



## STATEMENT

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

### ABS Data reflects experience on the ground

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has begun to release data from its 2021 Census and the Chief Executive Officer of Mallee Family Care says none of the statistics released today come as a surprise to the Organisation.

“Census data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today, in some ways, paints a concerning picture of our country. It shows a growing population that is increasingly under pressure, from a financial and mental health perspective.

“As the cost of living continues to climb, we are seeing more people reaching out to our Organisation for support from our financial and community legal teams and from our family counselling and mental health and wellbeing services.

“Census data that speaks to higher rates of young people experiencing psychological distress reflect what we are seeing on the ground across the Mallee, as does the increased rate of separation and divorce. The last few years have been particularly difficult and while we know many people across our community are facing hardship, there is some comfort to be taken from data that suggests people are increasingly more likely to actively seek support and to take actions that will help them manage and recover.

“As an Organisation, Mallee Family Care is aware of the growing community need and we will continue to respond to demand by providing the services people need, when and where they need them.

“We deliver a range of support programs for children, young people, individuals and families, with a focus on early intervention and empowerment and our Organisation will continue to expand and adapt in order to best serve the emerging needs of our community.”

Quotes attributable to Teresa Jayet – CEO Mallee Family Care



**For all media enquiries:**

**Kirsten Lloyd** | Manager Communications & Strategy

T: 03 5023 5966 M: 0459 020 665

E: [klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au)



ENDS



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