

# NEWS

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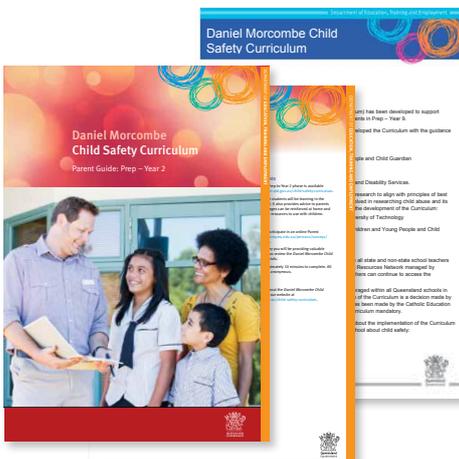
Keeping kids safe!



## Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum

A personal survey by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation of quite a number of Queensland schools has indicated broad support by school Principals and Teachers for the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum.

Further to this, Bruce and Denise were enormously proud of the positive direct feedback they received at a recent visit to Park Ridge State School and Regents Park State School as part of their schools presentation initiative.



### Curriculum Passes Test

In a survey of school principals in Queensland conducted in October 2014 the comments indicated that the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum is highly valued by staff in schools and is of benefit to students.

Although the sample of returned feedback forms was relatively low and as such one cannot rely on these numbers as comprehensive proof; it does however deliver a clear indication.

The Curriculum was rolled out in 3 distinct phases. Prep to Year 2; Year 3 to Year 6; Year 7 to Year 9.

Of the school responses received at Education Queensland, a surprisingly high number of Prep to Year 2 and Year 3 to Year 6 teachers had implemented the child safety lessons. Year 7 to 9 were a distant third.

In response to a question about how useful the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum has been in developing knowledge for students about child safety 21% said it was *Useful* and 79% *Very Useful*. No school answered in the negative.

Further responses are as follows:

**Has there been a change in student disclosures following the implementation?**  
0% Decrease; 82% No Change; 18% Increase.

**Would you recommend the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum to other schools?**  
100% replied Yes.

Enthusiastic appraisal of the teacher's guide and parent's information by the teachers gave Bruce and Denise tremendous pleasure. These are the very people who deliver the program to students. They felt that if there were problems, or the program had a negative impact on children, the teachers would have told them immediately.

Without a moment's hesitation the teaching staff at both schools said the program was great; very comprehensive, and as such, would recommend it to other schools who had not adopted it in their curriculum.

Catholic Education in the Rockhampton and Toowoomba dioceses clearly are of the same opinion having made the public announcement that the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum will be compulsory at all of their schools in these geographical areas.

Momentum is strong and it is our desire that the Curriculum be adopted at every school Australia wide. Ask the question, if you are a parent or teacher with connection to a school that has not adopted this program; "Why isn't it being taught here?"



Here are a cluster of comments that underline the overwhelmingly positive feedback returned in the survey initiated by the Queensland Premier and Education Minister at the request of Bruce and Denise Morcombe from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

- An excellent resource for teachers and teacher aides.
- Great resources, promoting lots of discussion with students.
- Builds knowledge for children. Some students had little awareness of danger in situations.
- We have found the program to have been extremely well written and an easy resource from which to teach.
- The curriculum has been implemented successfully across the school. The resources provided are highly valued by our teachers, as is the program.
- Small school of P-2 and 3-7 classes. Rural community. Parents very positive about the introductory session.
- The work that has gone into this valuable resource is great. Thank you to those involved.



The Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum was written by Education Queensland in partnership with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and a number of government departments, non-government organisations and highly credentialed individual educators. It was rolled out in 2012 and 2013 and is recommended to be taught at all State Schools, Independent and Catholic Schools in Queensland.

The Curriculum has been recommended by Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne to be included in the National Curriculum under the Health and Physical Education section and Technology section.

The Curriculum is available now to every school in Australia. For more details please visit our website: [danielmorcombe.com.au](http://danielmorcombe.com.au)

# Parent's Endorsement of Child Safety Curriculum

Email received early June 2015.

Hello, I wanted to share a little light in horrific circumstances my family recently encountered. My daughter is 7 years old and attends a State School in QLD and has been doing the Daniel Morcombe safety lessons in class.

My daughter was sexually abused by her Uncle not long after she had been taking part in this program. Because of the program and the education she has received she was able to alert me to what was occurring at the time of the incident, preventing anything worse occurring. I was able to get all my children to safety and contact the police.

My daughter was able to talk with police and make a statement resulting in the offender being charged and soon to be appear in court. My daughter is now receiving counselling to help her. I truly am thankful for the wonderful program you offer schools. Without this knowledge my daughter would have had no idea what was happening or that it was even wrong!

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. What you do to educate children about personal safety is priceless. This knowledge has saved my daughter from worse things that was about to happen that night, luckily she yelled out and woke me. What you do in your son Daniel's honour is truly amazing. You are helping all children to be safe - the most important thing in life.

Thank you xxx (Names and other details have been removed for privacy reasons / DMF)

## School Visits

**A new school year has arrived and in the blink of an eye it seems Term 1 is done and dusted. Bang Easter is here!**

School visits during second term continued in 2 States. A week long Tasmanian trip was sponsored by the Salvation Army and their schedule also included a full day child safety expo in the Bridgewater Community Centre.



In total some 11 schools in the rural areas in southern Tasmania benefited from the talks. These included; Bagdad Primary School, Triabunna District High School, Gagebrook Primary School, Molesworth Primary School, Fairview Primary School, New Norfolk Primary School, Ouse District Primary School, Hardsman Cove Primary School, St Pauls Catholic Primary School, Orford Primary School, Swansea Primary School.

While in New Norfolk, Denise and Bruce called into the Ptunarra and Family Centre to visit some long term friends there. In the parkland located immediately alongside is a commemorative plaque and tree dedicated to Daniel.



School visits also continued in South East Queensland with student presentations to; Grace Lutheran Rothwell, Narangba State School, St Joseph's Primary Corinda, St Paul's Bald Hills, St Andrew's Lutheran College Tallebudgera, Southern Cross Catholic College Delaney (Woody Point), Southern Cross Catholic College Frawley

(Scarborough), Southern Cross Catholic College (Redcliffe), Park Ridge High School, Park Ridge Primary School, Yugmbir State School, Regents Park School, Rathdowney



State School, Chatswood Hills State School, St Mary's Catholic School Beaudesert plus others. Home Schooled students did not to

miss out, as a presentation was organised at Sharks Stadium Gold Coast specifically for them. It proved highly successful with around 100 students attending and a similar number of parents also engaging in the hour long information session.



## Filming Starts on New DVD Messages

**In an expanded supplement to be added to all future 'Keeping Kids Safe' child safety resource kits will be newly filmed supplements targeting 2 very specific groups of children:**

- **Children with Special Needs (mild to moderate)**
- **Children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage**

Throughout their travels to regional and remote communities as well as Capital cities Bruce and Denise are constantly approached by parents asking if we had or could recommend content or a program that was designed for children with special needs. Clearly the demand was there, and after doing a variety of searches with different agencies and online this seemed to be area in which the DMF could help.

Bruce and Denise have also visited countless schools with high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student numbers. Again after much consultation with community elders, teachers, industry sector workers, and parents a need was identified and the DMF will be there front and centre to help.

Daniel's legacy is very powerful and making a difference. His tragic story and the work of the DMF is far reaching. The formula of linking Daniel's case with that of personal safety is such a unique combination and clearly has cut-through to all layers which make up the Australian family landscape.

Both new components are due for release in September this year. Please stay tuned for more news updates in the months ahead.

We thank the Murri School and Claremont Special School, Family Planning Queensland and Epix Productions for their considerable contributions to this work.



## Cultural Experience

To gain a first-hand experience with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people members of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation attended a Cultural Day at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The following day we were off to the Woorabinda Community where Bruce and Denise spoke to the students at Woorabinda Primary School and the Wadja Wadja High School. They also engaged in discussions with the local community and elders.

"This was a life changing experience that will be put to good use. We are far better equipped to understand the needs and issues which confront the original inhabitants of Australia every day." Denise said.



"This is particularly important information given the projects the Foundation is undertaking at the moment." Bruce added. Our thanks to Auntie Bev, Uncle Henry and Uncle Harry, Associate Professor Christian Jones, plus most importantly the entire Woorabinda Community who made the Morcombe's most welcome.

## Department Classes for Victims of Crime

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation recently funded Styling from the Inside Out. The 4 day self-leadership course which utilises styling and deportment had been designed specifically by a private consultant in conjunction with child safety officers for young girls with an abuse background.

Activities covered: grooming; personal styling; body language and posturing; social and dining etiquette.

The program included activities that get the young people to explore internal feelings leading to behaviours that can hold them back and encourages them to challenge negative self-images and to take control through techniques such as positive self-talk.

In essence the program is designed to improve self-esteem and confidence.

The program also looks at external aspects such as presentation that have an impact on how people perceive you.

On the final day Denise attended the graduation and high tea where the girls were introduced to etiquette.



## QLD Police Endorse 'Keeping Kids Safe' DVD

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation's Child Safety DVD is receiving incredible acknowledgement from all levels for its sensitive but forthright manner in educating children and parents on how to keep safe.

Indeed the Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart has advised in correspondence dated 27<sup>th</sup> April; "The resource kits will be used by police officers as part of complimentary crime prevention and safety products. I am confident that the resources will be embraced and utilised by my Officers given the quality of the program. The Queensland Police Service endorses 'Keeping Kids Safe' on that basis."

## Get Amped

Another successful initiative that has helped other young people affected by crime was the 'Get Amped' program.

Many local businesses in Nambour, including Shake It Up Music, supported the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in our efforts to provide an outlet of expression. The music course was professionally run by industry people who also wanted to point them in a healthy direction.



At the graduation presentation where Bruce and Denise awarded certificates to participants Bruce commented; "One size does not fit all. This course has broadened your life experiences in a healthy way.

Square pegs do not fit into round holes. Perhaps we have matched you with a career or interest that will take you on a journey which will bring you enormous pleasure."

The students sang or played instruments with such confidence you knew it was a life changing event for them.

Well done to all involved. We acknowledge the support of the Caloundra Child Safety team.

## 'Mothers of Boys'

An interesting opportunity arose for Denise earlier this year that she accepted. Being a mother of 3 boys and no girls Denise was approached by DMF Patron Kay McGrath, who is a mother of boys too, to be key note speaker in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney at the 'Mothers of Boys' events.



Always looking to engage new people in our support network Denise accepted the opportunity as it also would help in raising vital funds as well as the DMF's profile.

We thank Di O'Rielly and all the ladies on the Governance Committee of Mothers of Boys for the opportunity and Denise reports that it was not all hard work. Meeting so many caring ladies while enjoying lunch with a laugh at salubrious establishments is not that hard to take.

Denise commented; "It was fun sharing stories about our sons and showing how they were typical boys while growing up."

## "HELP ME" App Works!

Connie Alfonso-Tziros an M.S. survivor recently wrote to us:

"Hello Mr and Mrs Morcombe. I just wanted to let you all know that I used your app today....I was having an anxiety attack and I was home alone with my 3 year old daughter....I remembered I down loaded your app a few weeks ago....I could not talk so I pushed help and message was sent to my husband George and father in law Frank! All I can say is Thank you! Your family helped me today!! Thank you"

In an article on the front page of the Hume Leader newspaper on March 31, Connie describes how she first felt numbness on her face before being left blind in one eye overnight. The mother of 3 is a well-respected community person who is driven to assist others affected by M.S.



Footnote: The 'Help Me' phone app is ideal for children and teens but clearly not limited to them. It is suitable for everyone who wishes to improve their personal safety. If you are a shift worker or a person with a medical condition then this will benefit you greatly too.

Visit [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au) for more details. The APP is Free to Download.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Day for Daniel

PLAY YOUR PART. FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.  
Register your support now.

It is free and with no obligation. Visit: [DayforDaniel.com.au](http://DayforDaniel.com.au) This year the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has embarked on a very strategic social media campaign. A 'Thumbs-Up' initiative was launched during school's second term which allowed a visual show of support if a school was registered and supporting Day for Daniel 2015 on October 30.



Businesses also were asked to join the campaign and show that they too were supporting our child safety awareness day.



## Kids for Kids Day

Kids For Kids Day presented by AAT Kings promises a fun, educational day out for the whole family.

AAT Kings hope to help spread the important message of child safety, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at Featherdale Wildlife Park, Sydney. Tickets include entry to the park, entertainment, transfers sausage sizzle lunch, showbag for each guest, Daniel Morcombe Educational pack, event T-Shirt for each child. Tickets are \$20 for kids and \$35 for adults, family passes available visit [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au) for more info.

## United for Daniel

Woombye Snakes Football Club is happy to announce that the annual United for Daniel Day is back on again and we have secured the day at our own home fields in Woombye on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.

There will be soccer games all day from 9am with the main game kicking off at 6pm. Canteen and a bar open for refreshments. Join us and help spread awareness for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

## Where Is Daniel? – A Family's Story

Sales of the book 'Where is Daniel' continue to be very strong. In fact the 1<sup>st</sup> edition is almost sold out.

The Australian 'Best Seller' tells the story of the Morcombe family and their search to find Daniel. Available at all good booksellers and online. Published by Pan MacMillan.

## Dates to Remember

2 – 8 August  
Missing Person's Week  
6 – 12 September  
Child Protection Week  
24 Oct – 1 Nov  
Children's Week  
30 Oct  
Day for Daniel

## Mackay 'Dance for Daniel'



Lock in the date now and get a few friends together; join us for a special night of fun and fine dining.

Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> at the MECC. Details on our website: [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au).

## Plenty happening in Townsville

**DMF Charity Golf Day:**  
31<sup>st</sup> July at Rowes Bay Golf Club

**Dance for Daniel:**  
Jupiters Casino will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Townsville 'Dance for Daniel'. Always a rip roaring event with laughs and great entertainment, please come along and help support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September starting at 6pm More info will be available on our website soon.



## Sunday Funday for Daniel

Our second Sunday Funday was held in Townsville on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015. It was another huge success with several thousand people coming out to enjoy the big family day. The colour red was proudly worn by the local community and it certainly was a beautiful sight.

We were very lucky this year to have special guest Bruce Morcombe, who was absolutely amazing, the community loved meeting him and all the businesses involved were all so thankful that Bruce met and thanked each of them.

We had more than 75 incredible businesses involved on the day and the total amount raised was just over \$7500. Most importantly we were able to raise awareness of child safety and help support the important work the Daniel Morcombe Foundation continue to do.

My husband and I started this fun filled event for that main reason to do what we could to teach our children and our local community the importance of child safety. Expecting to just have our jumping castle business involved and a sausage sizzle, it all of sudden was a huge event everybody was talking about. We were very overwhelmed with the support of local businesses for the event last year and this year it doubled in size.

Thank you to Bruce & Denise and all the team at The Daniel Morcombe Foundation for all the incredible work you all do and for allowing us to help keeping our kids safe.

- Emily Osborne

