



FRSA is excited to announce the new [FRSA website](#) is now live.

Crafted to reflect the needs and desires of the organisation, the feedback received by our Members and the much needed update of websites tools and functionality to take us to the next step.

The FRSA website homepage displays features bright colours, a modern uncluttered design and feature sliders. Overall, the website is significantly faster, easier to navigate and more user friendly.

There are a couple key additions to webpage we'd like to point out.

- In particular, our [Members Directory](#), developed to help you connect with the FRSA members and search through the network.
- The [FRSA National Conference 2016](#) webpage – containing all information for our upcoming Conference 29 Nov–1 Dec 2016 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.
- Our [FRSA Blog](#) (Under the FRSA News section). Where we will be publishing a variety of pieces from contributors across the family and

relationship services sector. We welcome expressions of interest of those wishing to contribute.

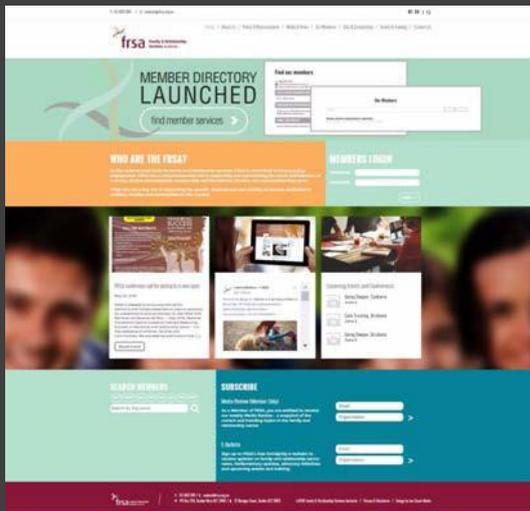
- We are planning to release a Webinar series presented by influential members of the family and relationships sector.

We invite you to have a browse through the sections and explore the site and welcome any feedback you'd like to share, please send it [here](#). There are a few more additions to come, including the Member Login, Webinars, Blog and more.

Enjoy this week's e-Bulletin. Featured articles include:

- [FRSA Conference 2016 Update](#)
- [AGD consultation on the KPMG Report - Future Focus of Family Law Services](#)
- [Loss of additional FARs and Mental Health funding to regional and rural Australia](#)
- [Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect Resource Sheet](#)
- [2016 Out of Reach: National Economic and Social Impact report](#)
- [Antipoverty Week](#)
- [Upcoming dates and events in the sector](#)

Best regards,  
Jackie Brady



## The new FRSA Website is here!

FRSA invites you to have a browse and explore the newly designed FRSA website.

Be sure to check out ...

- [FRSA Member Directory](#)
- [Events & Training Calendar](#)
- [FRSA National Conference](#)

And much more!



### **FRSA Conference 2016 Update**

As planning continues for the FRSA National Conference 2016, we would now like to share the Sponsorship opportunities available,

Sponsorship of the FRSA Conference is a great way to promote your organisation/business to the Family and Relationship Service sector. Benefits to sponsoring FRSA conference include; brand exposure, variety of sponsorship packages available, complimentary registrations and tickets and networking opportunities with leaders in the sector and conference delegates.

Prospective sponsors can view the sponsorship opportunities for the FRSA Conference in the Sponsorship Prospectus, [available here](#).

We are aiming to have Registrations open by the end of next week.

### **Call for Abstracts**

Many thanks to those of you, who have already submitted an abstract for the FRSA Conference.

If you are yet to make a submission, we encourage you to seize this opportunity to explore the what, why and how of effectively measuring success in the delivery of family and relationship services to clients in one or more of the following family life transition points.

- The first 1000 days
- Key transition points in the schooling years
- Partnering and cohabitation
- Relationship breakdown and re-partnering
- Ageing

**Don't miss out on your chance to submit! Just 12 days remaining!**

Abstract submissions will close **Sunday 12 June 2016**.

To submit your abstract, [please visit here](#).

**Click here to subscribe to our Conference updates - for all information regarding call for papers, registration, accommodation details, special offers for delegates and more.**



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

### **AGD consultation on the KPMG Report - Future Focus of Family Law Services**

As indicated by the Attorney-General's Department when publishing the KPMG Report – ***Future Focus of Family Law Services*** on its website, the Department will be embarking on a consultation round with existing Family Law Service

providers over the next five months. The first of which was held in Canberra on Tuesday.

This consultation process is designed to begin a conversation/discussion with existing Family Law Service providers to seek feedback on the KPMG Report and unpack in greater detail responses from the sector to the range of recommendations made by KPMG.

The consultations will be held in all major metropolitan centres as well as some regional centres. Invitations to attend will be extended to existing Family Law Service providers via local DSS Contract Managers. If providers are not able to attend a consultation – there will also be an opportunity for written input. You can send written comments to: [flsisection@ag.gov.au](mailto:flsisection@ag.gov.au).

Either myself or a member of the FRSA Board will also aim to attend the various consultation sessions with a view to hearing firsthand the responses from the sector and to promote active and varied engagement in the conversations. FRSA also intends providing formal feedback to the Department on the KPMG report and this will be one means (there will be others) by which we interact with members to hear and seek out their views.

The Department has made known to me and the Board of FRSA that they are committed to working through the range of recommendations with the sector and have acknowledged that this round of consultations may well be a first step in developing a plan/strategy for future work/consultation rounds.

Please feel free to contact me, [Jackie Brady](#), should you wish to discuss further.

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## **Loss of additional FARs and Mental Health funding to regional and rural Australia**

A recent analysis of suicide rates by a mental health advocacy group headed by National Mental Health Commissioner Professor Ian Hickie found that rural and regional areas were the ones that suffered the most.

The study focused on 28 Electorates in Australia reported to be high, very high and extreme with the suicide rate in each electorate exceeding the road death toll. A number of these are also currently within the mix of electorates that will face a cut in funding for the Social and Community Support Measure as a result of the 2016 Federal Budget.

It is very clear in conversations with a range of services within our membership that people in rural and regional Australia will be put at risk if the Family and Relationship Services and community mental health services in rural and regional Australia do not continue to receive these services post 30 June 2016.

CSSA has shared with FRSA a proposal it has developed for a Rural Community Resilience Programme. This programme, draws on the success of the earlier model, enabling counsellors to go into rural and remote communities and extend mental health, family and relationship support to people in their homes, on their stations, and at community events.

CSSA developed the proposal in response to the Government's decision to cease the community mental health and family and relationship counselling services programme and the long-term impacts this will have on the wellbeing and resilience of rural communities.

To read the full proposal from CSSA, please visit [here](#).

### **Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect Resource Sheet**

Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has recently updated its Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect Resource Sheet.

The Resource Sheet provides useful information on the key features of legislative reporting duties and mandatory reporting requirements per jurisdiction.

The Resource Sheet also explores:

- who is mandated to make a notification?
- what types of abuse are mandated reporters required to report?
- what protections are given to reporters?
- about whom can notifications be made?
- what type of concerns must be reported, and what may be reported?
- in what cases can child protection and welfare agencies respond?
- what are the benefits of mandatory reporting requirements?
- are there challenges with the introduction of mandatory reporting?

If you require assistance or would like to talk to a trained professional about the issues described in the Resource Sheet, please call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.



### **2016 Out of Reach: National Economic and Social Impact report**

The Economic and Social Impact Survey (ESIS) 2016 is the fifth consecutive national report by The Salvation Army exploring the levels of deprivation and disadvantage experienced by those who access Emergency Relief (ER) services.

ESIS 2016 data was captured by a questionnaire that was distributed to service users through 283 Salvation Army ER and community support centres across Australia. More than 1600 respondents completed the questionnaire during early February 2016.

The report provides insights into the circumstances and experiences of a number of disadvantaged groups, including:

- individuals and families experiencing housing stress and homelessness, increased housing mobility and transience, and overcrowded conditions;
- individuals and families experiencing financial hardship and disadvantage, and
- children, young people and families affected by social exclusion and multiple deprivations.

Results indicated that a large proportion of individuals and families who accessed Salvation Army ER and support services struggled to make ends meet, were unable to afford basic and essential household items, and experienced poverty and multiple levels of deprivation.

In regards to family violence and homeless, the report outlines:

- Family violence was the primary reason that women (37%) moved accommodation in the last 12 months;
- 7 out of 10 women experienced extreme housing stress;
- Respondents escaping family violence spent nearly three-quarters of their income on housing and accommodation expenses; and
- One in two respondents cut down on basic necessities, with half accessing emergency relief vouchers, half borrowed money from friend or family and 43 per cent had gone without meals.

# ANTI-POVERTY 16 - 22 October 2016 WEEK

Anti-Poverty Week in 2016 starts on Sunday 16 October and ends on Saturday 22 October. The UN's International Anti-Poverty Day is Saturday 17 October.

The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia.

Its main aims are to:

- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and within Australia;
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

To notify your plans or get further information, contact 1300 797 290 or via email: [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au).

To learn more, visit the website.



## 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](#)

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National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.



To get involved, visit the [National Reconciliation Week website](#).

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Red Nose Day held on Friday 24 June 2016, is the national fundraising event day for SIDS and Kids. Red Nose Day provides critical funding for a 24-hour bereavement support service, community education to reduce incidents of SIDS and fatal sleeping accidents, and research into areas such as SIDS and stillbirth.



For more info about Red Nose Day, [visit the website](#).



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