

GALILEE SEEKS FOSTER FAMILIES

BY JULIE SNOOK

With more than 500 babies, children and young people living in Out of Home Care in the ACT, there is increasing pressure to address the shortage of alternative care arrangements, such as foster care.

From 13 to 19 September, Australia will acknowledge Foster Care Week, an annual event aimed at raising awareness of the need for carers throughout the nation.

Based in Pearce ACT, Galilee is calling on Canberrans to help local children in need. For more than 20 years, this not-for-profit organisation has been providing support to babies, children and young people who cannot



Foster carers Dave and Alison McCreath.

live with their families, while also providing education, support and practical advice for carers.

Local couple Dave and Alison McCreath have opened their home to almost 40 children over the past 11 years and said they wouldn't have their lives any other way.

'We have two children of our own and it was

a family decision – our daughter and son thought it was great, we wouldn't have done it otherwise,' Dave said.

Galilee chief executive officer Lynne Harwood said the organisation respects and aims to support people like Dave and Alison.

'It is a sad fact that we need more people than we have the ability to provide,' Ms Harwood said. 'We aim to provide a service as efficiently and effectively as possible with a strong emphasis on training and support.'

Two foster care information sessions will be held on 17 September at 4-5pm and 6-7pm. To book or to find out more, phone 6290 2191 or email galilee@galilee.org.au