



## **Senator Catryna Bilyk**

**Labor Senator for Tasmania**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Raising awareness about the effects of child abuse**

Senator Catryna Bilyk is a strong advocate for child welfare and this week delivered a speech to the Senate on the work of Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA).

ASCA is a national organisation which works to improve the lives of the many adults who were abused as children.

ASCA works to educate the community about the long term affects of abuse and lobbies governments and policy makers on behalf of those affected.

“Organisations such as ASCA must be congratulated for their hard work and dedication to helping people overcome the trauma of abuse. They should be supported in their efforts and I urge everyone to contribute in any way that they can,” Senator Bilyk said.

Senator Bilyk spoke about Anthony and Christine Foster, whose story on the ASCA website talks about the devastation of losing their daughter Emma to an illness that resulted from trauma associated with abuse.

“They also have a second daughter, who is physically and intellectually disabled as a result of being involved in an accident—she was drunk and using alcohol to escape her emotions when she was hit by a car,” Senator Bilyk said.

“The couple along with their third daughter, Aimee, share their experience in the hope that others will learn from it and that it may prevent people suffering the way their family has.

“ASCA has set up the Emma Foster Memorial Fund to help sufferers of abuse.”

Senator Bilyk also spoke of the Gillard Labor Government’s initiative of developing Australia’s first ever National Child Protection Framework.

“The Gillard Labor government recognises that protecting children demands national leadership and a coordinated national response,” Senator Bilyk said.

“Reducing child abuse and neglect is not an easy task, and it will take time.

“The national framework delivers on federal Labor’s 2007 election commitment to look after the most vulnerable in our society—that is, our children.

“The Gillard government is committed to doing what we can to protect our children both now and in the future.”

For more information on ASCA, or to donate to the Emma Foster Memorial Fund, visit the website at [www.asca.org.au](http://www.asca.org.au)

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