

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **INSECURE WORKFORCE A GROWING THREAT**

Increasing numbers of Australians with insecure work is putting pressure on their families and relationships, according to the national peak body for family and relationship support services.

As outlined in the Family & Relationship Services Australia submission to an ACTU inquiry into the effects of insecure working arrangements, there are a number of significant issues that are impacting upon the security of the family unit, including financial pressures, health and mental health impacts, strained parenting capacity and poor employment prospects.

"We are concerned about how part-time and casual working arrangements are affecting the abilities of low-income individuals to sustain strong and meaningful relationships", said FRSA Executive Director Samantha Page.

"Inconsistent earnings put significant pressure on weekly budgets and the ability to provide an adequate standard of living for children."

"Long-term consequences of insecure work, such as mental health issues and poor employment prospects can also threaten the stability of personal and professional relationships."

According to FRSA's submission, further research into the impact of insecure work on individuals and families, as well as greater consideration of psychosocial job quality in the design and delivery of employment and welfare policy is required to adequately support marginalised and vulnerable people who are most likely to experience insecure work.

"Trend data suggests that the Australian workforce is likely to become increasingly flexible and insecure as in many other OECD countries. Despite this, relatively little research has been dedicated to the social consequences of these working arrangements. It is crucial for the health of Australian communities that we actively engage in further research to establish the potential consequences of insecure work and the most appropriate methods to support vulnerable families."

FRSA's submission to the ACTU inquiry also discussed the impacts of insecure work on the not-for-profit sector. Trends include short-term funding contracts, changing expectations of program mobility, increased use of FIFO/DIDO arrangements and inadequate indexation of funding, all of which have a negative impact on the wellbeing of community sector employees.

"This is an issue that many FRSA member organisations, particularly rural services, have expressed to us. To enhance the quality of services that support Australian communities and families, we must ensure the future capacity of the community sector with improved workforce strategies and partnerships with funding bodies."

Submissions for the ACTU inquiry closed last week. FRSA's full submission is available from the website, [www.frsa.org.au](http://www.frsa.org.au).

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**Family Relationship Services Australia is the national peak body for over 150 family relationship and support service providers, operating in more than 650 locations across Australia. For more information visit**

[www.frsa.org.au](http://www.frsa.org.au)

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