

25 November 2020

SOCIAL FUTURES SECURES NEW FAMILY PROGRAM ACROSS NORTHERN NSW AND MID NORTH COAST

Social Futures is delighted to announce it will deliver the **Family Connect and Support** program from 1 January 2021, replacing the well-known Family Referral Service (FRS).

The NSW State Government funded program will connect families to the community resources and support services to meet individual family needs and keep children and young people safe and well.

Social Futures' CEO Tony Davies welcomed the news saying the organisation is eager to continue to support families in the region.

"Families are struggling more than ever. With last summer's bushfires and COVID-19, it has been a tough 12 months. Like the FRS, the Family Connect and Support service will help families connect with the right services and find the support they need."

Families will have access to dedicated support workers to assist them to plan and set goals, to engage with local providers and link to the services that they require.

While key elements of the FRS program will remain, the new service will also extend and deepen its community engagement through services such as family group conferencing and increased outreach into settings such as schools and child care centres. It will also focus on flexible service delivery to respond to large scale disasters and reach isolated families.

Families will have access to dedicated support workers to assist them to plan and set goals and engage with local services that can support their needs.

"The service is voluntary and can support families experiencing a wide range of issues including domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol misuse, housing instability and mental health," Mr Davies said.

Social Futures will deliver the new service in Northern NSW and is working with Pathfinders to deliver in the Mid North Coast.

Families and service providers can find out more about the service via 1800 338 774 or online socialfutures.org.au

Media enquiries: Warwick Forster T: 0427 556 892 | E: warwick.forster@socialfutures.org.au

Interviews: Tony Davies, CEO Social Futures is available for interviews

Note to editors:

1. Social Futures is a community service organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.