



China duty powered by compassion

ANDREW TILLET

IT IS a long way from Castle Hill to China – but one family has made that move to work with existing orphanages, as well as build foster homes in the world's most populous country.

Julie Colquhoun and her husband Andrew initiated a fundraising project in the northern city of Qitaihe.

Helping the Colquhouns' fundraising efforts has been their church, Fox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Community Church, Wahroonga.

Mr Colquhoun's employer Creata has also been cooperative, appointing him as the company's head of corporate social responsibility in the Orient.

"It has been in our head for a long time to help children," Mrs Colquhoun said.

The Colquhouns are hoping to build new foster homes in areas where there are none as well as update existing ones.

They are also hiring house parents, nannies and teachers to care for children.

Mrs Colquhoun said it was estimated there were more than 500,000 orphans – with just 60,000 in orphanages.

The rest were cared for by local communities, or at worst, left to survive on their own.

"It breaks your heart to see a two day old child who has lost the



Julie Colquhoun, who with her husband, has travelled to China to build foster homes.

Picture: PETER KEL

love of a family," Mrs Colquhoun said.

"It's a matter of creating a new family for this baby as quickly as possible, whether this be a well equipped orphanage, a foster home, or better still, adoption.

"Most of the healthy children

get adopted either locally or overseas. But there are lots of special needs children who rely on our help."

Mrs Colquhoun said the family was enjoying the experience of a different culture.

□ To find out more or make a donation email julie.colquhoun@creata.com