

23 April 2008

New Outreach service for Bass Coast

Bass Coast residents will have improved access to family relationship services from 15 May 2008.

The Berwick Family Relationship Centre (FRC) will provide an Outreach service in Wonthaggi to help families build better relationships through information and services.

Wonthaggi Outreach initially will operate each Thursday during business hours from 15 May until 30 June. Opening hours will be reviewed post July to clarify demand.

Berwick FRC Centre Manager, Ms Lilia Chalfin, said the Outreach service aimed to help families with their relationships and parenting through providing useful information and referral to other appropriate services and agencies.

“We also aim to help families going through separation to achieve workable parenting arrangements without have to go through the court system.”

The Berwick FRC has been operating since July 2007 as part of an Australian Government initiative and reform of the family law system.

It is being managed by a consortium involving Relationships Australia (Victoria) as the lead and Windermere Child and Family Services.

Ms Chalfin said Wonthaggi Outreach clients would have access to a wide range of resources such as Relationships Australia’s parenting plan book, relationship enhancement and maintenance booklets, and separation booklets for men and women.

“Clients can also attend information sessions about the family law system and the benefits of dispute resolution,” she said.

All enquiries, including making appointments and seeking information, should be directed to the Berwick FRC on 8768 4111 from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

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