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**FRSA MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Professor Helen Rhoades to lead landmark review of family law system**

Family & Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) has welcomed the appointment of Professor Helen Rhoades from the University of Melbourne to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to lead the most comprehensive review of the family law system in over 40 years.

FRSA Executive Director, Jackie Brady, said the appointment of Professor Rhoades ensures the review is backed by necessary experience and knowledge of family law.

“This will be the first time the Australian Family Law has been reviewed since the national Family Court was established in 1976 – so it is timely, but it also reflects calls to improve the system for the benefit of Australian families in need” Ms Brady said.

“With Professor Rhoades’ vast and extensive background in family law, including her role as the Former Chair of the Family Law Council, we are confident that Professor Rhoades will manage the extensive breadth and complexity of the Review with skill and aplomb.”

“This is a system that has been strained by demand. It is our priority to ensure the family law system prioritises the best interests and wellbeing of children, addresses family violence and child abuse, and supports families—to resolve their family law disputes quickly and safely while minimising financial burden.”

“Over the last 10 years, FRSA members delivering family law services have actively contributed to a 25 per cent reduction in family law court applications involving children” she said. But our members continually advise that the families that they are working with are increasingly complex.”

“We look forward to actively contributing to the ALRC Commission’s Inquiry.”

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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