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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **GRANDPARENT ASSISTANCE WELCOMED**

FRSA welcomes the Attorney-General Robert McClelland's recent announcement that the Rudd Government will provide increased resources through the family relationship system to help grandparents.

"Effective intergenerational relationships can help strengthen individuals and families. Building resilience can prevent family breakdown and/or reduce the harm if relationships come to an end<sup>1</sup>", said Samantha Page, FRSA Executive Director.

"The important benefit to children of positive relationships with grandparents is acknowledged in family relationship services. Many services run specific groups and programs to support grandparents and the increased resources will compliment that important work."

FRSA anticipates many benefits from these resources, including:

- Raise awareness of family relationship services
- Encourage grandparents to access support services
- Resolve conflict and parenting arrangements through family dispute resolution
- Support grandparents through difficult transitions to deliver better outcomes for their grandchildren

FRSA looks forward to working with the Government and the broader family relationship service sector to develop these important resources for grandparents.

**Media Contact: Bonnie Montgomery    0406 628 239**

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<sup>1</sup> See for example: Buchanan and Flouri (2008) '*Involved Grandparenting and Child Well-Being*' the Centre for Research into Parenting and Children at the University of Oxford and the Institute of Education study found that close relationships between grandparents buffered grandchildren and the effects of adverse life events, such as parental separation.