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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Federal Budget reinforces value of family support services**

This year's Federal Budget has demonstrated the valuable contribution of family and relationship services in the community.

Family and Relationship Services Australia (FRSA) welcomed the maintenance of funding for family and relationship services in this year's budget, which funds hundreds of not-for-profit organisations providing vital support to children and families.

"This decision is a real indication of how important family and relationship services are to wellbeing of Australian families", said FRSA Executive Director Steve Hackett.

"In particular, it shows that investment in these types of services is actually an investment in the long-term future of Australian families."

"With the Government seeking budget cuts, it is reassuring to see this area of funding is clearly an ongoing priority."

Whilst the funding of services to support children and families has been maintained in the Budget, a number of new measures will continue to hurt vulnerable and disadvantaged families. This includes the failure to deliver the promised increase to the Family Tax Benefit.

"We are concerned about the inadequate increases to income support payments for those on the Newstart Allowance."

"We encourage the Government to consider the long-term costs of having individuals and families struggle to make ends meet in their communities."