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Best start . . . Annalisa and Deuchar Dezarnaulos, John Howard, Michaela and Mitchell Wood yesterday. Picture: GRAHAM CROUCH

## Well hold the phone: Crowe on parenting

HE sings, acts and runs the Rabbits — now Russell Crowe wants to tell us how to raise our children.

The actor is among film, TV and sporting stars giving parenting advice in a free DVD to be given to new parents across the country.

*Raising Children — a guide to parenting from birth to 5*, launched yesterday, forms part of a parenting kit to be distributed at hospitals.

Among the cast are footballers Lote Tuqiri, Phil Kearns, James Hird and Hazem El Masri, boxer Anthony Mundine, TV presenter Johanna Griggs, Olympian Jana Rawlinson and chef Neil Perry.

"If you can allay people's fears, if you can set them up for having a positive experience through pregnancy, through the beginning of being a parent then what better benefit to society could there possibly be," Crowe says in the DVD.

Launched by Prime Minister John Howard, whose government backed the film's distribution with \$2.7 million in funding, the production brings together celebrities and regular parents for five hours of hints and tips on raising children.

The DVD was narrated by Deborah-Lee Furness, a critic of the Howard Government's adoption laws, who described the laws as a return to the White Australia Policy.

Mr Howard said, although there were different views on adoption, there was a united commitment that we should provide a secure and loving environment for every child.

## Some celebrity advice on parenting



☞ You're their role model. You're their mentor. You're their everything they want to be in life. A parent is a far greater role model than an athlete or a sports person.

— Boxer Anthony Mundine



☞ Those cries are telling you all sorts of different things. Does the cry sound like it's a pain cry, is it 'I'm just extremely exhausted and I just need to let this out'.

— TV presenter Johanna Griggs



☞ As soon as they're old enough start giving them fresh juice because they'll drink it like it's water before they figure out when they get a bit older, 'oh my God it's vegetables'.

— Chef Neil Perry

**Daily Telegraph**  
 DVD producer Divonne Holmes a Court answers your questions from 9.30am  
 dailytelegraph.com.au