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FRSA WELCOMES ROYAL COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The national peak body for family and relationship services has welcomed the terms of reference for the Royal Commission on institutional responses to child sexual abuse. These guidelines will allow the experienced panel to investigate any private, public or non-government organisations that is or was involved with children.

"Our members will be pleased with the broad terms of reference that the Commission will investigate", said FRSA Executive Director Steve Hackett.

"Unfortunately, child sexual abuse can occur in any organisation involved with children and it is imperative that we use this opportunity to target instances of child abuse and prevent any further harm."

"Child sexual abuse is a very serious issue and we welcome the Government's decision to appoint a panel of highly qualified Commissioners."

"This expert panel will allow the Commission to investigate and make recommendations on eradicating any existing institutional frameworks that facilitate or fail to adequately deal with child sexual abuse."

"The recommendations from the Commission must lead to better child protection laws and processes across different jurisdictions."

The Federal Government has also identified the need to provide adequate support for victims of sexual abuse that emerge during the Commission's investigative process.

"It will be very difficult for victims to come forward, reliving the pain and emotional suffering they have held onto since their childhood."

"Providing adequate support to victims who choose to come forward will be crucial in the attempt to repair the damage these individuals have suffered."

"Many FRSA member organisations provide highly experienced and professional counselling for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse."

"FRSA will work with the Commission proactively to provide extra assistance to individuals who come forward."