NAPCAN
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT 1 SEPTEMBER 2013

NAPCAN Play Your Part Awards Tasmania

To: Nell Kuilenburg - The Salvation Army
For: Safe From the Start Project

Name of Project: Safe From the Start
Organisation: Salvation Army
State: Tasmania

Safe from the Start is a national, evidence-based and early intervention project for working with children ages 0-6 that have experienced family and/or domestic violence. The project consists of a one-day training program that uses a specialised tool kit to provide a positive approach to engaging with children in 'activity or therapeutic play'. This specialised tool kit consists of special books, puppets, cards, DVD and a language ball. Safe from the Start training is conducted with 30 participants at each session in all Australian states, as well as upon invitation from local services on a cost recovery basis.

The long term aims are that all services and programs 'listen to the voices of children' and that women experiencing domestic/family violence are aware of the impacts on children. This means raising awareness and educating workers and the wider community about the impact on the brain development of young children who have been exposed to family/domestic violence.

Safe from the Start started as a small local Tasmanian project developed specifically for women's refuges to better care for children affected by domestic violence. The fact that this small local project has grown into a significant national project and now international is very exciting and a credit to all the people involved with the project.

NAPCAN is awarding 2013 Play Your Part Awards Tas to The Salvation Army for: their ongoing commitment to the wellbeing and safety of children. The development of this training program which also utilises existing resources promotes collaboration to reach a larger audience. Nell and the Salvation Army team have played their part in their community by identifying an effective and engaging way to respond to an identified local need.

For further details: contact Madelene McGrath, NAPCAN on 02 9269 9200