

Foster care agencies fear system will collapse



ABC1, Lateline, Sydney hosted by Emma Alberici
Lateline - 7 mins 40 secs - ID: M00053818665

09 Jul 2013 10:40 PM



Ian Dobby, **Foster Carer** says if the siblings he is currently caring for are returned to their homes they will become welfare-dependent and well versed in police issues. **Sandie de Wolf**, CEO, **Berry Street** says the number of **children** removed from **parents** has increased by 27% across Australia over the last 5 years, while the availability of **foster carers** has decreased, explaining she is also concerned the high number of removed **children** under 5 years homes coupled with the shortage may lead to a return of baby's and **children's** homes. Early permanent intervention to prevent neglect or abuse, backed by Adam Giles, NT Chief Minister, is an option to relieve pressure on the system, which may also make it easier for those repeatedly removed from their homes to be **adopted**. Jeremy Sammut, Centre for Independent Studies says early intervention is key and that professional mental health **carers** may soon be needed to look after the **children**. Andrew McCallum, Association of **Children's** Welfare Agencies says **family** housing is preferable to **foster care**, and believes **child** removal is a simplistic view that should be replaced with addressing causal issues. The case for early intervention has been highlighted by the murder of Kiesha Weippeart by her **mother**. with the girl remaining in her **mother's care** despite the abuse of the girl reported by the Department of Community Services. The Public Service Association says many cases of abuse are never investigated due to an acute shortage in case workers. **Foster carers** are frustrated at the lack of financial support provided to them, especially when caring for **children** with needs greater than most.

[Play Now](#) - [Order presentation file or transcript](#)

Keywords

care (2), children's (1), child (1), parents (1), family (1), mother's (1), de Wolf (1), Berry (1), carers (3), Sandie (1), Carer (1), mother (1), Children's (1), children (4), foster (2), Street (1), adopted (1), Foster (2)



184,000 ALL

86,000 MALE 16+

95,000 FEMALE 16+

Interviewees

Andrew McCallum, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

Ian Dobby, Foster Carer

Jeremy Sammut, Centre for Independent Studies

Karen Dobby, Foster Carer

Nigel, Former Foster Child

Sandie de Wolf, CEO, Berry Street

Steve Turner, Public Service Association

Vince Attaro, Foster Carer

Visuals

Berry Street

Also broadcast from the following 10 stations