



Welcome back to the FRSA E-Bulletin.

After a period of hiatus due to competing priorities for FRSA, the E-Bulletin will once again land in your inbox once a fortnight – on a Tuesday.

Today is of course, Federal Budget day. The much anticipated first Budget of Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison and the pre-election Budget. As has been the trend for many years, many of the big ticket items are already out on the table ahead of Budget night itself. Dr Adam Heaton, FRSA's Senior Policy Officer and I will be in the Budget lock-up this afternoon unpacking the detail contained within the Budget papers themselves. We will work with our Communications Officer, Roslyn Mertin, into the evening to prepare a FRSA Federal Budget Brief that will be available for FRSA Members in their inboxes tomorrow morning.

When the next edition of the FRSA E-Bulletin reaches you, it is highly probable the Federal Government will be in Election campaigning mode and spending more time in their Electorates and States. Whether Senator Day's High Court challenge to Senate reforms impact on the Prime Minister's

decision as to when to call an election will be an interesting development. FRSA will of course be working to ensure that all political candidates do not lose sight of the importance of the wellbeing of Children, Families and communities as they promote their own visions for the future of Australia.

Once an election is called, the Federal Government goes into Caretaker mode. And whilst this means that no new initiatives or endeavours can be worked on, we anticipate it will provide us with an opportunity to continue work on a range of fronts with both DSS and AGD.

Have a great fortnight. The next issue of the E-Bulletin will be out on 17 May.

Kind regards,

Jackie Brady



FRSA 2016 National Conference

Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) is very excited to announce the FRSA 2016 National Conference will be held on 29 November – 1 December 2016 in Canberra.

The theme and major focus for #FRSACConf2016 is *Measuring Success in the family and relationship sector—for the wellbeing of children, families and communities*.

Measuring success remains a critical issue for service providers and their funders; by measuring success we can better identify what works and what does not work in delivering services, toward improving the wellbeing of clients across the life course. FRSA Conference 2016 will provide an opportunity for us to critically consider challenges and best practice in measuring success.

FRSA is grateful to our Canberra based members; Marymead CEO, Camilla Rowland; and, Relationships Australia Canberra and Region CEO, Mary Pekin for agreeing to assist as members of the FRSA Conference Reference Committee (CRC).

ANU Academic and FRSA Honorary Member, Associate Professor Bruce Smyth and Elly Robinson from the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) will also join the CRC. Along with FRSA Board Members, Fiona Harley, Michael Austin, Marie Morrison and Sue Christophers.

Coming soon!

The call for abstracts and peer review papers will be open as of mid-next week—we will provide you with all the information for submitting abstracts next week.

[Click here](#) to sign up to our Conference update, for all information on the event, call for papers, registration, accommodation details, special offers for delegates and more!

For any questions or information, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).



Strengthening prevention and early intervention services for families into the future

FRSA has commissioned Professor John Toumbourou at Deakin University to lead a team of academics to produce a research report *Strengthening prevention and early intervention services for families into the future*.

The FRSA Board's Research and Advisory Committee has been instrumental in developing and scoping out the project, putting to good use the funds collected from members in 2014 through the Strategic Projects Fund.

The report aims to examine service interventions at each transition point in the family life course as well as service interventions that meet the needs of specific vulnerable sub-populations. The transition points are:

1. The first 1000 days
2. Key transition points in the schooling years
3. Partnering and cohabitation
4. Relationship breakdown & re-partnering
5. Ageing

By investigating the current and future potential for prevention and early interventions efforts to ameliorate multiple risk factors and enhance multiple protective factors, this research will contribute to the realisation of the great potential for services to improve the wellbeing of Australian families.

We anticipate this research will complement the work our members are doing in progressively delivering strong evidence about the value of the services delivered throughout the FRSA network.

We hope to release the Final Report in July or August of this year.



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Future Focus of the Family Law Services

The Attorney-General's Department has published the KPMG Report "[Future Focus of the Family Law Services](#)". It was posted on their website on 22 April 2016.

It is a very dense and detailed document in which KPMG provides a range of Recommendations to the Attorney-General's Department on the Future Focus of the Family Law Services. It starts from the premise that demand for services will increase with little prospect of any increase to the funding provided for Services. Therefore, many of the recommendations are linked to driving efficiencies in the sector, enhancing collaboration, and exploring new modes of technological advances for service delivery. All of which will the Report suggests will be intrinsically linked to stronger identification of, alignment to and evidence of outcomes for clients in the Family Law Services system.

It is a very dense document requiring much further exploration of the content which FRSA is continuing to work on. We also wish to consult with our membership about the Report and are currently looking to how best we can do this. It will be a key issue on the FRSA Board agenda when they come together on 17/18 May.

I would welcome any feedback from our members on the Report – at any time. Please contact via [email](#) or call (02) 6162 1811 or 0417220779.

“Pause and think” is the message to not-for-profit organisations regarding their campaigning in the federal election

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) is warning charities not to “step over the line” when advocating during the 2016 election campaign.

“We had identified the gap in the knowledge base and [we] were keen to get it out before the election campaign” said ACNC Commissioner Susan Pascoe AM regarding “respectable” advocacy.

A newly released ACNC [guide](#), framed by the views of respected charity lawyers, attempts to make clear what is permitted during the election, to ensure charities avoid the risk of having a disqualifying purpose and putting their registration at risk.

The guide identifies how organisations can advocate, such as by comparing parties’ policies, and what to avoid, including giving direction on how to vote.

For more information, please [visit here](#).



Prevention and early intervention are priority in dealing with family and domestic violence

'Hearing Their Voices: Perceptions of women and men on reducing men's perpetration of domestic violence' interviewed 20 women and 20 men who have experienced domestic violence.

Funded by Housing SA, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion and UnitingCare Wesley Country SA, and conducted by Uniting Care Wesley Country SA and Flinders University, the project was as a response to the prevalence of domestic violence in Australia. One in three women experience violence in their life time and one in six have experienced violence from a current or former partner.

The project is

Some of the recommendations in the [full report](#) relate to:

- Strengthening existing men's programs to ensure service consistency.
- Increasing efforts to keep men engaged in perpetrator programs irrespective of voluntariness.
- Viewing group intervention should be viewed as a priority
- Recognising violent men as complex whole persons and identify 'hotspot' services to men via high comorbidity/multiple morbidity indicators with domestic violence
- Identifying opportunities for specialist men's workers to engage with others in prevention activities
- Giving priority to prevention and early intervention in Aboriginal communities
- Viewing domestic violence and child protection as synonymous
- Engaging in workforce development to increase capacity for understanding the dynamics of men's violence and/or men's resistance to intervention.

Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services

The Treasurer has called for a Productivity Commission Inquiry into Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services.

The [Terms of Reference for the Inquiry](#) released by the Turnbull Government outlines the purpose of adopting choice and completion principles in the domain of human services as being to ‘ensure that high quality service provision is affordable to all Australians and leads to improved outcomes for individuals and the economy’.

The Terms of Reference does acknowledge the complexity of different characteristics of services, and of the individuals receiving the services, the objectives sought and the jurisdictions and market in which the services are being supplied.

Whether or not and to what extent family and relationship service may be impacted is unclear. The Terms of Reference defines human services as covering ‘a diverse range of services, including health, education and community services, for example job services, social housing, prisons, aged care and disability services’. There is the potential that these examples are not exclusive, and family and relationship services may be considered to comprise this ‘diverse range of services’.

The inquiry is to be undertaken in two stages:

1. An initial study report identifying services within the human services sector that are best suited to the introduction of greater competition, contestability and user choice. This report is to be submitted by late October 2016.

2. A more extensive examination in the form of an inquiry report making recommendations on how to introduce greater completion, contestability and user choice to the services identified during the first stage. This report is to be submitted by late October 2017.

More information is provided online regarding the intended process for [public consultation](#).



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Child Abuse Royal Commission — intention to conclude private sessions for survivors

The Child Abuse Royal Commission has announced that from 30 September 2016 they will no longer be accepting new applications for private sessions.

The Royal Commission has held over 5000 private sessions during the past year, with a future 1500 plus survivors across Australia who are waiting to tell their story.

People who have already registered for a private session, will not be affected, they have each been notified and are guaranteed to receive a private session if they still wish to attend. Those wishing to apply, are asked to get in touch now.

Please direct survivors to contact the Royal Commission with any questions or for support by calling 1800 099 340 or by [email](#).

More information can be found via the [Royal Commission website](#).

The Commission is due to deliver its final report in December 2017.



Government funding to community-business partnerships

Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter, has announced that community organisations can now apply for a share of \$160,000 in Commonwealth Government funding to support their philanthropic partnerships.

Up to \$10,000 is available for projects that highlight the ‘power of partnerships’, which is the theme for Community and Philanthropy Partnership Week.

“Community and Philanthropy Partnership Week, to be held from 5-11 December, brings together community and business leaders around Australia, to advance our culture of philanthropy and volunteering,” Mr Porter said.

“I encourage community organisations, philanthropic partners and businesses to participate in this great opportunity to shine a light on their collaborations.”

The Commonwealth Government have dedicated \$650,000 investment over three years to show commitment to the initiative.

Click to read the full [media release](#).

To apply for a grant and for more information on Community and Philanthropy Partnerships Week, please visit here.



ARE THERE PEOPLE IN YOUR OFFICE MISSING OUT ON FRSA NEWS?

Are there other staff members in your office who would benefit from receiving the FRSA newsletter? Subscription to the newsletter is simple. Just forward this email to the relevant individuals and ask them to click on the link [here](#). Please [contact](#) our Amanda Carter if you have any queries.

Upcoming dates and events in the sector

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month 1-13 May

[Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month](#) is held during May each year to raise community awareness and promote a clear message that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated in our communities.



National Family Day Care Week 3-9 May

[National Family Day Care Week](#) offers a chance for the family day care sector to unite and celebrate the amazing work of educators and approved services in shaping the lives of more than 142,400 children across the country.



Mother's Day
8 May

Mothers Day is the annual celebration of mothers and the hard work they do.



National Families Week
15-21 May

[National Families Week](#) is a time to celebrate with your immediate family, make contact with your extended family and friends and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family time.



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