



**MEDIA RELEASE
2008**

26 November

TARA IS NUMBER ONE

Long time Interchange Outer East employee, Tara Cantwell, has won Interchange's prestigious Jean Simpson Award for 2008.

Tara won the award in the staff category for her outstanding achievements and work with Interchange and the children with disabilities and their families who are involved in the service.

The award was established to celebrate the life and achievements of the late Jean Simpson (1950 – 2002). Jean was Executive Officer of Interchange Inner East and was responsible for that agency's significant growth. She worked tirelessly for many years to best serve the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

"It was a surprise and I am delighted but there are many people working at Interchange who also deserve recognition. Jean Simpson was an amazing woman who I had the privilege of meeting and I'm honoured to receive the award in Jean's name" Ms Cantwell said.

Tara's association with Interchange started at a young age when her family first began hosting a child with Interchange's volunteer host program. At age fourteen she began volunteering on camps and activities and has progressed through the organisation as a volunteer, client support worker and employee, to the role she currently enjoys as Interchange Services Team Leader. She has also completed the circle and is now a volunteer host herself.

Tara has always been passionate about volunteers. For the past decade she has recruited, trained, nurtured and celebrated the many volunteers who regularly support children with disabilities to access Interchange's recreation programs. She is particularly passionate about the benefits of engaging young people in volunteering and one of her many achievements was her presentation of a paper on volunteering at the International Respite Conference in Paris in 2006.

For more information about Interchange or volunteering opportunities please contact 03 9758 5522 or visit www.ioe.org.au

*For more information about this release or to arrange interviews of photo sessions please contact
Sandra Leehy
Publicity
Interchange Outer East
9758 5522 0409 353 604*

