

## Media Release

### 2008 CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

The outstanding contributions made by individuals and groups to crime prevention and community safety have been acknowledged at a special ceremony at the Tasmania Police Academy.

The Awards are organised by the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Council, and fall under four categories; Volunteer, Individual, Group Innovation and Women's Safety.

"I would like to acknowledge the contribution that the individuals and groups represented here today have made to crime prevention and safety in Tasmania, and I thank you all for your efforts," said the Acting Police Commissioner, Mr Darren Hine.

"I have been impressed by the number of people who were nominated by their colleagues for their outstanding contributions toward making Tasmania a safer place.

"I would like to congratulate all of those nominated for your effort, and would like to reinforce the recognition and appreciation demonstrated by the people who nominated you."

Members of the Midway Point/Penna Neighbourhood Watch are the winners of the Volunteer Award. Mr Bernie Hobden, Mr Mick Sage and Ms Patricia Leary are responsible for the Annual Primary Schools Crime Prevention Poster Competition which has been running across three schools for 12 years.

Mr Lyndon O'Neil is the winner of the Individual Award, which recognises the outstanding contribution made by a paid individual to an innovative crime prevention and/or community safety program. Mr O'Neil is employed by Ulverstone High School to implement the Outreach Pathways Program through his own mechanic business. The program involves working with and mentoring disengaged students by helping them to develop skills working on vehicles and dealing with customers.

The inaugural management committee of TOOL (Training Opportunities and Options for Learning) is the winner of the Group Innovation Award. Operating in Clarence, TOOL aims to establish sustainable, commercially-based facilities that provide on-the-job training, practical work skills and personal development opportunities for youth at risk of criminal behaviour, long-term unemployment and disengagement from education.

The winner of the Women's Safety Award is Women with Disabilities Australia for its *From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Resource Manual on Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project*. The group responded to a lack of information for women with disabilities and service providers about violence.

It's produced a manual that provides information, education and training resources that's available in various formats including Braille, audio, and large print. The product is sought after around the world and already more than 1700 copies have been sold. The manual was also acknowledged in October at the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards in Canberra, receiving \$3000 and a Certificate of Merit.

Tasmania's *Safe at Home* program, a whole-of-government strategy for responding to family violence, has again been acknowledged at this morning's ceremony. The program was recognised as a national winner of the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.

"The program is highly regarded and continues to operate effectively," said the Minister for Police and Emergency Management, Mr Jim Cox.

"The multi-tiered management system has improved working relationships between the key agencies and anecdotal evidence suggests that this is flowing on into service delivery in areas outside family violence."

Features of the integrated program include adult and child counselling, court support for adult and child witnesses, legal aid, child protection and offender rehabilitation.

(10 Dec 2008)