

IT'S ALL DANDY FOR SUPER FOSTER MUM

PAMELA Jackson would never say no to a child who knocked on her door.

Her compassion led to her raising 72 foster children, while bringing up five kids of her own.

Known as Aunty Pam, the Yorta Yorta elder has moved to Dandenong after years in the country supporting youngsters and helping improve social services.

Aunty Pam, who recently retired after 48 years as a foster carer, said everyone needed somewhere they felt they belonged.

"There was often just a need for them to have a home - it was a second chance in life," she said.

"Some of them came from abusive and violent homes."

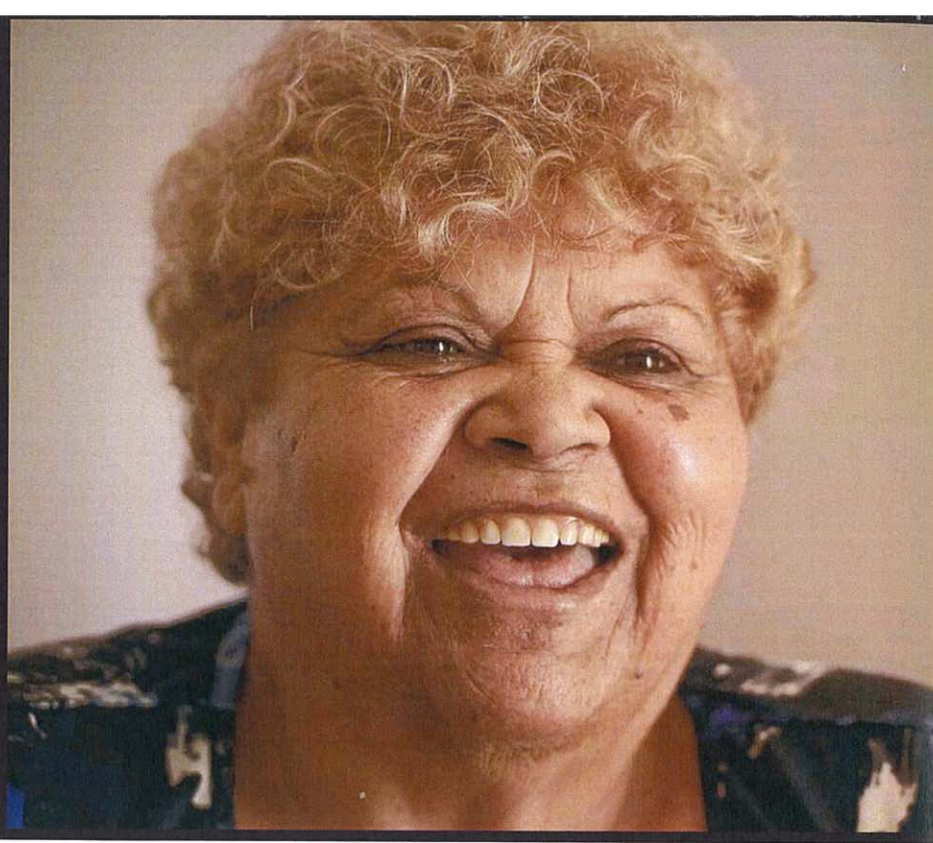
Most of the children stay in touch with Aunty Pam.

"We grew bonds, me and the children, they understood me and I understood them," she said.

Aunty Pam was proudest when she saw the children succeed in school and in their lives - and puts that down to discipline.

She said she was glad to be in Dandenong, close to her daughter and to the hospital.

The house she has moved into was one of 1400 across the state transferred from public housing to Aboriginal Housing Victoria.



Pamela Jackson is settling in.

Picture: CHRIS EASTMAN