

PeakCare Awards

The SIC

(Translation: good; awesome)

The SIC Award Candidate Nomination Statements

Teghan Basaraba, Safe Places for Children

Teghan Basaraba has helped me achieve and reach many of my goals within Safe Places. She has helped me to recognise and understand my cultural side of being Aboriginal and helped me embrace my identity. Not only has she encouraged me but many other young Indigenous people to embrace their cultural backgrounds. She has been a great role model and has gotten me to achieve many of my goals. In total, she is an amazing soul and a person who brings out the best in everyone. No matter what you've been through, she brings the best out of everyone and finds the most effective ways to motivate each and every young person.

Bravehearts Foundation – Turning Corners Program

The Turning Corners Program provides comprehensive and integrated responses for vulnerable young people aged between 12-17 who have engaged, or are at risk of engaging, in harmful sexual behaviour. Since 2016, the program has been delivering an outreach and support services model to young people within their school, Out of Home Care, Youth Justice facilities and remotely via an online videoconferencing platform. Findings of an evaluation conducted in 2018 by Dr Nadine McKillop, Sexual Violence and Research and Prevention Unit, University of the Sunshine Coast, indicated that the program was fulfilling a need through increased accessibility to services for voluntary engagement in treatment, and as an additional referral pathway for formal tertiary system responses. In the past financial year, the program received 47 agency referrals and 15 self-referrals; spent 793 hours 14 minutes directly supporting clients (including phone, email, e-Health, outreach, letter and in-person); provided 295 individual counselling sessions; and supported 26 individual clients and their families (20 males, 6 females). The program receives no government funding and is supported by grants and philanthropic organisations.

Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) Ltd

As a step towards greater self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, CQID is working closely with the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs to operationalise the implementation of changes to the *Child Protection Act 1999*, which allow for certain legal authorities that the Department's Director-General holds, to be delegated to CEOs of community controlled organisations. CQID, a Rockhampton-based organisation established in 2004, has successfully applied to obtain this delegated authority status, and will be the first community controlled organisation to undertake this work in Queensland. The delegation of powers will enable CQID to make decisions in a way that actively recognises, promotes and enhances opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination and decision-making. This power will also facilitate innovative family led cultural safety, cultural connections and sharing of knowledge for future generations of families involved in the child protection system.

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Candyse Clunes, Able Care Foundation

Candyse Clunes is nominated for exceptional delivery of service, not only to my brother but my whole family. Candyse wore her heart on her sleeve. Her level of care is outstanding.

Sean Collins, Mercy – ITIS Morayfield

Sean Collins is nominated for a SIC Award for innovative or exemplary design or delivery of services to Queensland children, young people, parents and/or families. Since Sean has taken charge of our team at Mercy, there has been a significant change in how things are running and how well the team is working together.

CREATE Team Brisbane, CREATE Foundation

The Brisbane CREATE team (Andrew, Amy and Hope) are completely sic, amazing and awesome in delivering change for children and young people in care. Not only have they smashed KPI targets (some by more than 300%!), but they delivered incredible and creative ways of engaging young people during the COVID period well above and beyond their role requirements. These included Youth Advisory Groups twice a week (up from once a month pre COVID), Speak Up training online each week (allowing us to engage with young people in regional and remote areas for the first time), a podcast about transitioning from care, Child Protection Week online Master Chef dinners and heaps of other incredibly fun and inspiring events. They are warriors, passionate advocates and champion the voices of children and young people to influence positive change.

Sharron Duncan, HEART 2 HEART Supervised Contact

Sharon Duncan is nominated for many decades of working on front line support for children and families within the community, including founding the Woodford Neighbourhood Centre in 2016. Community support as a Mediator, Family Group Conference facilitator, and child supervised contact provider to the Family Law courts, Sharron is always looking to further her professional development in all areas family.

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Lexie Graham, Trish Landsberger and Nick Martin, Kyabra Community Association & Edmund Rice Camps Queensland

In 2017 Edmund Rice Camps and Kyabra formed a partnership to improve outcomes for children in out-of-home care and their families. The collaboration arose from the allocation of Flexible Funding from Child Safety, and the intention to implement an innovative program for families. Each year they coordinate and facilitate a camp for children in care, their carer family, their birth family, and other members of a child's extended family and care team, including NGO's and Child Safety. The partnership has provided three camps, each incredibly successful with meeting outcomes around relationship building, capacity building, and connecting a 'care team'. Parent/Carer sessions are provided to increase capacity, self-determination, and increase parenting strategies in responding to trauma related behaviours. The camps have been described as 'transformational' by participants. This innovative method of service delivery through partnership sees children in care thrive through building confidence, resilience and strengthening relationships, improving overall placement stability.

Mel James, Social Care Solutions

With COVID severely restricting our opportunities for in-person connections with people, Social Care Solutions (SCS) quickly adapted to offering training and completing foster care assessments online. SCS designed over 15 online masterclasses, facilitated via Zoom, to quickly and easily improve practitioner and carer skills. Some topics covered include Exploring ACES with applicants, Identifying Grooming Behaviours, Connecting Through Play and Having Difficult Conversations. In addition, SCS created multiple online assessment tools to assist with exploring foster carer/applicants' world view and capacity to provide trauma-informed care to children and young people in the out of home care system. These tools ensured the reduced ability to meet in-person didn't affect the quality of the assessments and the SCS team continues to use them now as valuable tools which provide a greater depth to all foster care assessments they complete. The service is always willing to go above and beyond to support our vulnerable children. I am glad they are available to lead us during these challenging times.

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Life Without Barriers' South East Residential Care Team

Nominated by several people, the following are extracts from the nominations received:

- *In 2020, Angela Nelson and Ashleigh Madaschi opened two new residential facilities in the south east region. The team has been kicking goals ever since!*
- *We have focused on the wellbeing of our young people, making the houses look and feel like real homes*
- *From the minute I joined this team I could feel something special was happening. The team works as a team and is supportive of everyone's different strengths. The outcome is a beautiful synthesis of harmony, safety, growth and development for the kids*
- *We are super proud of the work that we have done caring for and supporting the greatest kids!*
- *This team of super stars is all about providing care for our young people using creativity and showing them love*
- *Our team is incredible! It is very rewarding to see how much unconditional positive regard changes young people's lives*

Sarah Macleish, Arches Accommodation Supports

I nominate Sarah and Darren for their commitment to providing therapeutic accommodation options to sustain family, kin, foster and residential placements through the establishment of Arches Accommodation Supports. Although the organisation is only 12 months old, I have observed the incredible mission that Sarah and Darren have been on to prevent young people experiencing multiple placement breakdowns due to the complex and challenging pain-based behaviors exhibited by those who have experienced developmental trauma. Sarah and Darren demonstrate a sound understanding of the need to be innovative in their approach. They drive an organisation that is committed to stepping in despite how challenging the situation may appear, providing intensive therapeutic supports that are strengths based and client centered to facilitate a space for validation, reflection, learning and growth for each client. I am proud to be aligned with an organisation that is on such an important mission to positively impact the child protection space in Queensland.

Jordan McCaul, Real Support Services

Real Support Services is an organisation that aligns with their values including being adaptable, resilient, conscientious, excellence in quality service, and solution-focused, strength-based approach. Jordan McCaul is nominated for his work in supporting youth and families in the community.

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Peta Miller, Social Care Solutions

Peta Miller has been doing great work in the out of home care space and has been ensuring better outcomes for children who are in care. She is passionate and she is driven. The company she works for – Social Care Solutions - has done amazing things as well, such as better training for foster care recruiters which Peta has been a part of.

Carly Motu, BABI- Youth & Family Service

During COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in Brisbane, Carly went above and beyond to ensure young people (aged 12 to 25) were able to engage in fun living skills programs. Carly with the support of her organization, BABI Youth & Family Service, ran cooking, art and guided meditation workshops online by delivering resources required to each participant's house (with COVID safe distancing restrictions in place). Carly and the whole team at BABI Youth & Family Service are innovative in their approach to program delivery to ensure all young people are able to safely access and enjoy their activities. Carly truly is SIC and brings this to her work to ensure all that she does for young people is SIC too.

Nik Phillips

Nik Phillips is nominated for a SIC Award for exemplary delivery of services to Queensland children and young people. Nik has been a Foster Carer, educator, residential youth worker and specialist support worker for over 10 years. She has helped dozens of young people consistently both at home and at work.

Phoenix House

Phoenix House is a charity organisation which offers services and support to the Bundaberg community and surrounding region. It provides a family-based therapeutic, educational, and cultural response for children aged 0 to 18 years who have been identified as harmed or at risk of harm. This assistance extends to their families including vulnerable siblings, parents, and carers. The complex needs they address include childhood sexual abuse, physical violence and neglect, and domestic and family violence. The program aims to increase the resiliency of children and their families attending the program and to address or alleviate the children's symptoms of psychopathology and problematic behaviour caused by their early trauma. Services are delivered through therapeutic group programs, protective behaviours education, parenting supports, one-on-one counselling, community education, and awareness-raising and prevention initiatives, including professional development and education within schools and early childhood education centres, and collaboration with other community services.

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Project Safeguard: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; Qld Police Service, Dept of Education, Anglicare, Churches of Christ in Qld & EVOLVE

Project Safeguard is a collaboration of government and non-government agencies working together to improve outcomes for young people living in residential care in the South East Region. Since its commencement 20 months ago, the project has seen outstanding results, including an 88% reduction in Missing Persons reports for children in residential care, 50% reduction in Police call-outs, greater engagement rates for young people in meaningful education programs and a greater voice for young people in what their home environment should look and feel like. Some examples of success: R had 30% school attendance last year, with regular stakeholder meetings, intense support and a change in school it is now almost 100% and she is focused on a career in nursing; and in the words of K, "I just wanted to say thank you Lisa and the project for coming out every fortnight like you do and listening to us. You never judge us and always take what we have to say as important and we can slowly see the difference you're making." The Project Safeguard collective epitomises the true meaning of partnerships and grows each month from strength to strength. Project Safeguard is SIC!

'The Quarantine Team' - Moreblessing Maponga, Laura Payne and Dianne Mahoney, Churches of Christ in Queensland

After returning from NSW a young person being cared for by Churches of Christ in Queensland needed to enter hotel quarantine for fourteen days. Without hesitation, three staff members put their hand up to quarantine with her – their greatest concern was that she would be surrounded by familiar faces in such a stressful situation. While remuneration was far from being a motivating factor, Individual Flexibility Agreements were explained and all signed on without hesitation. On the young person returning to Brisbane, our 'quarantine team' was advised they were needed at the airport – staff quickly collected personal items and activities, packed their bags, dropped off pets, picked up a work car and IT equipment, organised their families and headed to the airport – uncertain of where they would be quarantined or what the next two weeks would look like. The commitment, compassion and selflessness of these three individuals to ensure consistency of relationships and care for this young person, under challenging and unprecedented circumstances went absolutely above and beyond. We are very grateful to have individuals who care so much, looking after our young people!!!

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Real Support Services

Real Support Services is an organisation that was formed five years ago and has been growing since then. Throughout this time, it has shown that it aligns with its mission, vision and values and the direct client work is at the core of the organisation. The organisation has grown due to the amazing work that has been done on the ground and all clients' goals and plans are individualised. Real always seeks feedback to ensure service delivery is at the highest so staff can provide high quality care.

Millicent Stevens, IFYS

Millicent (Milly) Stevens is the Coordinator of a Residential House that cares for children in care with traumatic backgrounds, children who are survivors of changed times. Milly strikes me as a passionate, hard working individual whose aim is to bring out the best in young people who are on a journey of healing and recovery. She is innovative and responsive to the daily needs of young people and leads her staff with respect and courtesy. Milly works from the heart and is not only fulfilling her job description as Coordinator, but possesses a rare quality of humility. She is dedicated to arriving at the best outcomes for young people and staff alike. Milly has been working with children for around ten years and is always heard saying she loves it. Power and politics do not factor with Milly, she is without ego and respected for whom she is and what she believes. Our Area Manager unfortunately passed away early this year, and in her place, Milly stood up to support teams in three other residential settings, we applauded her.

Leanne Wood, Home Stretch Campaign

Leanne Wood has been a key leader of the Homestretch Campaign which was officially launched in November 2019 in Queensland. The Home Stretch movement advocates that young people in care in every Australian state and territory should have the option of extended care and support until the age of 21 years. Leanne and the Queensland Homestretch Committee have developed policy positions, research papers and media campaigns to raise awareness of the issues that young people leaving care face and advocate for their continued support up until 21.

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Lesley Wood, The Benevolent Society

The Benevolent Society (TBS), in partnership with Metro South Health Service, deliver the community Maternal and Child Health Hub in Logan, located in TBS's Early Years Centre at Browns Plains. In response to poor maternal health outcomes for women in Logan, the Hub aims to increase the number of young women accessing the recommended number of antenatal visits, improve pregnancy outcomes, and better coordinate and connect women to the health, community and social support services they need. TBS's Child and Family Team engage with young expectant parents and families to keep children in safe home environments. Young parents are supported to attend a range of supports and services within the Early Years Centre, (including free playgroups and parenting programs) to improve their children's health and development, early learning and educational needs, as well as increased safety and wellbeing. This holistic and wrap around support has resulted in positive outcomes for children and families, reducing the need for statutory child protection intervention.