
MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL SURVEY OUTLINES DEMAND FOR FAMILY SERVICES

FRSA welcomes the release of the Australian Community Sector Survey 2008, which was launched today by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

“This important research helps us to monitor development across the community sector and within family relationship services specifically. The findings that demand is growing across service sectors is consistent with the experience of our members”, said Samantha Page, Executive Director.

The increase in demand and turn away for family relationship services is further evidence that relationship support services are increasingly accepted and valued by the community, as found in other recent studies, including the Relationship Indicators Survey.

“This survey highlights a major issue that the number of people turned away or put on waiting lists has increased. Families are under pressure with increasing financial stress and work demands, particularly in rural and remote areas, which has an impact on relationships. It is important to respond with strategies to strengthen families and practical support. When adequately resourced by government, community organisations are best placed to respond to increasing and changing patterns of need”.

75 new services will open across Australia this year to support the wellbeing of families and children. The new services include 25 Family Relationships Centres (FRC’s), 14 Children’s Contact Services, 14 Post Separation Cooperative Parenting services and 22 new early intervention services.

“Services experiencing particular demand pressures include contact services and the newly established FRC’s. The expansion of family relationship support services will hopefully ease the pressure that agencies are currently facing”, said Jennie Hannan, Executive General Manager Services, Anglicare WA.

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For further information about Family Relationship Services Australia visit www.frsa.org.au or contact FRSA on 02 6162 1811 or email communications@frsa.org.au.