

I love my mum because...



2009 WA SHORTLISTED FINALISTS

Vicki Badger, 53, from Busselton in Western Australia: (Nominated by her son Kit Badger)

Vicki says she's wanted to be a mum since she was five. A single mum for the past 14 years to her three biological children, who are now 29, 24 and 21, she has also been a carer to more than 150 emergency short-term and long-term foster children. Enduring a violent marriage for 20 years, Vicki now helps others who have gone through a similar ordeal. She has also worked with local special needs children, many child support agencies and has travelled to remote Aboriginal communities to assist with building and health projects. Vicki is currently caring for an 11-year-old special needs boy on a permanent basis. Kit says his mum is "a legend and a champion. She is there for anyone who may need some guidance or support."

Vicki's top tip: "How easy is it to love a child!"



Carly Dudley, 26, from Banksia Grove, Western Australia: (Nominated by her friend Tara Conradt)

In January 2007 Carly's son Christian was stillborn due to contracting a rare condition hydrocephalus – water on the brain. Whilst devastated by the loss of her beautiful baby boy Carly has turned her heartache into something positive. Carly has established a support website to assist other families who have suffered a similar loss. She has also embarked on a personal mission to write and photograph the names of babies and children who have passed away in the sand at sunset to be displayed on her website as a touching memorial and receives hundreds of requests each week. Last year Carly gave birth to River - a baby sister to her three-year-old daughter Scarlett.

Carly's top tip: "Life is rich, life is precious, life is beautiful."



Lucy Woodland, 66, from White Gum Valley in Western Australia: (Nominated by her daughter Theresa Woodland)

Lucy has tackled life's adversities head on. As her own childhood was difficult and traumatic, she promised herself that her own children would be well loved and well cared for. However, in the past few years she has had to overcome more traumas. Her eldest daughter was diagnosed with cancer, her intellectually disabled daughter, Theresa, was hit by a car and Lucy nursed her back to health. Then tragically her son was killed in a car accident five years ago. Theresa says that her mum has never treated her differently despite her disabilities. "She has been a champion for those who are marginalized by the wider community and always finds time to help others in the community. She is my friend, my teacher and my mentor."

Lucy's top tip: "Strive to do the best you can."



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