

Early Years Awards 2008



Every child, every opportunity



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

Acknowledgements

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For further information regarding the Early Years Awards please contact:

Office for Children and Early Childhood Development

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

50 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: (03) 9096 6920

www.education.vic.gov.au/childrensweek

Message from the Ministers

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Early Years Awards 2008.

The awards were established to recognise and reward the leadership, dedication and innovation of community partnerships toward improving the health, learning, development and wellbeing of all young children.

Tonight's finalists have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to early childhood and a commitment to give Victoria's children the best possible start in life.

We congratulate you all on your inspirational efforts.

There are three formal award categories in this year's Early Years Awards. These encompass support, health and education services, improvements to services for parents and families through to initiatives undertaken across

whole communities to develop child and family friendly environments.

In addition to the traditional awards, this year we are pleased to announce a Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Award. This award recognises innovative partnership approaches to engaging local communities and increasing interest in the early years.

We know that a child's learning and development starts from day one and that a child's early experiences have a profound impact on their future prospects.

With Victoria experiencing the biggest baby boom in a generation the services you provide are more vital than ever.

We would like to thank you for your hard work and commitment in nurturing our young children and hope you enjoy the Early Years Awards 2008.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bronwyn Pike".

Hon Bronwyn Pike MP
Minister for Education



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxine Morand".

Maxine Morand MP
Minister for Children and
Early Childhood Development

Award Categories

The Early Years Awards recognise the initiatives of Early Years organisations and the contribution they have made towards building a community for children and parents that provides optimal health, education and support services to ensure the wellbeing of children and their families.

The Awards, sponsored by Best Start, present an excellent opportunity to thank the organisations nominated and to publicly promote the positive impact of the innovative projects and initiatives undertaken throughout the year.

The three categories for 2008 are:

1 Better access to child and family support, health services, schools and early education

2 Improvements in parents' capacity, confidence and enjoyment of family life

3 Communities that are becoming more family and child friendly

1 Finalists

Better access to child and family support, health services, schools and early education

Beginning the One Stop Shop

Southvale Primary School

Partners:

Dandenong Best Start
Good Beginnings

Darebin Deadlies – Little Fellas Big Voices

Yappera Children's Services

Partners:

Darebin Best Start
Darebin Best Start Indigenous
Reference Group
Darebin Community Health
Pender's Grove Primary School
Preston South Primary School
Thornbury Primary School

Early Learning Centre @ Rosewall

City of Greater Geelong

Partners:

Bethany Community Support Services
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Glastonbury Child and Family Services
Rosewall Best Start Partnership Group
Rosewall Neighbourhood House
Rosewall Primary School
Shell Geelong

'From Little Things Big Things Grow'

Try Youth and Community Services

Partners:

Ardoch Youth Foundation
Inner South Community Health
Connections - Uniting Care

Schools as Community Hubs in Broadmeadows

Humming Hubs Schools in Broadmeadows

Partners:

Broadmeadows Uniting Care
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Campbellfield Heights Primary School
Coolaroo South Primary School
and Kindergarten
Dallas Primary School and Kindergarten
Meadow Bank Primary School
and Early Learning Centre
Meadow Fair North Primary School
Upfield Primary School and Kindergarten

Wallaroo Child and Family Centre Re-development

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Partners:

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
Hastings Westpark Primary School

2 Finalists

Improvements in parents' capacity, confidence and enjoyment of family life

Babies in Hume

Hume City Council

Partners:

Anglicare
Banksia Gardens Community Centre
Royal Women's Hospital

Building Bridges through Supported Playgroups

Knox City Council

Partners:

Glaxo Smith Kline
Playgroup Victoria
Save the Children Fund
Uniting Care Community Options

Dad's Den – A program for expectant dads

Mercy Health O'Connell Family Centre

Partner:

Mercy Hospital for Women

Explore, Play and Build: Yarra Ranges Supported Parenting and Playgroup Initiative – Building Capacity through Play

Shire of Yarra Ranges

Partners:

Connections - Uniting Care
Eastern Access Community Health
Eastern Health Adult Mental Health Program
Yarra Valley Community Health Services

Hobsons Bay Playgroup Leader Workshops

Hobsons Bay City Council

Partners:

Laverton Community Centre
& Neighbourhood House Inc
Playgroup Victoria
Vicseg

Koorie Playgroup Kit

Playgroup Victoria

Partner:

Victorian Aboriginal Educational
Association Incorporated

School as a Hub Project

Bairnsdale West Primary School

Partners:

Gippsland and East Gippsland
Aboriginal Cooperative
Kilmany Family Care
Red Cross
Smith Family

Welcome Baby to Country Ceremony

Barenji Gadjin Land Council

Partners:

Delkaia Best Start
Horsham Rural City Council

3 Finalists

Communities that are becoming more family and child friendly

Celebrating families and children

Mt Alexander Community
Children's Network

Partners:

Castlemaine District Community
Health Centre
Mt Alexander Shire Council

Gorf: Placemaking for young children and families

Wodonga Council

Partners:

Baranduda Primary School
Melrose Primary School
Norske Skog Paper Mill
St Augustine Primary School
Wodonga High School Traders
Wodonga High Street Hosts
Wodonga Primary School
Wodonga South Primary School
Wodonga West Primary School

In the Land of Moorabool We Love to Read

Moorabool Mothers Inc

Partners:

Ballan District Health and Care - School
Focused Youth Services
Ballarat Community Health
Moorabool Best Start
Moorabool Shire Council
Moorabool Shire Schools (Ballan District,
Bacchus Marsh and Western Moorabool)

Macedon Ranges Shire Strengthening Families Project – Supporting Family Friendly Communities

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Partners:

Cobaw Community Health
Central Victorian Health Alliance
Kyneton and District Health Service
St Luke's Anglicare

Minister's Award

This year we are pleased to announce a special Award - the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development's Award. The Award recognises innovative partnership approaches to engaging local communities and increasing interest in the Early Years.

Thank you

to the judges of the 2008 Early Years Awards

Members of the Victorian Children's Council

Prof Gay Edgecombe
Dr Don Edgar
Ms Sue Harper OAM

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development representative

Ms Jeanette Nagorcka

A special thank you to The Hon Sherryl Garbutt,
Chairperson, Victorian Children's Council
for assisting with the Early Years Awards 2008.

The Early Years Awards
are supported by:



 National Gallery of Victoria

