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FRSA MEDIA RELEASE

More support services needed for LGBTIQ people, their children and their families

Family & Relationship Services Australia calls on the Federal Government to ensure that LGBTIQ people, their children and their families are adequately supported through the re-invigorated public debate about marriage equality.

FRSA is a peak organisation guided by the principle of ensuring wellbeing for all children, families and communities in Australia.

“We are concerned that the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people, their kids and their families are being significantly challenged during the heightened debate around a national plebiscite on marriage equality” said FRSA Executive Director, Jackie Brady.

“The last time this issue raged in public discourse with such vigour, we received advice from a number of FRSA members that there was an increase in demand for services by this community,” she said.

“We know that, even in the absence of this additional stress and trauma in their lives, LGBTIQ people experience triple the rate of depression and double the rate of anxiety when compared to their heterosexual counterparts,” she said. “And, they are also up to 14 times more likely to attempt suicide.”

As an organisation intent on taking a greater prevention and early intervention approach in family and relationship related services, FRSA knows that LGBTIQ people, their children and their families will be needing more support services. We call on the Government to provide extra funds during the plebiscite period to ensure they have access to professional and appropriate counselling, trauma counselling and support services,” she said.

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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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