



ON A MISSION: Lydia Fairhall is travelling to New York to attend the World Indigenous Forum.

PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM

# Lydia never shies from challenges of helping others

By JANINE HILL

NEVER say never to Lydia Fairhall. Ms Fairhall never expected to go university, and at one stage, never expected to finish, but she did both. She is now making a mark in her chosen field. As a practice co-ordinator for SunnyKids, she oversees the daily operations of the Najidah domestic violence service, the Head High support group for young people affected by suicide, the SCIPS program supporting kids and their families in Sunshine Coast primary schools, and is spearheading work to link local indigenous people with their culture. In recognition of her work, she is one of only 10 Australians invited to attend a World Indigenous Forum in the United States next month. It is not a bad achievement for

someone who finished school in Year 10.

"I was never into study then," she said.

"I was really into music. I was semi-professional by the time I was 16.

"My dad would drive me to gigs."

Ms Fairhall studied music in Brisbane, where she became interested in social justice issues, which led her to enrol in a social science degree at the University of the Sunshine Coast at age 22.

But it wasn't easy. With very little money, she started with a scrapbook and a couple of pencils and photocopied information from textbooks she could not afford to buy.

"I remember sitting out front of the lecture theatre on my first day and I was almost going to turn around and go home."

She didn't. She continued studying part-

time after the birth of her son, Araluen, now four, and graduated after six years.

Lydia combines work and motherhood with music, singing and playing guitar in the band Little Grin.

Her culture remains important to her and one of her main goals at Sunny Kids is to improve the response of services to domestic violence in Aboriginal families.

She said the World Indigenous Forum was an opportunity to catch up on what was happening with indigenous issues around the world.

"We have indigenous issues in Australia but indigenous issues are happening at a global level and if we can tap into what they are doing and share our stories, then we can learn from that as well."

SunnyKids hopes to raise \$5000 to send Ms Fairhall to New York for the forum. Phone 5451 0700 if you can help.

## LAND NOW SELLING



Includes Metricon Home Expo Savings & upgrades of up to **\$58,000<sup>^</sup>**

For illustrative purposes only

### THE DOWNSIZER'S DREAM. A BRAND NEW 200sqm HOME ON A 450sqm BLOCK FOR ONLY \$412,617\*

It's the perfect package for empty nesters, along with DINKS and first home buyers. A brand new 200sqm home on a 450sqm terrace allotment at Peregian Springs for just **\$412,617\***.

Included are floor coverings and Caesarstone benchtops, stainless steel appliances, exposed aggregate driveway and paths, full rendering, rainwater harvesting and a 5000L tank.

Package quoted is for a **Metricon Como 19** priced at **\$195,617<sup>#</sup>** built on Lot 4403 priced at **\$217,000\***. Visit the Peregian Springs Lands Sales Office for details.

PSVS10

Peregian Springs Land Sales Open 7 days  
**Phone: 1800 753 799**  
[www.peregiansprings.com.au](http://www.peregiansprings.com.au)



\*Prices current as at 13 August, 2010. Median price Terrace land \$245,000. \*\* Terms and conditions apply

