



## LIBRARIANS STRIKE BACK

7 DAYS LIFTOUT INSIDE



## KI BEST IN THE PACIFIC

PAGE 9

# \$1 MILLION CRISIS KIDS

**KIM WHEATLEY**  
CHIEF REPORTER

**CRISIS** accommodation for five children from the same family, who have been in care for more than a year, has cost taxpayers almost \$1 million.

In one of the state's most extreme cases of crisis care, the children, who were removed from their family, are living in a house rented by the Families and Communities Department.

The children, all under the age of 11, have behavioural problems and receive 24-hour care from a private agency.

The department is being charged a premium for the same carers to be provided for the children on a regular basis, to give them consistent care.

Families Minister Jay Weatherill told *The Advertiser* that a huge increase in the number of children in care, particularly those with behavioural problems, was straining resources.

"We just can't keep pace with the rates at which children are coming into care," he said.

Mr Weatherill, who declined to comment on the case of the five children, said the answers lay in "strengthening families".

"The issue is more of a societal problem," he said.

"This is happening all around the nation and I think it's time for somebody to say, rather than just point the finger, we might want to look at broader issues about what's happening in the community."

Continued Page 6



**CHARITY FUN:** Jane McGrath with comedian Hans (Matt Gilbertson) at the High Tea yesterday.  
Picture: NAOMI JELICOE

## Thanks Adelaide, says Jane McGrath

**ANNA VLACH**

**MAKING** her first appearance without a wig at a public function, breast cancer survivor Jane McGrath yesterday praised her Adelaide friends for being among her strongest supporters.

Sporting an attractive pixie cut, the wife of cricket legend Glenn was in Adelaide for less than 24 hours with best friend Tracy Bevan, wife of former Aussie cricketer Michael Bevan.

Both women were in town for a McGrath Foundation Ladies High Tea at The Observatory Function Centre, attended by more than 130 women.

While the October fundraisers held across Australia are now in their second year, Mrs McGrath has only been to two - one in Sydney recently and yesterday's event.

Continued Page 6