
MEDIA RELEASE

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Report highlights more support is needed for Australian Families: FRSA

The release of the 'For Kids' Sake' report into Australia's social environment highlights the need for further investment in prevention strategies that aim to strengthen Australian families, according to Family Relationship Services Australia (FRSA).

Speaking at the launch of the report today at Parliament House, FRSA Chairperson Ms Anne Hollonds said that the findings show that more work is needed to target the diverse range of couples and families that make up contemporary Australian society.

"Family life is still widely considered to be a private domain which should not be intruded upon by Government policies", said Ms Hollonds.

"Yet it is important that we work towards 'turning the curve' and start supporting all Australian families in a range of ways, including improved access to relationship education and information campaigns."

"FRSA continually encourages all levels of Government to actively promote stability within the family unit, but also help people better manage transitions in their families to minimise any long-term damage. Just like training at school and coaching on the sports field, education in our relationships is vital to preventing social exclusion often felt by young, neglected children and disadvantaged families."

"As evidenced in this report, prevention strategies that aim to strengthen families can help the long-term development of young people. A Federal Government initiative such as 'The Line' is one good example of the sort of campaigns that FRSA is advocating for."

While the Family Support Program allows many organisations to provide the services that families need, the report also shows that a rise in demand is stretching the capabilities and resources of these organisations.

"To maintain and improve the support mechanisms these organisations provide families, it is important that Governments at all levels acknowledge the societal trends that are occurring and commit to long-term policies that allow the professional support system to enhance services to the Australian community."

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