

MEDIA RELEASE

Centre's *Kid's Business* doco wins Human Rights Award

The new regional Centre for Non-Violence received word today that the *Kids' Business* documentary has earned its filmmakers Stewart Carter and Cath South of People Pictures a **Highly Recommended award in the 2009 Australian Human Rights Awards in Sydney.**

Mr. Carter, from Fryerstown, Victoria, received this commendation for the *Kids' Business* documentary which was screened on the ABC in June 2009.

The doco covers the Centre's **Solving the Jigsaw Program**, a group program that the award acknowledges helps "school children to cope with the pressures of modern life, including issues such as domestic violence."

Human Rights Commissioner **Tom Calma** said, "The program reinforced that physical and psychological safety for children were human rights that needed to be protected."

Carla Meurs, program coordinator of this Jigsaw Program for schools, students and parents, said, "Solving the Jigsaw provides a safe place where kids learn to talk about their lives, their feelings and what matters to them. As a result, kids gain confidence and certainty about what is important in relationships, such as communication, the ability to deal with conflict, and the importance of support, love and respect."

Each year the Australian Human Rights Commission awards committed women and men in our society who make significant contributions to the issues of human rights, social justice and equality.

The awards include the *Human Rights Medal*, *Young People's Human Rights Medal* and seven award categories: Law, Community (Organisation), Community (Individual), Literature (non-fiction), Print Media, Television and Radio.

The Solving the Jigsaw program has been run by EASE (Emergency Accommodation and Support Enterprise) for twelve years and is now based at the Centre for Non-Violence. It has nationally-accredited training courses that run parallel to the school programs.

To date, 80 schools have delivered Jigsaw classroom program reaching over 20,000 children and young people. Nearly 700 teachers, health and welfare professionals have participated in nationally accredited training programs.

For more information www.solvingthejigsaw.org.au

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