

MEDIA ALERT
13 November 2009

Prime Minister to open Child Abuse Conference on Sunday

Asia Pacific Conference in Perth 15 to 18 Nov 2009

APCCAN 2009, Asia Pacific Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is being held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, commencing with an Official Welcoming Ceremony at 5pm on Sunday 15 November.

The conference, which is hosted by **NAPCAN, the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect** will bring together approximately 700 researchers, professionals and practitioners from across the Asia Pacific region to focus on the critical issue of the prevention of child abuse.

The program will run over 4 days including 5 Keynote Addresses from notable international speakers plus over 200 professional presentations. A detailed program is available at: www.apccan2009.org.au

In addition the Conference will feature an innovative online program to engage children and young people throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

The **Young Participants Program** has been planned and will be run by the young people themselves. They will interview key delegates in the face-to-face program and provide commentary to be uploaded to a special Facebook site created to communicate with their extensive online audience.

Key features of the Conference will include:

- **Official Welcome by the Hon Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia** (via video) - 5pm Sunday 15
- **Opening by the Hon Robyn McSweeney, MLC, WA Minister for Child Protection and Community Services** – 9am Monday 16
- **Dinner Address by Therese Rein, NAPCAN's National Children's Champion** – 7pm Tuesday 17 November

A media room will be made available at the Conference and interviews with speakers, members of the Conference Organising Committee and NAPCAN representatives can be arranged.

For further information and interviews please contact:
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About NAPCAN:

NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) is Australia's leading advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. NAPCAN's goal is to bring about the changes necessary in individual and community behaviour and in government policy to stop abuse and neglect before it starts.

NAPCAN also works directly with children and young people conducting innovative programs to strengthen protective behaviours, build resilience and life skills. NAPCAN also assists 'at risk' parents through face-to-face programs and works in local communities building inclusive networks and strengthening local support for children and families. A charity, NAPCAN is governed by a national board with the support of professional sub-committees and state and territory councils.

www.napcan.org.au