



COMMUNITY NEWS

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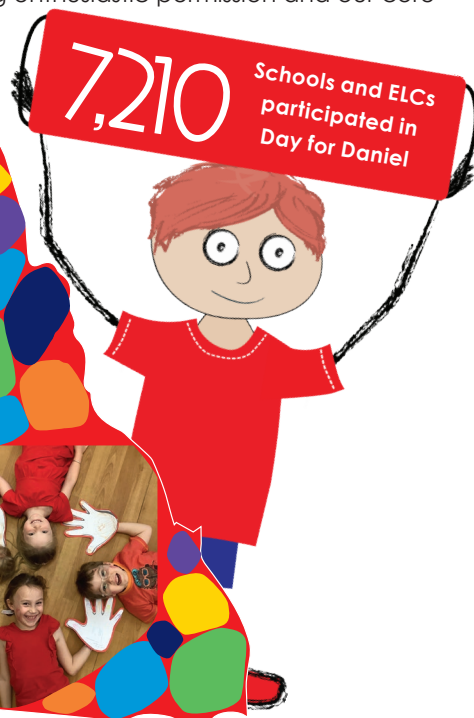
Record breaking Day for Daniel!

Day for Daniel continues to flourish with **7,210 schools and early learning centres** participating and educating children about personal safety. Hundreds of businesses, community groups and individuals also joined in across Australia. 2023 was all about consent and over 2 million people Australia-wide were part of the conversation in seeking enthusiastic permission and our core messaging of recognise, react and report!

Day for Daniel



15 Million
people reached
through tv, radio
print and online



A message from Bruce and Denise

What an astonishing success Day for Daniel is! From humble beginnings way back in 2005, with Denise personally appealing to schools to get involved, it has become a juggernaut promoting child protection initiatives on a national scale. It sends a shiver down my spine to think about the countless lives saved from abuse over this time.

Bruce recently spoke to a young parent who approached him in the supermarket. He said, "You and Denise came to his school in 2006 to spruik the merits of Day for Daniel." Now a parent himself, he credited Day for Daniel with changing not only his life, but now that of his children. Daniel's legacy lives on!

Over
2 Million
people participated in
Australia's largest child
safety awareness day

Coming up...

23 March 2024
Dance for Daniel

3 September 2024
ABC SL

25 October 2024
Walk for Daniel
Day for Daniel



1300 326 435
admin@DanielMorcombe.com.au
DanielMorcombe.com.au

Walk for Daniel proudly supported by BOQ Maroochydore

This year's Walk was truly special, with **over 1,200 members** of the community coming together to support Bruce, Denise and the Foundation on the Sunshine Coast.



Seventy VIP's were in attendance including The Hon. Peter Dutton, Opposition Leader and The Hon. Craig Crawford, who both shared their commitment to child safety. Messages from the Prime Minister, Governor General, and Queensland Premier emphasised the importance of keeping our kids safe and our special relationship with all sides of politics.

Each year the Walk launches the national Day for Daniel, a day when our community unites to protect the most vulnerable among us. The event continues to shine a light on child safety, ensuring that the memory of Daniel Morcombe lives on. We extend our gratitude to all participants, volunteers, staff and supporters for making this event a resounding success. **Together, we can make a difference.**



My Walk for Daniel 2023

*My Walk for Daniel has finished for 2023, and we are thrilled with the community support our participants have received. Everyone who took part raised over **\$12,500** to help keep kids safe around Australia.*

Our Top Individual Fundraiser and lucky winner of a red medium oval **Springfree Trampoline** is **Lynda Meikle from WA**. Lynda our 2022 highest fundraiser and a former police officer, has again walked for 24 hours non-stop around her local primary school and says "this event sparks many impactful conversations about the importance of personal safety, that if something doesn't feel right - it probably isn't." Lynda is donating the trampoline to a family in the WA community who lost everything in the recent WA bushfires.

Team Avant took out our top team for fundraising and won a \$500 The Good Guys voucher! Congratulations to everyone who completed the walk, contributed to fundraising and started having conversations about child safety.



Dance for Daniel 23 March 2024

Join us for the 19th Dance for Daniel as we again light up the city in red at Brisbane City Hall in honour of Daniel.

Enjoy a delightful three-course dinner including beer and wine, as well as sensational entertainment! We will have live and silent auction items going under the hammer, and raffles to win some fantastic prizes. Early bird tickets are available until 12 January, unless sold out prior! **This is the hottest ticket on the calendar in 2024.**

Get in quick to secure your tables and save – tickets are available at **DanielMorcombe.com.au**



Bright Futures

The Bright Futures project travelled to each state and territory over the year delivering forums and workshops to professionals addressing the issues of problematic and harmful sexual behaviours (PHSB), technology assisted harmful sexual behaviours (TA-HSB) and child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Bright Futures workshops are a space for learning and building connections with the primary purpose of keeping children safe from sexual abuse. Bright Futures workshops explore what harmful sexual behaviours are, their impact on children, families and communities and how we can best respond through a public health approach. The workshops were delivered by leaders in the field including the fabulous Maree Crabbe, Dr Wenn Lawson, Professor Daryl Higgins, Douglas Russell and Kayelene Kerr.



Bright Futures forums bring together sector leaders, practitioners and high-level stakeholders to collaborate and share best and promising practice on emerging issues in the field of child sexual abuse.

The aim of the forums is to share knowledge across multi-sectors that includes education, law enforcement, child safety and health. The forums this year heard from dozens of national and international experts in the field with the highlight of the year being the presentation from Professor Simon Hackett of Durham University. To have Professor Simon Hackett, who first developed the continuum of sexual behaviours in children attend and present at the launch of our Bright Futures Project, was an acknowledgement of the importance of the broad body of work taking place on this subject across the country.

Along with the workshops and forums the Bright Futures project also delivered 14 podcast episodes to the Keeping Kids Safe channel and 7 webinars. We are so grateful to the 31 individuals who lent us their expertise in the realm of child safety offering a range of advice, support and guidance in their specialist fields for parents, carers, educators and professionals to access. It's an exciting time to be in the sector and the Bright Futures Team can't wait to do it all again in 2024.

Join the Bright Futures Communities of Practice to stay up to date <https://bright-futures.com.au/>



Walk Tall

This year the Daniel Morcombe Foundation established its own inhouse walk tall counselling program to support children, their parents and carers who have experienced, or are at risk of physical or sexual harm including children who have witnessed a homicide. Currently we have two counsellors in this program who work within a trauma and healing informed framework.

Keeping Kids Safe: School Visits

Denise and Bruce returned to what they always say is their most enjoyable task at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in Term 4.

Yes, they were back in the saddle visiting school students in the Bundaberg, Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast regions. The kids, the teachers, the school staff, the parents were often ablaze in red clothing making the connection with Daniel's memory. But more to the point were the key safety messages delivered and the engagement of the students. Checkout all our free videos and resources online over the holidays danielmorcombe.com.au



The Lott by Golden Casket

At the completion of Walk for Daniel, The Lott by Golden Casket team presented Bruce, Denise and the Foundation a donation of \$300,000 from Golden Casket unclaimed prize money for the fifth year in a row. This takes the total donations to the Foundation to \$1.5 million.

The donation will help the Foundation to continue to grow awareness of child safety through key events such as the Day for Daniel with the Lott Partnerships Manager, Liz McPherson hoping that this donation will allow the Foundation to continue to break these records.

"The incredible reach and impact that the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is having across the nation continues to grow and we are proud to continue our support of their vital work."

Bruce Morcombe said, "Partnerships like this provide the heartbeat that enable us to continue our valuable community work."

Denise Morcombe said, "The generosity of The Lott is enormous. Nothing is more highly valued than growing Daniel's legacy. Every cent is channelled back into keeping children safe."

Thanks you so much to The Lott for their generosity and continued support!



FROM LITTLE THINGS, big things grow...

After listening to a podcast by Bruce and Denise about the impact Daniel's abduction and murder has had on their family, The Parsons family of Total Property Group was so moved they decided to come onboard to support the Foundation.

Initially becoming a High Five Club member, then attending Dance for Daniel in March, the team went onto champion a team of 100 in the Gold Coast Marathon raising over \$50,000 for the Foundation.

Believing strongly in the work of the Foundation, the team at Total Property Group then decided to hold a fundraising dinner on the Gold Coast and the inaugural Red Ball was held on the Gold Coast on Saturday 18 November, 2023.

Over 320 guests were treated to an elegant evening including a performance by the Gold Coast Youth Orchestra, an incredible array of auction items and entertainment by ARIA nominated band Pacific Avenue.

MC, Olympic Swimmer, Brooke Hanson shared her first-hand experience of the Foundation's Child Safety Education activities and resources.

The glamorous and generous Gold Coast attendees raised over \$200,000 for The Foundation. Our sincere thanks to Total Property Group, Calleija Jewellers, GC Waverunners, The Langham Hotel and Sunstate Motorcycles.

We welcome Karen and Adrian to our Foundation family and their commitment to keeping Aussie kids safe.



Holiday Safety tips



The holiday period can bring up a range of emotions for our young people. It is important for them to learn how to express and manage their feelings in a healthy way.

Suggestions include:

1. Know they are having a feeling - being able to identify that a feeling is occurring can often assist them in help-seeking.
2. Name the feeling - knowing what the feeling is can provide a sense of relief and help them articulate what is going on.
3. Understand the cause of the feeling - understanding what is triggering feelings can assist in reducing anxiety and seeking help.

The best time to discuss these steps is when the young person is not experiencing a crisis moment.



Christmas Message

May Christmas bring your family peace and happiness over the festive season.

Let's all simultaneously press the pause button, catch our breath and never lose sight of what is really important to each and everyone of us. Merry Christmas and we hope 2024 brings you many smiles and much happiness.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation office will be closed from 4pm Friday 22 December, until Tuesday 2 January 2024.



The 7th of December 2023, marks a sad and reflective time for all connected with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Daniel's passing is now 20 years.