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MEDIA RELEASE

FUNDING BOOST APPLAUDED BY PEAK BODY

FRSA, the national peak body for family and relationship services, has welcomed a one-off funding boost for Children's Contact Services announced today by the Federal Attorney-General.

Ms Roxon has announced that approximately \$4m will be spread across 65 services around Australia. The funding injection will assist families experiencing separation by reducing waiting times.

"Growing waiting lists has put a burden on the ability of Children's Contact Centres to continue providing ongoing assistance to vulnerable families," according to FRSA Executive Director Steve Hackett.

"This funding is therefore very timely and will allow services to provide additional support this financial year.

"Every little bit counts for these services and we are glad the Attorney-General's Department has provided some relief," said Mr Hackett.

"What we would like to see heading towards an election is an ongoing and long-term commitment from both sides of politics to supporting Australian families through investment in services that support families during vulnerable times.

"FRSA is pleased to see the non-prescriptive manner in which the funding has been provided. It is important that organisations are given the ability to direct funding to those services most in need, or to those aspects of their programs most in need.

"It is crucial going forward that Government can recognise the importance of non-prescriptive funding agreements for the sector, as this allows for the most efficient allocation of resources."

Interviews with Steve Hackett are available, please contact 0406 628 239.