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## Redesigning family preservation in NSW is a chance for regional families to thrive

Place-based, culturally appropriate and flexible solutions are the key to effective family preservation programs, according to Mallee Family Care (MFC), a leading community service organisation in the Mallee region.

MFC has responded to the NSW government's recent consultation on redesigning the family preservation system across NSW, drawing on its experience as a provider of this program in some of the most remote communities in the state.

MFC CEO Teresa Jayet said strong families meant strong communities.

"Family preservation programs play a vital role in strengthening families and promoting child wellbeing but need to be grounded in local communities to be effective," Ms Jayet said.

"MFC thanks the NSW government for seeking community and stakeholder input to improve the current family preservation system. Our submission advocates for a place-based approach to the redesign of this important program to give families in our region the best support for their diverse needs within a local community setting.

"We also stress the need for culturally safe services and supports, particularly for Aboriginal families and those from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This means ensuring that materials are tailored to each cohort based on linguistic and/or cultural need.

"MFC supports the government's commitment to developing an Aboriginal Family Preservation Framework which should provide an additional option for Indigenous families. We do, however, stress the need for mainstream services to deliver culturally safe and accessible services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, particularly in areas where Indigenous-run services are not available.

"Flexibility in service provision is also crucial as families can have different levels and types of needs for support. We need to move away from a rigid time-based approach which is particularly unsuitable in rural and regional areas where services need to navigate long distances and infrastructure limitations to deliver support.



### Media enquiries

Mieka Symes | Communications Manager

T: 03 5023 5966 M: 0439 850 638

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



“MFC looks forward to the government’s response to the consultation process and calls on the Department of Community and Justice (DCJ) to maintain a robust relationship with providers when developing and implementing these crucial programs to ensure their relevance, effectiveness and value to NSW communities,” Ms Jayet said.

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