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FRSA MEDIA RELEASE

FRSA says Investing in prevention and early intervention services will be key in Try, Test, Learn Fund solutions

"Finding solutions to long term and intergenerational unemployment and reliance on the welfare system will require whole of government, business & combined services approaches over the longer term if they are to be successful," said Executive Director of FRSA, Jackie Brady.

Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Christian Porter, today launched a highly anticipated report that examined the impact of long-term welfare reliance.

"The launch of today's modelling by PwC has certainly met the Government's objective of clearly articulating the longer term financial strain placed on the Federal Budget, if nothing is done in the short term to assist people move from welfare into work", said Mrs Brady.

"The Try, Test, Learn Fund also launched today by the Minister has thrown down the gauntlet to NGOs, academics, governments, social policy experts and industry to come up with novel and innovative ideas to assist key groups of vulnerable people in society who are at risk at having a long term reliance on welfare," she said. "We welcome the Minister's commitment to ensuring that all options will be considered to meet the needs of a number of key groups identified by Government: young carers, young parents and young students."

"Members in our network are actively working with vulnerable and at risk children and families and their connection at the 'coal face' certainly puts them in a unique position to look creatively and innovatively for solutions," said Mrs Brady. "The potential for family & relationship services to play a critical role in providing prevention and early intervention based services 'upstream' will be key to finding solutions in this space."

"The Government has also indicated it is keen to facilitate a 'co-design' process aimed at meeting their objectives," she said. "There is value in these processes but there is always the reality of the perennial challenge of talking about co-design and collaboration within a competitive context."

"In being able to develop their ideas more fully, it is welcome news that the Government is going to make available the data from the PwC report through their commitment to 'Open Data,'" she said. "Access to data is of benefit to service providers as much as it is to Government".

"We look forward to learning more about the Fund, the selection criteria and the measurement parameters that will be applied," she said. "Our sector is actively working towards ensuring that we make our own contribution, and to be certain that the 'human cost of lost opportunities and lost potential' is avoided."

Family Relationships Services Australia (FRSA) is the representative body of family and relationships services Australia. FRSA serves to provide national leadership, representation and support for services that work to strengthen the wellbeing, safety and resilience of families, children and communities.

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