



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA  
WELCOMES  
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS CENTRES**

Relationships Australia wholeheartedly welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of the successful tenders for the first 15 of its planned 65 Family Relationships Centres (FRCs).

The tender announcements are the result of a rigorous quality assurance process that Relationships Australia believes will ensure that these centres, most of which are located in regional and outer suburban locations, are well-run and efficiently serve the communities in which they operate.

According to Relationships Australia Acting National Director Deborah Durie: "This announcement represents another milestone in the roll-out of Australia's new family law infrastructure. It is an excellent example of the government and community working together to achieve better outcomes for Australian families and communities. We strongly believe that the combination of the Government's financial and policy commitment and the expertise and experience that Relationships Australia and other community-based organisations bring to the process will create an environment in which Australians can seek and obtain information that will assist them to overcome the family relationship problems before they become entrenched."

"Where a relationship cannot be retrieved, best practice service delivery models in family mediation and family primary dispute resolution, including appropriate child-focussed and child-inclusive methods, are proving increasingly effective in producing durable parenting plans. Our research also shows that mediation is much more likely to promote shared parenting than is litigation through the courts", Ms Durie said.

Relationships Australia congratulates those organisations that were successful in their tenders and particularly welcomes the new organisations to the family relationships services sector. "With Relationships Australia being involved in eight of the 15 new FRCs, it is now up to us, the service providers, to show how we can make use of this new infrastructure to achieve the best possible outcomes for the clients and communities that we serve", added Ms Durie.

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**For further information contact Deborah Durie, Acting National Director,  
Relationships Australia on (02) 6285 4466 (telephone) or 0423 160 245 (mobile)  
or visit [www.relationships.com.au](http://www.relationships.com.au)**