

## Media Clipping

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**DID YOU KNOW** | There were 35,895 children living in out-of-home care in Australia in 2009-2010

# Care to foster a child?

Children | Kylie Adoranti

CASEY has the highest number of children needing foster care in Melbourne's southern region, according to a Victorian children's charity.

OzChild chief executive officer Tony Pitman said Casey and Cardinia foster carers were needed urgently because both Casey and Cardinia were growing rapidly.

"When families grow, pressures increase," Mr Pitman said.

An OzChild report found Casey had 105 children needing foster

care last year in the southern region.

Mr Pitman said most people did not realise the magnitude of the problem.

Lisa Fothergill and her husband, Ian, of Pakenham, have been foster parents for almost three years to nine children and also have three boys of their own.

Mrs Fothergill said fostering was a "rewarding experience".

"Our kids find it just as exciting as Ian and I do," she said. "Having

another child in the house is great.

"At times it is hard to foster a child that feels unsettled, but I think sometimes my own kids are harder to tame."

Berwick couple Glenda and Paul Quinn both work full-time but have fostered children for 20 years.

"Foster care is very flexible and there's a lot of support from the agencies," Mrs Quinn said. "It is part of my life."

Details: OzChild. 9212 3900.



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Lisa Fothergill, of Pakenham, with her boys James, Wilson and Harrison, has been fostering children with her husband, Ian, for almost three years.

Picture: GUY THAYER N47BL751

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