



**NCDW SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL EVENTS:**

**10 May 2010**

## **National Career Development Week in *Your* Community 17 to 23 May 2010**

During National Career Development Week 2010, a free event will be hosted by *The Smith Family* on Wednesday 19 May 2010 for Mackay and Sarina Year 10, 11 and 12 students who are beginning to consider the transition from school to the workplace or further study.

Parents and carers of local students assisted by *The Smith Family's Learning for Life* suite of learning opportunities will also be invited to the "GET THE LIFE YOU LOVE! Post-School Options Information Evening" to equip them with an understanding of the choices facing their children beyond high school. This event has been specially selected as a 2010 National Career Development Week Lead Event.

The event, which has been specially organised to coincide with National Career Development Week, will take place between 6pm and 8pm and involve an interactive session with guest speakers from CQUniversity Australia, Central Queensland Institute of TAFE (CQI TAFE), TORGAS - The Apprentice and Trainee Specialists and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA). An additional highlight of the night will be hearing of the many career paths travelled by special guest Vlad Nikolic before he became the TORGAS 2010 Mackay Regional Apprentice of the Year.

"The range and diversity of pathways available to students today is considerable and the ability for students to make informed choices about their future and access appropriate information, guidance and support, remains challenging," said *Learning for Life* worker with *The Smith Family*, Wendy Gernhoefer.

"Students' transition from school to work or further study is a key focus area for *The Smith Family* and we are working with and through community organisations and businesses to ensure students are comfortable and confident in their post-school decision making."

The event aims to:

- Encourage students to look outside the square and so consider a range of employment opportunities
- Demonstrate that there are many pathways to a successful career
- Increase awareness of the assistance available to make a smooth transition from school to employment or further study
- Present the benefits and opportunities of undertaking study at TAFE or University
- Offer information on traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities
- Provide information on *The Smith Family's* Tertiary Scholarship Scheme

CQI TAFE has generously provided the evening's venue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Restaurant, as well as offering participants savoury finger food, tea, coffee and juice. Hand baked cakes will also be enjoyed courtesy of Taste Matters – Gourmet Deli & Café. Families travelling from Sarina will receive transport thanks to Bus Fox Mackay's generous donation. Cheryl Bryan, Peer Mediation Co-ordinator Mackay State High School, has offered to volunteer on the night. All students in attendance will receive a National Career Development Week bag, pen, notepad, balloon, "Get the life you love!" brochure, calendar strip and other information on career development for each student. In addition there will be NCDW Giveaways such as caps, T-shirts, mouse pads and pencil cases.

*The Smith Family* supports up to 290 children in Mackay and Sarina, offering them access to educational support and networks which will help them reach their full potential. Together with other community organisations, *The Smith Family* helps provide equal access to opportunity for financially disadvantaged families. For further detail, or to become involved, visit [www.thesmithfamily.com.au](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au).

*Learning for Life* in South Queensland is a *National Career Development Week (NCDW)* registered event. *NCDW* is an initiative of the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA) and supported by the Federal Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

For more information about the NCDW campaign, see the attached media release or go to [www.ncdw.com.au](http://www.ncdw.com.au)

**For more information about this event:**

Wendy Gernhoefer

*Learning for Life* Worker, *The Smith Family*

Ph: 07 4957 5890

[thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au)

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