

JOINT FAMILY SERVICES SECTOR MEDIA RELEASE - 11/05/2005

Family Relationships benefit from Federal Budget

The three industry representative bodies for family relationships services in this country - Catholic Welfare Australia, Family Services Australia and Relationships Australia - congratulate the Australian Government on its commitment to supporting family relationships.

The Australian Government last night announced a budget allocation of \$397.2 million over four years to expand and enhance family relationships services. This allocation includes the establishment of new services, such as Family Relationship Centres. Last year there was a 30% top up and it is good to see the Government commit to this on an on-going basis.

The injection of funding will deliver preventative services as well as redesign the Family Law system, and it is heartening to see Government recognition of the importance and strength of building upon existing services.

One of the new initiatives, the Family Relationship Centres, will provide families with a simpler entry point to family relationship services.

"We support a less adversarial Family Law System and the Family Relationships Centres proposal seems to go a long way towards meeting this aim whilst ensuring the children involved are protected. Children's welfare must be paramount," said Mr Frank Quinlan, Executive Director of Catholic Welfare Australia.

"This is the outcome we have been looking for. For years the industry has been speaking as one voice, the voice of the child and of the family. This budget is an indication that we have been listened to and Australian families have been listened to", said Sarah Lees, National Manager for Family Services Australia.

"We are all looking forward to the opportunity to work alongside government to ensure that the new services provide support for all members of the family especially taking into account the best interests of the children", Acting National Director of Relationships Australia, Mary Mertin-Ryan said.



Catholic Welfare Australia



Family Services Australia
working together with families

*Relationships
Australia*

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