

Nearly 100 children a day – every day of the year – are abused or neglected in Australia.* Barnardos, Australia’s leading children’s welfare charity, has found that if a child does not receive suitable parenting in their first three years – they are at extreme risk.

‘Children need good parenting. If a child’s developmental needs for attachment and emotional growth are not met in the first three years of their lives, these children may be damaged for life,’ says Barnardos Director of Fundraising and Marketing, Manisha Amin.

Help Barnardos champion good parenting. Nominate a great mum for Barnardos Australia’s Mother of the Year Awards today at www.motheroftheyear.org.au

In 2010–11 there were more than 31,500 children found to be abused or neglected in Australia.** The effects of abuse and neglect can be lifelong.

‘Every child deserves love and care. We not only work to keep children safe from abuse and neglect, we work to promote good parenting because we know how critical it is – for our whole society. That’s why we hold the Barnardos Australia’s Mother of the Year Awards,’ says Amin.

The job of being a mum is often undervalued. Barnardos wants to celebrate the work mums do in supporting us all when we need it the most. To recognise a great mum you know, you can nominate your own mum – birth, foster, step or adoptive – your wife, partner, sister, daughter, grandmother, friend or someone in your community.

National ambassador for Barnardos Australia, Noni Hazlehurst AM, says, ‘I am passionate in my support of Barnardos because they work so hard at protecting our children. Without the right care and nurture a child can grow up with physical, mental and emotional problems and this is a tragedy not just for the child, but for the whole community. That’s why mums – and organisations like Barnardos – need to be celebrated.’

Nominations for the 2012 Barnardos Australia’s Mother of the Year Awards close on 10 February, 2012. To nominate a great mum go to www.motheroftheyear.org.au

Twitter cue: 31,500 children were abused or neglected in 2010-11. Help us champion good parenting. Nominate a great mum now www.motheroftheyear.org.au

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012. *Child protection Australia 2010–11.*

***Ibid.*

- Ends -

Media Contact:
Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia
Mobile: (0419) 272 237
Email: sofey@bigpicture.com

Notes for editors:

Barnardos is a non-government, non-denominational child welfare charity that has been helping children in need for over 120 years. Barnardos Australia is one of the largest children’s charities in the country, caring for children and young people at risk of, or suffering the effects of, abuse and neglect. The work of Barnardos Australia focuses on the prevention of abuse and neglect and entry into care. Children and young people of all backgrounds and cultural heritage are helped through a range of welfare programs including crisis care, family support, counselling and permanent foster care.

Our vision is that all children and young people will have caring families, in which they can grow up safely and reach their full potential supported by quality services and engaged communities.

For more information visit: www.barnardos.org.au