

BUNDOORA



Parade College students and Michael O'Kelly from MacKillop Family Services.

Students foster support

PARADE College students are helping children find their feet when moved to foster care in an emergency.

The students are working on a project delivering backpacks full of small items to help children feel more at home in their new environment such as a water bottle, pencils, a picture frame, a towel, toothbrush and a notebook.

They have delivered their first 20 backpacks to MacKillop Family Services and

want to deliver 100 by the end of the year.

Students are also talking to teachers and other adults about the merits of becoming foster carers.

Teacher and co-ordinator Darrell Cruse said the idea was a joint effort between himself and students, but the boys liked helping out.

Mr Cruse, who has been a foster carer for eight years and has taken in emergency foster children, said it was important children have

something that belonged to them when they went to an unfamiliar environment.

“(The students) really enjoy the sense of doing something ... they are surprised at how much they have been admired,” he said.

“We need to get people thinking about it because people don't really think about foster care.

“I think they think it's adoption and there is such a lack of foster carers out there.”