

# I love my mum because...



## Western Australian shortlisted finalists 2010

### Valda Carrington, 58 from Broome (nominated by her daughter Samantha Carrington)

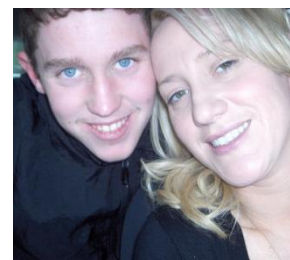
Valda's marriage fell apart when she was pregnant with her youngest daughter, Samantha, now 21, leaving her with four daughters to raise alone. Valda worked two jobs and studied, often waking at 4.30am in order to get everything done. Over the years, many other children also stayed with Valda including two of her husband's young siblings who stayed with Valda and her husband following the death of their mother. They were six and seven at the time and stayed with Valda until they went to high school. In 2003, she became the manager of the women's refuge in Broome – a job Valda describes as both challenging and rewarding. "She works with Aboriginal women and children and has made a positive change to many people's lives," says Samantha who nominated her. "She has also helped me through some bad situations and helped me cope with life." Valda says we all have a responsibility to look after children. "If we save even just one child we save a generation."



Nominee's top tip: "Life is what you make it, you've got to make the best of your life."

### Terese Morse, 34 from Morley (nominated by son Kyle Burnett)

Terese's daughter Jade was diagnosed with autism at the age of two and soon after her marriage fell apart. With her four-year-old son Kyle to also care for, Terese's dedication and hard-work helped her through this tough time. Terese was determined to understand everything about Jade's autism in order to assist her to be a part of mainstream schooling. She studied Special Needs and Early Childhood Education at university whilst also working to make ends meet. Terese now holds a Masters Degree and is working on a PhD focussing on reducing parent stress levels in families who have a child with autism. As part of her PhD research, she has developed a manual and runs training workshops. Terese currently works for the WA Department of Education working on early intervention for children with autism and has written a manual that is used across the state. Jade is now 13 and goes to a mainstream high school. Kyle, who is now 15, nominated Terese and says, "It is because of my mum's commitment that Jade has improved so much and can go to a regular school. She is the hardest working individual I have ever met and would do anything for us."



Nominee's top tip: "If you want something really badly, you can always achieve it, if you approach it in the right way."

### Kaye Worth, 68 from Gosnells (nominated by her granddaughter Amy Pratt)

At 68, with her own three children married with their own families, Kaye should be taking time out for herself. Instead, she started fostering 15 years ago and has fostered more than 50 babies and children, some with disabilities, as well as providing respite care. She currently has a new born baby in her care. At various times, her home has also been a haven for family friends, neighbourhood children and also homeless people from the hostel where her husband used to work. Such is Kaye's caring and loving nature that no matter how long she has a baby in her care – whether it's just a few days or months – she puts together a photo album of the baby's development to give to the biological parents. "Kaye has an extraordinary love and has given numerous babies a wonderful start in life that they might otherwise not had," says her granddaughter Amy, who nominated her. "When anyone ever needs anything she makes it happen – whether it's baby equipment for a refugee family or helping a new mum feed her baby. She is an inspiration to many."



Nominee's top tip: "Feed him! Feed your baby when he is hungry. Forget routine for now and just feed him!"

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