

# NEWS

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Keeping kids safe!



## Daniel House

**The Daniel Morcombe Foundation held the Grand Opening of Daniel House in Palmwoods, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. Bruce and Denise along with the Hon. Di Farmer officially opened Daniel House in front of 150 invited guests.**

Guests included representatives of Queensland State Government, over 100 local businesses who had contributed to the Daniel House project and friends and supporters of the Morcombe Family and Foundation.

Daniel House is now the Foundation's National Office and includes the "Walk Tall" Program which offers free counselling services for child survivors of crime.

"We will be delivering free Child Counselling for the youngsters that have had a start to life that is not right in a modern Australia. Repairing these damaged lives and setting them on a path that will see them flourish is just so rewarding. This service is not just in Palmwoods but also reaches from Gympie to Caboolture" said Denise.



Based on the Sunshine Coast, Daniel House will continue to deliver its' Keeping Kids Safe programs and resources and coordinate Australia's Largest National Day of Action on child safety awareness Day for Daniel.

Bruce said "Daniel's final resting place is just a few hundred metres from our ceremony this morning. Palmwoods has been, is and will continue to be the emotional heart of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation."

The State Government provided \$900,000 in funding to help complete the build. Over 100 local businesses from the Sunshine Coast have been very generous in contributing approximately \$500,000 to the project making this a strong community project.

Minister Farmer said she was honoured to join with Bruce and Denise for the Daniel House opening and to provide State Government funding towards its construction.



"I know this beautiful building and the ongoing work of the foundation will be a lasting legacy to Daniel," she said. "Bruce and Denise and all those involved in the Foundation should be rightly proud of the space they have created here and of their ongoing commitment to keeping our children safe."

"I look forward to hearing more about the great work that will be undertaken here."



Holly Brennan, CEO of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation said "It is a privilege to have a home. A home that has been built by community to help children across Australia to grow up free from abuse. Daniel House will honour Daniel's legacy. We will work every day to prevent and respond to child abuse from our new hub."

Thank you everyone who has supported the build, we couldn't have done it without you. Visit [HouseForDaniel.com.au](http://HouseForDaniel.com.au) for the full thank you list and to see more photos.

# Dance for Daniel

**Well, we certainly painted the town red! The 9<sup>th</sup> of March saw our 14<sup>th</sup> Dance for Daniel, again held in the majestic, Brisbane City Hall.**

With Sophie Monk and Matty Acton as MC's, performances from the ever-suave Tap Pack, powerhouse voice Casey Barnes, hilarious Mel Buttle and our favourites, the Band of Blue, it was another unforgettable night raising funds for child safety education. Download the photos on our website [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au).

## Morky Awards

**Congratulations to the 2019 winners of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation Morky Award, Sophie Monk, Kim Skubris and Murphy Builders.**

## A mother's message

**A strong mum joined us at Dance for Daniel 2019 to share her story about why child safety education and teaching children how to Recognise, React and Report is so important. *Trigger warning, this story talks about child abuse material.***

"Our daughter attended a small regional primary school in Central Queensland with around 100 students. At the end of the 2017 school year, her Year 6 class were getting ready for swimming.

The teacher told her that the toilets were full, and channelled her to the disabled toilets. As our daughter was changing, she noticed that there was a small digital camera in the transparent side pocket, and it was recording.

This is where the Daniel Morcombe Training quite literally changed our lives. **Recognise. React. Report.** At this stage, although countless scenarios may have occurred.

*Scenario 1 - Lack of Recognition.* As a naive 12 year old girl, our daughter may have looked at the camera, and thought "Oooh – a camera. Well that's weird!" and carried on with her day. Her teacher would never have been exposed, and potentially lived a long & happy existence exploiting children.

*Scenario 2 – Lack of Reaction.* Our daughter realised that the camera was a threat, however was too scared to alert anyone to its presence. By the time she got home from school and told me, there would have been no recourse for us to take. The evidence would have been gone, and the situation hearsay. Accusations such as this are polarising, and in a small community - ostracising. As her Teacher was a well respected & trusted member of the community, I believe our lives would have been pulled apart and my little girl destroyed.

*Scenario 3 – Our very real outcome.* Our daughter recognised this threat to her safety for what it was - the actions of a paedophile. By her own admission, she was "the most scared she's ever been" yet took herself to the office to report it to the principal. He attended the toilet and confirmed that the camera was there and recording. Which brings us to the trifecta - *Recognise, React & Report.*

These scenarios highlight the fact that if any one of these three processes were missing, the results would have been devastating. Our daughter's ability to recognise this threat to herself and have the processes to report it correctly were the direct results of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Training. Our family simply cannot thank you enough for giving her the resources to protect herself.

The school's initial response was swift and thorough. The school was put into lock down, and a team was sent out to process the school, the classroom, and all internal technology. Our daughter's teacher was terminated on the spot.

/ Mother

Kids Helpline - **1800 55 1800**  
Lifeline Australia - **13 11 14**  
Respect - **1800 737 732**





# School visits 2019

## What a couple of cracker schools to start the year.

Bellmere State School and Australian Christian College Moreton (Caboolture) recently played host to child safety advocates Bruce and Denise Morcombe.

Returning in their official capacity as Queensland Child Safety Ambassadors, the Morcombes challenged students to think of safe and unsafe situations. They were also asked to ponder a simple test that differentiates the real world and the online world. "Sometimes in life you are doing the right thing and trouble wants to find you.

If it does, you need to talk with adults on your Safety Network, and always remember to Recognise, React and Report anytime you feel unsure or unsafe."



# Scouts program

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has produced the Keeping Kids Safe Program for Scouts, to support young people to develop personal safety skills and have the ability to Recognise, React and Report when they feel unsafe. The Mount Cotton Scout Group are the first to have completed the program and received their Keeping Kids Safe badges.

Denise said "Providing children with the opportunity to develop safety skills is one of the most precious gifts we can give to them and to ourselves."

Cub Scout Leader David Bates said "I'm so proud of my Cub Scouts who have really engaged with the program beyond my highest hopes. They have walked out of here 10 feet taller."

# Silver medal

"Day for Daniel" received a silver award in the community-led category of the 2018 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards (ACVPA). The Awards recognise best practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia.

Daniel Morcombe Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Holly Brennan said that Day for Daniel is Australia's largest child safety and awareness raising day.

"We want to make Australia a safer place for all children. Our overall goal is to prevent children from experiencing abuse or if they have, helping them to identify this and talk to an adult who can help them".



These annual awards recognise the outstanding contributions being made across Australia for crime prevention, including the development and implementation of practical projects to reduce violence and other types of crime in the community. The awards are a joint initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments, coordinated by the Australian Institute of Criminology and co-sponsored by the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management.

# Kokoda Trek fundraiser

In April, together, Dean and Brad Morcombe will be taking on the Kokoda Trek. "It will challenge both of us mentally and physically but we are doing it for a cause. We are passionate about Keeping Kids Safe", say the brothers.

ACT for Kids and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation are collaborating to support young victims of crime. Together we offer the Walk Tall program that provides free counselling for children.

"We want to make a difference. Please assist us to help as many children as possible by giving whatever you can" says Dean. Please go to [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au) and follow the links to the Everyday Hero page to support this cause.

All funds raised go to help kids.



## Unitywater Grandparents Together project

After a well-contested public vote, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has been named the winner of Unitywater's Community Stories competition.

The 18 local organisations that received support through Unitywater's Community Sponsorship Program in 2018 had the chance to receive a second round of funding this year. Each group told the story of their community project in a short video produced by Unitywater and the community was asked to pick their favourite. The competition received 1364 votes and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation will now receive an additional \$10,000 towards their Grandparents Together Initiative, which was developed in response to a growing need to support grandparents who had become carers for children.

Daniel Morcombe Foundation CEO, Holly Brennan said: "Feeling safe and being safe is an activity booklet that has been developed specifically for grandparent families. It will help grandparents have conversations about personal safety with their grandchildren."



## Thank you!

These are some amazing people and companies that support our work keeping kids safe. Thank you!



WOW - \$70 000 raised on Day for Daniel 2018 by Bidfood Australia. The Foundation is honoured to have this national hardworking organisation on our Team DMF - for the past 11 years, every year, they raise more to help #KeepKidsSafe Thank you!



Thank you to the Commonwealth Bank for the \$10 000 Community Grant. These funds will be used to produce new educational resources.



McCormick Foods Australia kindly donated \$1 400 towards educational resources for children and families.



In lieu of Secret Santa or the exchange of Christmas gifts, the team at Unique Health Products hosted a fundraising morning tea and raised over \$700 for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Fantastic idea. We thank you all.



Bruce visited the Mapleton Mens Shed and appreciated the warm welcome from all the guys. Over \$400 was raised at the Luncheon. Thank you.



### Springfree Trampoline

Thank you for donating \$6,700 last year from your Christmas Eve Premium Installation and for always giving us a Trampoline for the silent auction at Dance for Daniel. You rock!

### BADGE Constructions

Thank you for donating \$1 000 to help us develop new safety resources.

### Sci-Fleet Toyota

Thank you Sci-Fleet Toyota for your fundraising efforts throughout the year. We appreciate the donations you have made to the Foundation and your support of Dance for Daniel.

### McGrath Caloundra

Thank you for donating \$500 from a house sale.

## Events

### Day for Daniel

Australia's biggest child safety awareness event will be held on 25 October 2019. Wear red, educate & donate.

### Walk for Daniel

The walk will kickstart Day for Daniel 2019 and will be held on 25 October on the Sunshine Coast.

### Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson

Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson will be broadcast on Day for Daniel. You can watch it on YouTube and our website. More info coming soon.