

# Saving lives is child's play



**Mandy Copson and Angie Price**

It is somewhat appropriate that Mandy Copson and Angie Price arrive for this interview with six children in tow because of the shared passion the two mothers have for the welfare of our little ones.

Together they have formed a business, CPR HELP, aimed at teaching pre and primary school children the basics of lifesaving techniques. The business name is a clever cross - use of their names, the intent and the motto Copson, Price, Resuscitation followed by Help Every Living Person.

"I knew Angie when we both lived in Sydney and she was a pre school teacher for one of my children," explains Mandy. "We got together and the concept of this program came about.

My greatest fears as a mother are the dangers posed by swimming pools and my children injured by cars in driveways. I realised those accidents often happen when children play together.

"If my children didn't know what to do in a situation when they or one of their friends were in a life threatening situation, we reasoned no one else's children would know what to do either.

Angie takes over the story.

Because I'm in child care and Mandy is in the airline industry, we both have senior first aid and advanced first aid certificates" she says.

"That's fine if we are around but we thought it was imperative for all children to have some basic training.

"Even something as simple as teaching them how to put someone in the recovery position will go a long way towards helping someone who needs attention.

There are six simple steps which we teach in the course."

Having come up with the concept and a plan, the most difficult part was to have the course accredited by the government.

Education Queensland's supplied the two women with the necessary certification to be able to approach schools and offer their instructional program.

"The cost per child is \$10 of which a portion goes back to the school as a fund raising gesture," says Mandy.

"When you consider for less than the price of a packet of cigarettes or a couple of cups of coffee we are helping to safeguard your children and their friends it is a small price to pay.

Because young children are so eager to learn they are now going home and showing their parents the techniques they have learned at school."

It is their combined passion for this innovative approach to teaching that is so inspirational.

If this program helps in the saving of just one child it will have been worthwhile" says Angie.

We know this isn't a certificate

course and we don't pretend it is, but with a small amount of training we know the children will be better prepared to handle an emergency situation.

Without prompting one of the children says proudly: I know the DRABCD. Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, CPR and Defibrillator."

Angie explains the acronym is a way to teach the children the six steps of identifying and dealing with a potential life threatening situation.

"Obviously they aren't equipped to do defibrillation but the steps can help them systematically work through the necessary things to look for when assessing someone."

As the women say almost in unison: "What price do you put on the life of one of your children?"

Mandy continues: If this course can save a life then it has all been worthwhile.

"The courses are fun for the children and they absorb knowledge so easily it seems almost criminal not to teach them something that is literally a lifesaver."