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**FRSA MEDIA RELEASE**

## **TAKING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP SERVICES**

**Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) is launching a new report today highlighting the untapped potential in the network to identify risk factors across a broad range of health and social issues faced by the children, families and communities they work with.**

The report, titled *Strengthening prevention and early intervention services for families into the future* was developed by internationally renowned public health and prevention science expert Professor John Toumbourou.

The report looks at opportunities that exist in the family and relationship sector to taking a more holistic and coordinated approach in meeting the needs of clients to combat eight priority health and social problems: substance abuse, anti-social behaviour, obesity, mental illness, developmental injury, chronic illness, school failure and social exclusion.

Many of these problems arise from common modifiable risk factors in families and child development.

FRSA Executive Director, Jackie Brady says “Within the sector there is knowledge and expertise that can be further harnessed that could be of great benefit in a broader prevention and early intervention framework”.

“There are factors, such as current funding arrangements such as existing silos and services boundaries that are limiting our sector’s ability to be more systemically involved in universal and targeted prevention and early intervention approaches” she said.

The report recommends the development of an action plan for the sector as well as a common intake screening and assessment framework or tools in order to allocate the right type and amount of services to clients.

Chair of FRSA, Mr Michael Austin, launched the report at FRSA’s Strategic Leadership Forum during the Parliamentary Breakfast held this morning at Parliament House.

The report is available via the FRSA website: [www.frsa.org.au](http://www.frsa.org.au).

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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