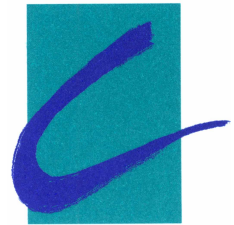


Centacare
New England North West



MEDIA RELEASE

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP CENTRES FUNDING CUTS

Funding cuts to Family Relationship Centres announced in last year's federal budget will come into effect on the 1st of July.

In 2006 the Federal Government began establishing Family Relationship Centres to relieve the pressure on family courts. The concept was that Family Relationship Centres would provide services and programs to families at all stages of their life. The Centres purpose is to help people strengthen their relationships and stay together, deal with relationship difficulties or assist with family separation. Services provided include counselling, relationship education, support services, family dispute resolution (mediation) and referral. Following changes to the Family Law Act parents were encouraged to try mediation, which is a practical, less stressful and inexpensive way to reach an agreement on arrangements for their children without going to court.

Fergus Fitzsimons, General Manager of Centacare New England North West, which is the lead agency for the Tamworth Family Relationship Centre says "The increasing number of people accessing services, include mediation through the Tamworth Family Relationship Centre indicates a need for these services. While means testing and fees are being introduced, the decrease in funding does not change the purpose of the centre or signify a decrease in the high standard of service delivery."

To find out more on the services available through the Tamworth Family Relationship Centre call 1800 372 826.

Ends....Friday 10th June 2011

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