



Honorary Doctorate Recognises Triple P's International Impact

The University of Queensland (UQ) has awarded an honorary doctorate to Triple P International Director Des McWilliam for his role in disseminating the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program around the world.

At a graduation ceremony in Brisbane, Australia on Monday December 14, Mr McWilliam received an award of Doctor of the University *honoris causa*. It was one of only seven honorary doctorates awarded by UQ in 2009.

The citation noted that Mr McWilliam's efforts had helped ensure Triple P, which was developed by Professor Matt Sanders and his colleagues in UQ's Parenting and Family Support Centre (PFSC), had become the most widely disseminated, evidence-based parenting program in the world.

Triple P is now used in 17 countries — The United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Iran, Singapore, Hong Kong, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, Curacao and Australia.

The citation also acknowledged that Mr McWilliam's relationship with Triple P had provided grant leveraging, both nationally and internationally, for ongoing research by the PFSC and had supported ongoing international trials of the program.

This included the five-year study conducted by the University of South Carolina. Results published this year showed that making Triple P available to all parents led to significantly lower rates of confirmed child

abuse, fewer out-of-home placements and fewer hospitalisations from child abuse injuries, when compared to communities without access to Triple P.

Mr McWilliam, a former television news director and journalist, first became aware of Triple P in the early 1990s when he was searching for a reputable parenting intervention to use in a television series his production company was making.

With Professor Sanders, Mr McWilliam filmed the successful New Zealand documentary series *Families* and became so inspired by the impact of the parenting intervention, he launched Triple P International, which has since worked in strategic partnership with UniQuest Pty Limited to disseminate Triple P around the world.

Professor Sanders, who was the guest speaker at the University graduation ceremony, said without Mr McWilliam, tens of thousands of families around the world would not have received Triple P's help.

"Mr McWilliam has made a tremendous contribution to Triple P," said Professor Sanders.

"He is a true visionary who believes that all parents should have access to quality evidence-based parenting programs. He has worked tirelessly with UQ over many years to ensure this has become a reality".