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Nominations for the WOKE Award

Lynette Ellison, Arches and Real Support Regional Services

Lynette has made a significant impact on young people and families through her role at AR Regional. Lynette is dedicated to her role as Operations Manager in ensuring all young people and families receive the best quality of staff, are provided opportunities to grow and see themselves in a positive light, deliver care and nurture to a high level of standard and is empowering the individual to empower themselves. Lynette is passionate, consistent and always holds the child's best interest as the top priority. Lynette has made a strong impact on the Central Queensland region by leading the team to remain client centred which has produced positive client outcomes/achievements of the young people and families.

Darren Giddens, Arches and Real Support Services

Both Darren Giddens and Sarah Macleish go beyond expectations. They have put so much into the organisation in the aspect of going beyond by ensuring their staff

are trained in the areas required. They both have always been supportive of their staff on the floor and off. I could not have gotten to where I am without them both. Awesome bosses with a heart of gold. I thank God everyday for them both, for their passion in the industry and for supporting me at my worst of times.

Hazel Little, Foster Carer and President of Queensland Foster and Kinship Care (QFKC)

Since 2009, Hazel Little has been President of QFKC and the longest serving President of the association since its inception in 1976. Hazel joined the QFKC committee in 1994 and served as Vice President before being elected President. Hazel and her late husband Gary have been Carers for over 40 years, caring for over 100 children, many of whom remain very much part of her family now as adults. Hazel has also served as a Foster Carer Advocacy Support Team (FAST) member supporting Carers through a peer support model and has supported the training of Child Safety Officers. The many Child Safety Service Centres with whom Hazel has worked describe her as extraordinary. Hazel lives and breathes the approach that children come first and has inspired many carers and child safety staff alike. Besides all this, Hazel is a nice, compassionate and fair-minded person who sees the best in everyone.

The team from the KICS Kinship Service and KICS Kinship and Foster Care Service in Moreton Bay Region

The KICS team has implemented finding kin for 5 years since being funded. The team find and engage kin for children and young people by partnering with families. Lots of children moved to kin both in this region and to family outside of the region.

Sarah Macleish, Arches and Real Support Services

Sarah is a natural leader and has utilised this to ensure the three organisations she leads and manages are responding consistently in a trauma informed and therapeutic manner. She continues to think outside of the box for creative ways to best support clients including creating an adaptable model of care and framework of support that the three organisations are now utilising. Sarah is regularly ahead of her peers and the industry in understanding upcoming trends that are impacting families and young people we support and being proactive in providing potential solutions to assist with this.

Commissioner Scott McDougall, Queensland Human Rights Commission

I nominate Commissioner Scott McDougall, Queensland's inaugural Human Rights Commissioner for the WOKE Award. In a very short space of time, Commissioner McDougall has made an increased consciousness of human rights an integral aspect of the ways in which policies and services for children, young people are designed, planned and delivered by both government and non-government organisations. Beyond that, his skilful commentary in the public arena has made all Queenslanders more aware of their human rights and entitlements. Being 'woke' is a frequently maligned term, but if being woke means being actively aware of human rights, it cannot be regarded as anything but good. Congratulations to Commissioner McDougall for teaching us that lesson.

Aaron Narayan, Arches Accommodation Support Services

I have nominated Aaron due to his excellent professionalism and capabilities when supporting young people. Aaron has a warmth that young people gravitate towards and they build excellent relationships with him. Aaron is also a valuable team member who is always helpful and efficient in everything that he does. An amazing support worker.

New Ways for Our Families – a collaboration between the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and the Institute of Child Protection Studies at Australian Catholic University (ACU)

The New Ways for Our Families report and media campaign advocates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children surviving domestic and family violence and reveals child safety systems don't support them or meet their needs. It shows systemic failure in child protection responses to domestic and family violence. Responses don't adequately focus on children and women. The report advocates for better support for families. Media interviews with chief investigators and researchers highlight problems within child protection. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations are best placed to provide services supporting cultural responses and need greater resources. The QATSICPP, ANROWS and ACU alliance collaborates to bring improved outcomes for Queensland children, young people, parents and families. The research team uses participatory action research, empowering community

members to demonstrate their lived experience as part of the process of generating new knowledge. Locating power with community is both effective and meaningful.

OzChild Treatment Foster Care Oregon Program

I would like to nominate OzChild's Treatment Foster Care Oregon program (TFCO). Thinking outside the 'Child Protection' square, TFCO moves children away from residential care and into a family environment. Starting off as a trial, TFCO has, in the last 18 months successfully reunified over a dozen children with family, kin, and carers. TFCO works to positively influence children's behaviour by teaching new ways to control emotions, develop interpersonal skills, better manage social settings and regulate outbursts. At Oz Child TFCO:

We are innovative - We are multidisciplinary - We are evidence based - We are understated and ambitious - We are committed and informed - We deliver culturally responsive and safe services to First Nations children and young people - We successfully reunify our children with Family, Kin, Carers and Country - We are Treatment Foster Care Oregon - We are Oz Child - We are the Future of Out of home Care.

Dr James Scott

Dr James Scott has worked in the field of child psychiatry for many years, focusing on youth mental health. His contribution to outcomes for children and their parents is reflected in his history of working as a visiting senior medical officer at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre, a consultant psychiatrist with Evolve therapeutic services which included video-psychiatry, and with Child and Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS). Dr Scott was a member of the Queensland anti-bullying taskforce and is a current long-serving Board member of the Child Protection Practitioners Association Queensland. Dr Scott is currently involved in the Australian child maltreatment study, a first of its kind, to understand the prevalence of child maltreatment and its links to mental and physical health disorders and other adverse consequences. Dr Scott is the current Head of Mental Health Programme at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. He is a deserving candidate.