

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 14/05/18

MEDIA RELEASE: HELP FOR FAMILIES – NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK

To celebrate National Families Week 2018 (15-21 May) the North Coast Family Referral Service (FRS) is setting up a stall at three Northern Rivers shopping centres with free giveaways and information. There will be fun interactive games for children to participate in, including our green frog fishing game, giving parents and carers a chance to have a chat to us and see how we can help them.

During National Families Week, Australians celebrate the role that families play in our society. It's also a really good time to talk about the help and support that's out there for families.

“Life throws up a lot of challenges and parenting isn't always easy” says Patrick Deegan, Manager of the Family Referral Service at Social Futures. “Sometimes parents don't know where to go to get help, or even that there is help out there for them. We help parents and carers navigate the range of support services out there.”

The FRS is a free, confidential service which links families with young children (0-18 years old) to existing support services and community resources to ensure that children and young people are safe and well.

“At times parents are struggling, we're here. We can help with all sorts of issues and provide practical assistance. Like help to sort out Centrelink payments, information on parenting programs and linking into ongoing support” says Patrick.

“All parents need to do is call and we'll find the most appropriate services for them”.

The FRS roadshow will be available this week – National Families Week on:

- Tuesday 15 May: Goonellabah Shopping Centre, outside Coles from 10am - 2pm
- Wednesday 16 May: Grafton Shopping World, outside Coles from 10am - 2pm
- Friday 18 May: Casino Shopping Centre, outside Coles from 10am - 2pm
- Saturday 19 May – at the Murwillumbah Kinship Festival, Knox Park, Murwillumbah

The Family Referral Service is funded by NSW Health and can be contacted on 1800 338 774 or by email frs@socialfutures.org.au. Visit our website for more information socialfutures.org.au/family-referral-service/



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.

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Image attached: Patrick Deegan, Manager of the Family Referral Service (FRS) and FRS Caseworker Fiona Halligan with hundreds of green frog stress ball giveaways for National Families Week.

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