

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**7 August 2008**

### **New centre to help Melbourne families**

Inner Melbourne families will benefit from services provided by the Melbourne Family Relationship Centre (FRC), which will be officially opened today by the Australian Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP.

The Melbourne Family Relationship Centre, located at 379 Collins Street, is one of 65 operating throughout Australia.

Established as part of the Australian Government's reform of the family law system, it will be an important resource for families, providing them with information, support and referral to a range of services that can strengthen their relationships or assist them through separation.

The Melbourne FRC is managed by a consortium involving Relationships Australia (Victoria) as the lead, and consortium partner Inner South Community Health Service.

Centre Manager, Ms Gai Campbell, said the Centre aimed to help strengthen existing family relationships and where separation occurred, help separated parents agree on what is best for their children rather than resorting to court action.

"We will be able to help families going through separation to achieve workable parenting plans which focus on the needs of children. It is also important to recognise that other family members, particularly grandparents, wish to maintain relationships with children and grandchildren," she said.

The Centre will run regular public information sessions on a range of family relationship issues, including sessions on parenting after separation, depending on the needs of the inner Melbourne community.

"We are staffed with experienced and qualified professionals who will provide high quality, impartial and confidential services."

Ms Campbell said the Centre had a strong focus on community development and was particularly keen to provide family services, referrals and information to varied community groups.

"We are looking forward to working closely with the Ecumenical Migrant Centre to build relationships with local communities."

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