



Senator  
**Steve Fielding**  
Leader of Family First



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Friday January 22 2009

## **FOSTER CARE RULES A GOOD MOVE**

Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding has welcomed new reforms to protect children in foster care as new figures show a rise in abuse and neglect in the community.

“Children in foster care are particularly vulnerable to cases of abuse and we need to do more to protect them from this kind of harm,” Senator Fielding said.

“Foster carers play an important role in our community and they should be congratulated for the fantastic work they do.

“Unfortunately there are sick people out there who will abuse their power and take advantage of children in their care.

“Given the terrible history many children in foster care have gone through it’s important the community takes extra care of them and I think these new standards will help do that.

“I am deeply disturbed with figures that show around 33,000 kids are abused across the country each year.

“There is definitely more community awareness than ever before, but child abuse is still getting swept under the carpet in some places.

“Until there is shift in our culture child abuse will continue to be blight on our community.”

As a victim of childhood sexual abuse Senator Fielding says the scars still remain with him and never go away.

“Governments should be doing everything in their power to crack down on child abuse because the scars from it can last forever, putting greater pressure on our health system down the track.

“Yes I have a personal interest in this area and that’s why I’ll continue to fight for those vulnerable Australians who don’t have a voice.”

**For media enquiries phone Kane Silom on 0409 550 446**

**[www.stevefielding.com.au](http://www.stevefielding.com.au)**