



**Tasmanian
Crime Prevention &
Community Safety Awards**

**Australian
Crime & Violence
Prevention Awards**

2008



Sergeant Debbie Williams receiving a National Award on behalf of *Safe at Home* from The Hon Bob Debus MP, Federal Minister for Home Affairs, in Canberra on 16 October 2008.

Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards

The annual Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards recognise best practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia. These Awards are sponsored by the Heads of Australian Governments as a joint Commonwealth, State and Territory initiative. The National Winners were announced in Canberra by the Hon. Bob Debus, Minister for Home Affairs on Thursday 16 October 2008.

This year, the Crime Prevention & Community Safety Council is very pleased to announce that a Tasmanian project has been recognised as a National Winner of the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards. This is a significant achievement.

National Winner: *Safe At Home*

Safe at Home is a whole-of-government strategy, involving the Departments of Police and Emergency Management, Justice, and Health and Human Services, for responding to family violence in Tasmania. It is founded upon the principle of 'primacy of the safety of the victim'. This integrated criminal-justice response-and-intervention system is designed to bring about a reduction in the incidence of family violence in the medium to long term.

The program is overarched by the innovative *Family Violence Act 2004*. The paramount considerations in the administration of this Act are safety, psychological wellbeing, and the interests of adults and children affected by family violence.

Key stakeholders collaboratively employ extensive law reform, significant changes in police practices, and wide-ranging supportive interventions focusing upon the risks, safety, and therapeutic needs of people affected by family violence. The tiered management and integration structure directs local program implementation.

Features of the integrated program include: adult and child counselling; court support for adult and child witnesses; Legal Aid; specialist police units and prosecutors; offender rehabilitation; and child protection. Information-sharing among agencies utilising a specialised police system and comprehensive case coordination ensures accountability and outcome-focused responses.

The program is highly regarded and continues to operate effectively. 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.

Certificate of Merit and \$3,000: Women With Disabilities Australia

Women With Disabilities Australia developed a Manual called *From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities Project* from a one-room office in Tasmania.

The Manual is ground-breaking and innovative in that it provides accessible information, education and training resources about violence against disabled women. The project was developed in response to the expressed needs of women with disabilities in Australia, the dearth of information for disabled women about violence, and the lack of information for service providers about how to recognise and respond to the issues, and develop inclusive strategies for its prevention. The long-term goal of the project is to prevent and reduce violence against disabled women.

The Manual has been developed to serve a wide range of users and is accompanied by a suite of accessible formats including Braille, audio, large print, rich text format, e-text, and easy English.

This unique product is highly sought after worldwide and is being used as an information source by many organisations and individuals, with more than 1,700 copies being sold to date.

Tasmanian Crime Prevention & Community Safety Awards 2008

The Tasmanian Crime Prevention & Community Safety Awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions made during 2007-08 by individuals and groups to crime prevention and community safety in the community and help to raise awareness of these issues.

This year, the Crime Prevention & Community Safety Council awarded winners under four categories.

Volunteer Award

The Volunteer Award recognises a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to a crime prevention organisation, or to a community safety program.

Winners: Mr Bernie Hobden, Mr Mick Sage and Ms Patricia Leary

The three winners of the Volunteer Award are from the Midway Point/Penna Neighbourhood Watch. In addition to their core responsibilities with Neighbourhood Watch, this group of volunteers is responsible for the Annual Primary Schools Crime Prevention Poster Competition which has been running across three schools for 12 years. The project demands enormous logistical organisation for the annual official launch and collection, collation and judging of posters in preparation for the prize-giving evening.

High Commendation: Clarence High Breakfast Club Team

The Clarence High Breakfast Club Team is an initiative of Saint Mark's Anglican Church and the Energizer Life Church. This group of volunteers initiated the Breakfast Club with the aim of establishing rapport with young people in their community, providing students with friendship within a safe environment, support, a great start to their day, and an incentive to start school on time, as well as encouraging young people away from engaging in antisocial behaviour in local public spaces.

Individual Award

The Individual Award recognises the outstanding contribution made by a paid individual to an innovative crime prevention and/or community safety program.

Winner: Mr Lyndon O'Neil

Mr O'Neil is employed by Ulverstone High School to implement the *Outreach Pathways Program* through his own mechanic business. This program involves Mr O'Neil working with and mentoring disengaged students by helping them to develop their skills working on vehicles and dealing with customers.

Mr O'Neil's commitment and relentless work with these students has resulted in positive outcomes for these Ulverstone High School students and the community.

Group Innovation Award

The Group Innovation Award recognises an outstanding contribution by a group to an innovative crime prevention and/or community safety project or program.

Winner: Inaugural Management Committee - TOOL

The Training Opportunities and Options for Learning (TOOL) group has been outstanding in that for over 15 months their work on the project was voluntary, falling outside of the scope of their normal and demanding roles working within their local communities. The group was responsible for all stages of the project from concept development to implementation.

TOOL operates in the Clarence municipality and aims to establish sustainable, commercially-based facilities that incorporate on-the-job training and a range of practical work skills, entrepreneurship and personal development opportunities for youth at risk of disengagement from education, long-term unemployment and criminal behaviour.

High Commendation: Gearing Up Steering Committee

A High Commendation has been awarded to the Huon Stronger Communities *Gearing Up* Steering Committee, for their work in the program *Gearing Up*.

The Committee is comprised of members from STEPS employment group, Tasmania Police, Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Geeveston District High School, and the Huon Valley Council.

The *Gearing Up* program involves professional and volunteer mentor drivers assisting young disadvantaged people to achieve the 50 hours of logged driving time required to gain a provisional licence, and to experience positive police interaction and defensive driver training.

Women's Safety Award

The Women's Safety Award is awarded on behalf of *Women Tasmania* in recognition of an outstanding contribution by an individual or group to a crime prevention or community safety initiative that aims to increase women's safety in the community.

Winner: Women With Disabilities Australia

Women With Disabilities Australia is the winner in this category for their *From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities Project*.

The Manual is ground-breaking and innovative in that it provides accessible information, education and training resources about violence against disabled women. The project was developed in response to the expressed needs of women with disabilities in Australia, the dearth of information for disabled women about violence, and the lack of information for service providers about how to recognise and respond to the issues, and develop inclusive strategies for its prevention.

The Manual has been developed to serve a wide range of users and is accompanied by a suite of accessible formats including Braille, audio, large print, rich text format, e-text, and easy English.

Nominations

The Crime Prevention & Community Safety Council would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by other individuals or groups nominated for the Tasmanian Crime Prevention & Community Safety Awards 2008. The nominations included:

Volunteer Award

Winners: Mr Bernie Hobden, Mr Mick Sage and Ms Patricia Leary
Annual Primary Schools Crime Prevention Poster Competition

High Commendation: Clarence High Breakfast Club Team
Clarence High Breakfast Club

Individual Award

Winner: Mr Lyndon O'Neil.
Outreach Pathways Program

Constable Justin Abrahams – Team Building and Mentoring Program, Tasmania Police

The Program involves Constable Abrahams working with 'at risk' youth and their parents, and providing a mentoring role in which he links families with resources in the community. Constable Abrahams was nominated for his dedication and commitment to the Program, far exceeding his standard duties. He has exceptional rapport with the youths and families he is involved with due to his enthusiastic attitude and understanding of current social and community issues.

Ms Melissa Taylor – Youth Development Officer, Burnie City Council

Ms Taylor has been involved in a number of youth initiatives falling under Burnie City Council's Youth Strategy 2008–2011. Ms Taylor was nominated for being instrumental in the success of these initiatives and for being a tireless worker, offering assistance over and above what would be required in her role. these initiatives and for being a tireless worker, offering assistance over and above what would be required in her role.

Constable Kendra Hey – Glenorchy Inter-Agency Support Team, Tasmania Police

The Glenorchy Inter-Agency Support Team (IAST) brings together relevant State and Local Government service providers to work collaboratively towards developing practical multi-agency responses to 'at risk' young people and their families. Constable Hey was nominated for being an outstanding and integral member of the Glenorchy IAST and for her dedication to early intervention work within the Glenorchy community, to a degree that is above and beyond her duty.

Mr Geoff Taylor – Activities Officer, Burnie Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC)

PCYC's mission is to provide low-cost, positive, sporting, recreational, social and cultural programs in a safe environment primarily for 'at risk' youth. Mr Taylor was nominated for the success of the numerous programs he provides, for his 'can do' attitude, leadership and enthusiasm.

Group Innovation Award

Winner: Inaugural Management Committee – Training, Opportunities and Options for Learning (TOOL)

High Commendation: Gearing Up Steering Committee – Huon Stronger Communities, *Gearing Up*

Mr Bernie Hobden, Mr Mick Sage and Ms Patricia Leary – Midway Point/Penna Neighbourhood Watch, Annual Primary Schools Crime Prevention Poster Competition

Clarence High Breakfast Club Team – Clarence High Breakfast Club

Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge

Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge develops and provides a range of programs that emphasise and empower young women in taking responsibility for their choices and actions in a supportive and non-judgemental environment.

Launceston College Road Safety Week Coordinating Team – Road Safety Week

The Road Safety Week included a range of activities, as well as student and community involvement, which would not have been possible without the excellent inter-agency cooperation and creativity of the Team. Activities included guest speakers, interactive activities, displays and a competition.

Mersey PCYC – Operation Re-Wind

Mersey PCYC's mission is to provide low cost, positive, sporting, recreational, social and cultural programs in a safe environment primarily for 'at risk' youth. Operation Re-Wind is one of the programs run by Mersey PCYC and aims to engage local 'at risk' youth, to modify their behaviour and challenge their thinking and values by using mentoring to expose participants to constructive role models. The workers involved with the program have identified a number of success stories concerning the youth they have worked with.

Children and Young Persons Program – Department of Health and Human Services

The Children and Young Persons Program (CHYPP) counselling service is part of an integrated response to family violence through the *Safe At Home* initiative. CHYPP makes a valuable contribution to the Tasmanian community in that every young person they support to recover from the effects of family violence is potentially a person, and possible future family, diverted from repeating the cycle of violence and crime.

Lighthouse Management Advisory Committee – Lighthouse Can Do Will Do Project

The Lighthouse Management Advisory Committee oversees the strategic direction of the Lighthouse Project and ensures it fulfils its goals and objectives. The Committee has representation from the Department of Police and Emergency Management, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, local youth services sector, and the Devonport City Council. The Project draws on community participation to help equip 'at risk' young people and young offenders with role models and mentors who will provide them with knowledge, skills and attitudes to be successful in life.

Transitions and Pathways Program (TAPP) – Hobart City Council

With a focus on partnering, continuous development of a flexible approach to program delivery, and a strengths-based position when working with young people, TAPP provided an innovative program of life, workplace and practical skills support, activities and workshops for young offenders and young people at risk of offending.

Women's Safety Award

Winner: Women With Disabilities Australia – *From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Resource Manual on Violence Against Women With Disabilities Project*

Salvation Army – Break Free Program

A working party was formed shortly after a youth summit held in Launceston and 'Break Free' was born. 'Break Free' is a program designed for young women aged 13–17, which aims to reduce the risk of offending by encouraging positive community-building behaviour by offering support, advocacy, liaison, brokering, case management and program facilitation.

S.H.E. – Pets Aware

The Pets Aware project aims to assist women and children escaping from domestic violence by providing safe, short-term accommodation for family pets. The project has increased women's safety in the community by removing a significant barrier for women wishing to leave violent relationships.

Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge – Community Participation Program

Annie Kenney Young Women's Refuge provides 24 hour, seven days per week, crisis accommodation to young women, aged from 13–20 years, who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The Community Participation Program provides young women with the opportunity of integration within community settings through participation in outings and educational events.

Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards Selection Panel

Mr Tony Marks	Chair
Ms Georgia Burbury	Tasmania
Mr Paul Friedman	Queensland
Ms Lil Hays	Australian Capital Territory
Councillor Pat Morris	Western Australia
Commander Mick Plotecki	New South Wales
Sergeant Alexander Morey	South Australia
Commander Ashley Dickinson	Victoria
Ms Pippa Rudd	Northern Territory

Tasmanian Crime Prevention & Community Safety Awards Selection Panel

Professor Jenny Fleming	(CP&CSC member)
Ms Suzanne Bronstein	(CP&CSC observer)
Ms Wanda Buza	(<i>Women Tasmania</i>)
Sergeant Darren Spinks	(State Community Policing)
Ms Georgia Burbury	(CP&CSC Secretariat)