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Nominations for the SIC Award

Arches Accommodation Support Services

I have nominated Arches Support Services as the company design is innovative in nature and designed in a way that responds to gaps in staff support within the sector. The organisation has an inbuilt wellbeing team headed by a registered psychologist for the support of staff through both regular supervision and post incident support. This support is additional to weekly link in/coaching/mentoring time allotted with line managers. Furthermore, there is a team offering constant training, tailored mentoring in a one-on-one capacity to continue to support reflective practice and professional therapeutic growth. The team provide celebratory and adjusting feedback to all incidents reported to ensure growth in practice. As a result, young people with very diverse needs who are in the care of Arches Accommodation Support Services have achieved some truly wonderful, amazing outcomes because the teams around them are constantly growing and improving in their skills to better support them.

Family Inclusion Network South East Queensland - an alliance supporting the voices of parents as stakeholders of the child protection system

The Family Inclusion Network team, parents and their allies are nominated for their passion and commitment in bringing together the voices and experiences of parents within the Queensland child protection system. Their work has resulted in:

- establishment of the first Parent Advisory Committee, and*
- identification of areas for improvement such as legal representation for parents, earlier support, and parents' participation in systemic advocacy.*

This nomination is submitted in recognition of the generosity of all involved, the courage of parents in so openly disclosing their journey despite the deep pain they have experienced, the Minister and Department staff for providing safe and respectful opportunities for engagement and reflection, and the Family Inclusion Network Team for their skilful facilitation of this collaboration. I am nominating all for their achievements in progressing a structural way in which parents can provide input on policy within the child protection system as an Australian First.

Joanne Gamble, Program Supervisor, Treatment Foster Oregon Program, OzChild

I would like to nominate Joanne Gamble. Jo has led the Treatment Foster Oregon Program from its early days with OzChild, creating and developing a model of service like no other. Not only has Jo succeeded in running her program at full capacity, she has developed valuable relationships with carers and stakeholders whilst diverting many children from long term trajectories in residential care. As a leader, Jo models, every day, what it means to keep children safe. As a Manager, Jo has taught her team and funding bodies why clinical evidence and outcomes are not about numbers, but about children and their lives. As a colleague, she has shown us that no matter how senior one becomes, it should never stop them from frontline engagement with children. As a spokesperson for TFCO, Jo hears and makes heard, the voices and needs of carers and children in out-of-home care. Well done Jo.

Darren Giddens, Sarah Macleish and Jordan McCaul, Arches and Real Support Regional Services

Darren, Sarah and Jordan have been nominated as the Directors and CEO of the newly formed company, Arches and Real Support Regional Services (AR Regional) in Central Queensland. They repeatedly show their commitment and dedication to the sector by working hard to build collaborative partnerships, innovation in their thinking and strength-based practice to best meet the needs of the young people and families AR Regional are working alongside. They demonstrate out-of-the-box thinking, delivering services to young people in a way that they need to meet their needs and not the adults' needs. They are people who many of us could and should take a mental note of and be guided by the SICness that they exude!

Taylor Jewson, Case Manager, IFYS

Taylor works as a Case Manager for IFYS in our Out of Home Care stream and she is an absolute force to be reckoned with! Young people are at the forefront of every decision she makes in service delivery. Taylor has advocated for young people to be in school, supported transitions, worked with extremely difficult and challenging behaviours and smiles through it all. Taylor is also a fantastic colleague who supports her co-workers to ensure that they can implement seamless delivery of care to the young people we care for. Taylor is passionate about bringing change and encouraging our young people to live their best lives and challenge the stigma of being in care.

KICS (Kummara and Infinity Community Solutions) Kinship Service

KICS Kinship Service has been part of the kin finder trial for Brisbane and successfully identified family or community kin for 11 children, moving them from residential to family-based homes over the past 3 years.

Sandy Meessen, Program Manager of the Sunshine Coast Integrated Family Support Program ('The Base') – a partnership between St Vincent de Paul, Nambour State College and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, Sunshine Coast and Central Region

Program Manager Sandy Meessen is leading a small team of Family Liaison Officers in a 5-year contract program. This program is unique as it sits within Nambour State College and not only supports the young people, but their families as a whole. The Base offers both in-school and outreach support services that are flexible in their approach. The Base has been working with young people and their families to achieve some great goals, and connect them back in with community.

Navigating Early Learning Pathways - a partnership between the Department of Education (North Coast Region) and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Sunshine and Fraser Coast and Moreton Bay Child Safety Districts)

Navigating Early Learning Pathways (NELP) commenced in 2020, to improve education and life outcomes for children in care and on Intervention with Parental Agreements (IPAs) as a partnership between the Department of Education, North Coast Region and relevant DCYJMA Child Safety Service Centres in this region. The NELP project aimed to ensure every child in care or on IPAs were accessing quality early childhood education and Prep eligible kids were actively supported with transition. The partnership has embedded systems for critical information exchange that enable a team-around-the-child approach to address barriers to education so schools, families, carers and children are ready to make Prep a success prior to the school year starting. The reorientation and improvement of the existing system and service delivery has resulted in the stacking of a significant protective factor in the favour of a cohort of children who experience a high level of disadvantage and vulnerability.

Real Support Regional Services (AR Regional)

I have nominated ARRegional as a private organisation within the Central Queensland region that strives to support connections with youth and families in the region. The organisation provides supports in the intervention and residential space within Central Queensland, offering 24-hour emergency housing for young people. The support we provide in the intervention space is emergency and respite care, supervised contact, reunification support and in-home support to families and foster carers. ARRegional aims to empower individuals to empower themselves by delivering the right support to each individual by using a therapeutic and strength-based approach to working with families and young people.

Real Support Services

Real Support is a leader within the sector for placement support and trauma-informed services. Their ability to support complex and highly at-risk young people through their outreach service along with being able to smoothly transition clients into other service models (e.g. in-home support) while still maintaining the same frontline support workers with whom clients have developed a relationship, has ensured positive client outcomes. Their ability to create sustainable outcomes through high levels of collaboration to support transitions effectively has assisted in resources being spread further than they may have been prior. Real Support Services are dedicated to changing the lives of families and young people through their case specific goals, adapting and flexing times and days to suit the needs of clients. They have a strong focus on the organisation's mission, vision and culture and on staff training, support and well-being which then flows onto the care of the clients.

Sunshine Coast Integrated Family Support Program ('The Base') – a partnership between St Vincent de Paul, Nambour State College and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, Sunshine Coast and Central Region

Operating within Nambour State College with DCYJMA funding since October 2020, 'The Base' targets adolescents (aged 10 -14) and their families, who are, or are at risk of becoming, disengaged from school and entering the child protection or youth justice system. The Base features:

- an exterior design that reflects a set of classrooms which can be reassuring for students, with an internal space therapeutically and intentionally created to appeal to a diverse group – an open-door 'vibe' echoed by the co-located staff*
- staff engagement with the school community via multiple universal, focused and intensive relational platforms, creating a cohesion and alignment between The Base's physical and human resources*
- both school based and outreach services plus group work sessions arising out of the school or community need, and*
- a group co-facilitated with First Nation's business, Triballink, that is open to all students for purposes of promoting diversity and acceptance of different cultures.*