



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**SHINE for Kids**

support-hope-inspire-nurture-empower

## **CHILDREN WITH A MOTHER BEHIND BARS**

SHINE for Kids says that Mother's Day this Sunday will be a chance for the wider community to reflect upon the plight of children with a mother in prison.

"Through no fault of their own, these children will feel alienation and shame on the very day they should be in the warm embrace of their mothers," the Chief Executive Officer of SHINE for Kids, Gloria Larman, said today.

"As we all celebrate our own time with our mothers this Sunday we should spare a thought for these children, who are innocent victims of the justice system."

"While some may have a chance to visit their mothers in prison, many others will not enjoy the full celebration of Mother's Day," Ms Larman said. "Children with a father in prison will also feel the impact on their mothers on Mother's Day."

For over thirty years, SHINE for Kids has been dedicated to helping the children of parents who are sent to prison.

"When a parent is sent to prison, these children suffer terribly—and it's through no fault of their own," Ms Larman said.

“In the longer term, these kids do not meet their potential and are at high risk of themselves committing offences.

“This is not just a terrible personal tragedy but comes at a real economic cost to Australian society.”

Ms Larman said that there were currently more than 40,000 such children across Australia.

She said that much of the funding for SHINE for Kids came from governments.

However, we would be delighted to see more corporations stepping up to help our work with these children and we challenge them to do so,” she said.

“It is in the financial interest of business and the Australian economy that these kids be encouraged to succeed in life.”

For three decades **SHINE for Kids**, a non-profit organisation supported by governments and other benefactors and stakeholders, has worked with and for young Australians affected by family member involvement in the criminal justice system. The organisation has supported them, helped create hope and inspired them to reach their potential.

In NSW, **SHINE for Kids** centres are located at Silverwater, Parklea, Windsor, Kariong, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee and Kempsey. In Victoria, there is an office at Footscray and programs operating at Lara (Barwon) and Ravenhall. There is also a program operating in Canberra at the Alexander Maconochie facility.

More information on SHINE for Kids can be found at [www.shineforkids.org.au](http://www.shineforkids.org.au)

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