

I love my mum because...



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VICKI BADGER NAMED BARNARDOS' WA MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a special ceremony hosted today by **Barnardos Australia**, **Vicki Badger of Busselton** was announced as the **Western Australian Mother of the Year** in the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards**. She was presented with her award by Robyn McSweeney, Minister for Child Protection, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering, and Women's Interests.

Vicki 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.

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.

Her son Kit, who nominated her, says his mum is "a legend and a champion. She is there for anyone who may need some guidance or support."

Vicki says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when she was announced as the **Western Australia's 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 Western Australia."

"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 Vicki's determination and devotion to care for those less fortunate won her acclaim amongst the judges."

Minister McSweeney said, "I congratulate Vicki for being chosen as Barnardos WA Mother of the Year. Vicki's story is so inspiring and her commitment to both her children and taking on the commitment to care for over 150 kids over the years is testament to her ability to care, give generously and love. All this really encompasses what being a mum is all about and I know so many parents out there will be moved by her story – she has a heart as big as a lion."

As the **2009 Barnardos Western Australia's Mother of the Year**, Vicki 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 in 1996 by Barnardos, 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 Emma Lipscombe, Barnardos Australia on 02 9218 2391 or 0412 468 921 or email events@barnardos.org.au



Government of Western Australia
Department for Communities

Nominate her for Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
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