



MEDIA RELEASE

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Centre funding a boost to families

Relationships Australia (Victoria) – RAV - has welcomed continued funding for the operation of three of its Family Relationship Centres (FRCs) from 1 July this year.

RAV is the lead agency for the Berwick, Greensborough and Sunshine FRCs for which the Australian Government has committed funding for another two years in recognition of the need to support families build stronger relationships.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Michael Hunt, said the funding commitment was excellent news, and reaffirmed the ability of RAV and its partners to deliver a high level of support and assistance to families in need.

Mr Hunt said the three centres had assisted about 9,000 families since being established by the Government as part of reform of the family law system.

They provided separating families with information, advice and dispute resolution (such as mediation) to help them reach agreement on workable parenting plans that focused on the needs of children.

Staff also recognised the importance of other family members, particularly grandparents, being able to maintain relationships with children and grandchildren.

Mr Hunt said the FRCs had a strong focus on community development and worked actively with the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and indigenous communities to ensure they were aware of the wide range of help available to families.

The Sunshine FRC was one of the first 15 FRCs established in 2006. RAV's consortium partners at Sunshine are Centacare Catholic Family Services, McKillop Family Services and Community West.

Berwick and Greensborough FRCs were established in 2007, supported by consortium partners Windermere Child and Family Services (Berwick) and Berry Street Victoria and Centacare Catholic Family Services (Greensborough).

RAV is also lead agent for the Melbourne City FRC, which opened in July last year. Its consortium partner is Inner South Community Health Service.

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