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## CARBON TAX

# Jill's passion for children

Kylie Triggell | 12th September 2011

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FOR the past decade Forest Lake's Jill Wesche has been a shoulder to lean on for young complainants in the justice system.

As a child witness support volunteer with Protect All Children Today Inc (PACT), Mrs Wesche offers up her time to go to court to lend moral support to children giving evidence.

Over the years she has helped more than 500 children. She was honoured for her dedication when she was presented with the volunteer award at the recent Child Protection Week awards.

"I'm very proud to accept the award on behalf of all the volunteers in this field," she said.

"I enjoy working with kids, but it is difficult. Each case is very important to the people (involved).

"But we're just in the background."

Mrs Wesche said as a PACT volunteer she would meet with a child complainant and their family who were involved in a court case, and provide moral support to them while they gave evidence and were being cross-examined.

"It's most likely a parent can't go in with them because they've given evidence themselves," she said.

"But the child knows we're there with them."

Child Safety Minister Phil Reeves said six awards were presented during the special ceremony held at Parliament House as part of Child Protection Week.



PASSIONATE VOLUNTEER: Jill Wesche has been given a Child Protection Week award for volunteering.

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He said this year's award recipients came from different backgrounds, but they all shared a common commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people.

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"They also provide an outstanding example to the rest of Queensland by embodying the theme of Child Protection Week - 'Protecting children is everybody's business'," Mr Reeves said.

"I congratulate our six award recipients, and offer my heartfelt thanks for their continuous commitment to child safety.

"Child Protection Week is not only an opportunity to recognise individuals but also acknowledge the valuable collaboration between government and non-government organisations in working towards ensuring child protection."

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