EasyFlowers, a framed certificate and trophy to mark the event and flights and accommodation to Sydney to attend the national Function.

The overall winner will receive a Ford Fiesta 5-door CL Hatch, a 3-night Murray River Wetlands Discovery Cruise for 2 people from Captain Cook Cruises, a deluxe flower arrangement from EasyFlowers and a Lindt chocolate hamper.

Launched by Barnardos in 1996, the Awards aim to acknowledge the enormous contribution that mothers make in shaping Australia's future through their role in nurturing children.

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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