

# Relationships Australia

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA WELCOMES FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CENTRE IN STRATHPINE**

The Attorney-General, Mr Philip Ruddock, today announced that Relationships Australia (QLD) has been successful in being selected as a potential funding recipient for a Family Relationship Centre in Strathpine.

“This announcement heralds a new era in the way that divorce and separation is handled in Australia and Relationships Australia (QLD) is proud to be involved in establishing one of the first service centres in Queensland,” said Mr Andrew Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Relationships Australia (QLD).

“These changes will also focus on relationship enhancement for couples including pre-marriage education with the aim of preparing couples for relationships and parenting before they enter into a long-term committed relationship to try to minimise the likelihood of relationship breakdown.”

“Family Relationship Centres will re-focus the attention of couples when relationships breakdown on addressing parental conflict issues and putting the spotlight on the needs of the children.”, said Mr Davis.

“Children are deeply affected by relationship break downs and in a more adversarial system are not the prime consideration in the divorce process. With the new legislation and the establishment of Family Relationship Centres, our communities will see a difference in the way parents will be meeting the needs of their children when relationships end.”

Family Relationship Centres will become a ‘gateway’ for couples providing extensive information and referrals on services available to couples from mediation, counselling, post-separation parenting, conflict resolution, financial counselling and many other issues that impact on relationships.

“We will be working closely with other agencies and services to ensure that all couples negotiating their way through relationship breakdown will receive access to services and information to assist in achieving a smoother transition for all involved.”, said Mr Davis.

The centre will be located in retail areas where it will be clearly identified and easily accessible.

Relationships Australia can be contacted on 1300 364 277 or online at [www.relationships.com.au](http://www.relationships.com.au).

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**For further comments or to arrange for an interview, please contact:-**

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*Relationships Australia is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that has no religious affiliation. We offer relationship counselling, pre-marriage and relationship education, family mediation, conciliation, gambling help services, family violence prevention, professional training, after care resource centre and family support workers. The Victims Counselling and Support Service is managed by Relationships Australia Queensland. Our aim is to enhance marriage, family and other relationships in their many forms and to advocate the best interests of children. We offer access to services, without discrimination, regardless of a client's ability to pay with sensitivity to personal difference and cultural diversity.*