
MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2011

FRSA Welcomes Government's Commitment to Pay Equity

Family Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) welcomed the announcement from Prime Minister Julia Gillard that the Federal Government will make a joint submission with the Australian Services Union to Fair Work Australia recommending increased wages for community sector workers including Family Service practitioners.

The FRSA National Conference 2011 'Workforce & Innovation: Building Future Capacity' has attracted over 500 delegates from around Australia to discuss workforce development and innovative approaches to service delivery. Conference delegates were delighted at the announcement from the Prime Minister, which was streamed live to the full conference group this morning.

Speaking at the Conference on the Gold Coast, FRSA Executive Director Samantha Page said that the landmark announcement from Prime Minister Julia Gillard will help ensure the future of community services workforce within Australia.

"This decision marks a significant step forward for community services, recognising the importance of front line staff working with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families across Australia", said Ms Page.

"Decent wages are vital to ensuring that organisations providing these services continue to attract and retain staff high calibre staff".

FRSA understands that the submission will recommend the adoption of wages rates comparable to rates adopted for the Social and Community Services (SACS) award in Queensland, which increased wages by an estimated 30%.

"Of equal importance to addressing the rates of pay for community sector workers is the Federal Government's commitment to provide full supplementation for Federal Government funded services including the Family Support Program."

"This commitment ensures that vital services to vulnerable families will be sustained. This is a very important commitment and will need to be followed by similar commitments from State and Territory Governments to ensure communities are not negatively affected."

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