



Media Release
26 January 2021

Bernadette Black – Appointment Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Brave Foundation CEO and Founding Director Bernadette Black has been appointed as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia.

Her appointment is for significant service to youth, communities and local government in Australia.

Brave Foundation Chair Professor Maria Harries AM said: “Bernadette’s history of creativity and innovation, along with her determination and commitment to civic life, demonstrate the sort of attributes we should be encouraging in Australia.

“These qualities are emblematic of the attributes we associate with these awards.”

Mrs Black said: “Across this last decade, I have been busy across many spheres - ranging from lived expertise strategy, governance, justice and advocating for human rights.

“This honour gives testament to my broad efforts across these areas, for the betterment of each person in Australia.

“A core part of my journey was founding Brave Foundation 11-years-ago and leading this to a national scale.

“It is with true appreciation and humility that I accept my appointment as a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia.

“My most sincere and deep gratitude to my anonymous nominators/s. Thank you to every person that has championed me, challenged me, and helped me to learn.”

Most recently – since 2018 – the Brave Foundation has been offering its Federal Government-funded Supporting Expecting and Parenting Teens (SEPT) program that has supported young parents’ education, workforce participation, health, and wellbeing.

Under the trial, Brave appointed professional mentors in Darwin, Brisbane, Newcastle and Wyong in NSW, Melbourne, Geelong, and Hobart.

These mentors have supported nearly 500 expecting and parenting young people at risk of long-term welfare dependency (average age 19.7 – the youngest was 12 while the oldest was 26) and continues to support hundreds nationally. The SEPT trial was extremely successful, with funding now being sought widely to continue this vital work and build sustainability.

Research revealed 79 per cent of young parents were on long-term welfare, each costing \$648,000 in actuarial lifetime costs.

Importantly, 70 per cent of the trial's participants met their goals of re-engaging with education or work, reducing this welfare commitment, and creating socio-economic health for our nation.

For more information contact:

Jill Roche:
Chief Operating Officer 0402 769 091

Released by:
Nicolas Turner 0418 538 865