

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### BLUE MOUNTAINS MUM A FOSTER CARER FOR 30 YEARS

Tess\* is one of the Blue Mountains' experienced foster carers. Recently turned 60, she has cared for 12 children, mostly long-term and since they were babies. Next year Tess will celebrate 30 years of being a foster carer.

But the Blue Mountains community needs more fantastic people like Tess. So this month she is appealing for more people to break the mould and consider foster caring with MacKillop Family Services in 2015.

"Life is busy but I wouldn't have it any other way", said Tess. "I love children and always wanted to help make a difference.

"When I was growing up my parents took in a child over Christmas who had no family. It was an eye-opener for me. After I had my two sons, I investigated becoming a foster carer as it was something I had always wanted to do.

"My first placement was a brother and sister aged just six months and 16 months old. They started as a short-term placement however became a longer-term placement and subsequently we were able to adopt them a few years later."

MacKillop foster carers have varied backgrounds, lifestyles and family situations. But all share a passion for improving the lives of children and young people.

There is currently an urgent need for more foster carers across the western Sydney and Blue Mountains region. There is a particular need for immediate and crisis carers, with many local kids being placed in inappropriate accommodation as a result.

MacKillop provides all foster carers with ongoing support, training and regular breaks.

To find out more about becoming a MacKillop foster carer please call 1300 791 677 or visit [mackillop.org.au/fostercare](http://mackillop.org.au/fostercare)

*\*Name changed*

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For interview opportunities with MacKillop CEO Micaela Cronin please contact Louise Carson, Media and Communications Coordinator (NSW), on 0418 361 110 or [louise.carson@mackillop.org.au](mailto:louise.carson@mackillop.org.au).