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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MINISTER MORRISON'S SECOND CHANCE FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.**

**Family & Relationship Services Australia commends Minister Scott Morrison for continuing to fund the Specialised Family Violence and Kids in Focus programmes through until the end of June 2017.**

"This is a lifeline to families affected by domestic violence and substance abuse in Australia," said FRSA Executive Director, Jackie Brady. "These programmes provide targeted and specialist services that dovetail and complement other assistance services such as those provided by the health, justice and housing sectors."

"Although covering different areas of needs, both programmes focus on providing the appropriate support mechanisms for affected families to reduce the risk of harm or a relapse into substance use."

"During a twelve month period, the Kids in Focus and Specialised Family Violence programmes assist over 6,000 clients. These services are vital if we are to continue to ensure successful outcomes for families and communities."

"At a recent FRSA network meeting, Minister Morrison made an impassioned commitment to ensuring that gaps in frontline services were not left vacant as a result of the recent DSS Discretionary Grants Process. The announcement from the Minister on these two specialist programmes indicates that he is a man of his word."

"I remain hopeful that the Government will continue to look for ways to re-instate funding for the Family and Relationship Services for Humanitarian Entrants programme beyond the end of June this year. This is an important and much needed service for newly arrived humanitarian entrants."