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Budget measures welcome, but deeper action needed to tackle entrenched disadvantage

Mallee Family Care has welcomed measures in the Federal Budget that support housing affordability and provide continued funding certainty for child, family, relationship and family law services, while warning that more substantial action is needed to address entrenched disadvantage and inequality in regional communities.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the Budget included positive steps that, over time, would help many families and young people experiencing housing stress.

“For many young people and families across the Mallee, secure and affordable housing feels increasingly out of reach. These measures are an important start and recognise the significant pressures being experienced in regional communities as well as metropolitan areas.”

Ms Jayet also noted the importance of certainty for frontline organisations supporting vulnerable children, families and communities which is supported by the continuation of Commonwealth funding for child, family, relationship and family law services.

“These services play a critical role in supporting family wellbeing, responding early to vulnerability and helping prevent issues from escalating into crisis,” she said.

“Mallee Family Care looks forward to continuing to work with the Australian Government on the transition to the new national Children and Family Support program.”

Ms Jayet said the consolidation of existing programs presented an opportunity to improve integration and coordination of services, particularly in communities experiencing multiple and overlapping forms of disadvantage.

“In regions like the Mallee, where communities can face compounding challenges including housing stress, family violence, financial hardship, workforce shortages and limited service access, there is real potential for more coordinated and place-based approaches that better respond to local needs,” she said.

“At the same time, we are disappointed that the Budget did not do more to address the structural inequalities that continue to drive entrenched disadvantage.”

Ms Jayet said the absence of more significant action on income support meant many people experiencing poverty would see little meaningful change in their day-to-day circumstances.



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“Without measures such as raising the rate of income support payments, many of the positive initiatives in this Budget will have only a limited impact on entrenched inequality and disadvantage,” she said.

“We continue to see individuals and families forced to make impossible choices between food, rent, utilities and basic essentials. Long-term change requires structural reform alongside investment in services.”

“Mallee Family Care remains committed to working collaboratively with governments, communities and partner organisations to support stronger, healthier and more connected communities across our region.”

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About Mallee Family Care

Mallee Family Care is a dedicated, place-based community service organisation that has been supporting the regional, rural and remote communities of North-West Victoria, Far West NSW and South Australia’s Riverland region since 1979. With around 300 staff delivering more than 70 programs, MFC supports thousands of people across the Mallee each year, providing vital services in areas including family and youth support, mental health, financial counselling, tenancy advocacy, legal assistance, early childhood education and care, and disability services.



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