



## BRISBANE SOUTH DIVISION AWARDED AUSTRALIAN SPIRIT PRIZE

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009**

Brisbane South Division was recently awarded the **Australian Spirit Prize** by the Sunnybank and District RSL Sub Branch. Dr Christine McAuliffe, President of the Brisbane South Division accepted the prize for the division. Mr Alan Griffiths the Commonwealth Minister for Veteran Affairs presented the award.

This award is made to a school or community organisation or group who through its general activities or through a specific project of service to the local community demonstrate a commitment to supporting local community, enhancing quality of life of the local community, building the capacity of the local community to care for itself and clear ethos of Service.

“This award is in recognition of Brisbane South Divisions contribution to the life of the local community across the region particularly through its work in the Connecting Communities program”, said Robert Lippiatt the President of the RSL Sub Branch at Sunnybank. “Under this program Brisbane South is providing support and training to schools and other groups in our community with young people and families who are under stress or at risk”.

Dr Christine McAuliffe, Brisbane South Division President said, “we are very proud to receive this accolade which has not been awarded since 2007. This is a direct reflection of the community support we are receiving for programs the Division has been running to support local communities, particularly our Connecting Communities program which has directly impacted an estimated 13,000 families in the region”.

Connecting Communities works with the Indigenous community, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and disadvantaged young people to provide more sustainable supports for those people in the Brisbane South region suffering from a mental illness and their families. By engaging with the existing supports and services in the community to encourage collaborations, linkages and partnerships, Connecting Communities hopes to make it easier for people to access the most appropriate care for them.

Dr McAuliffe said “ this program uses evidenced- based interventions including Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, FRIENDS for Life and Mental Health First Aid with the aim of prevention, early intervention and linking families and communities to resources and services.”

“In the Brisbane South area,” says program manager Sue Pope,” we are fortunate enough to have hundreds of identified community groups, ranging from those with a specific special interest to large cultural groups.”

“All of these community groups play an important role in maintaining the social health and well-being of people. By encouraging collaborations, linkages and referral pathways between all those who support people who suffer from a mental illness – including the health, education, employment, welfare and housing sectors – the experience of the patient will be a more streamlined and comprehensive experience.”

For Further information:

**Brisbane South Division Limited**

Sue Pope – Team Leader

PH: 3274 1886

FAX: 3274 1930

Email: [spope@brisbanesouth.com.au](mailto:spope@brisbanesouth.com.au)