



MEDIA RELEASE
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**RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA
WELCOMES
MORE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES**

Relationships Australia welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of the successful tenders for the second batch of 25 Family Relationships Centres (FRCs) that will open their doors in July.

This support for families is much needed with over 52,000 divorces granted in 2005 and nearly 50,000 children under 18 involved in those families.

"Through the visible presence of the Family Relationship Centres at strategic locations, Australians can increasingly see that they are not on their own when it comes to the difficulties many families face in coping with the stresses and strains of modern life".

"The existing 15 Family Relationship Centres appear to have seen many people seeking assistance. According to the 2006 Relationships Indicators Survey, recently released by Relationships Australia, professional relationship support services are increasingly being accepted in the community. We expect that the further 25 Centres will also be of benefit to families seeking support", Ms Mertin-Ryan added.

Relationships Australia is particularly honoured to have been chosen to participate in a number of the new centres and to become the lead agency in a significant number.

Relationships Australia congratulates those organisations that were successful in their tenders and particularly welcomes new organisations to the family relationships services sector. "We are confident that this new infrastructure in local communities will bring more accessible and responsive services, and in the process, better outcomes for Australian families", added Ms Mertin-Ryan.

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Relationships Indicators Survey available on the website**