

Mum speaks up

By CHARLENE GATT

ARE you a parent who feels like your advice or remonstrations fall on deaf ears?

You're not alone.

Yarraville mum of two Aly Walsh was prompted to write children's book *My Mum Says "Blah Blah Blah"* after a typically frantic morning when she was trying to run around and get her son Spencer and daughter Lillian ready.

"My son said to me 'Mum, all you say is blah blah blah.

"I thought, 'that's a good name for a book'.

"Normally I would've told him off, but that day I just laughed at him."

The book features a range of everyday situations – such as getting the kids out of bed, making them eat their food and tidy up their room – where the child finds himself in all kinds of strife because he didn't listen to his mum.

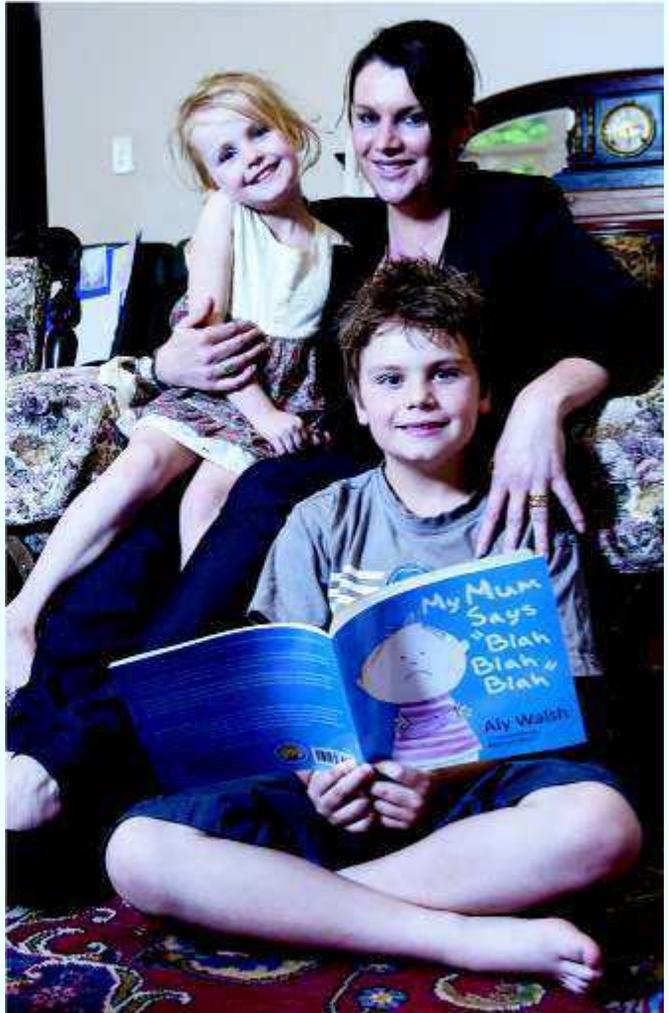
The book is complemented by child-like illustrations done by Ms Walsh's mother-in-law, Marilyn Walsh.

Ms Walsh said the book was vindication for every parent who was tuned out by their kids.

"I wanted to write a story to show my son that there are consequences of actions, particularly negative, if you choose not to listen to your parents when they are trying to guide you," Ms Walsh said.

Ms Walsh worked as an office manager for former MP Peter Costello before following her lifelong dream to write.

She has six more books in the pipeline, including *When I*



Yarraville author Aly Walsh used her kids Spencer and Lillian as her inspiration for her first book. 79603

Picture: NICOLE SULTANA

Left, which is written for children who have lost someone special in their life.

She also plans to release a warts and all e-series at the end of the year based on becoming

a mum and spending more time at home.

"It's wonderful (being with them), but not every day," she laughed.