



MEDIA RELEASE

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SHINE for Kids

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SHINE RAISES CONCERN OVER BUDGET CUTS

SHINE for Kids says it is concerned that some of its programs may be adversely affected by last night's Federal Budget.

"While we recognise the significant budgetary issues faced by an incoming government, we hope that the Commonwealth Government will continue to support the work we do with children who have parents in prison," the Chief Executive Officer of **SHINE for Kids**, Gloria Larman, said today.

"We are still studying the implications for our continued funding levels in the Budget, but we have initial concerns that cuts to support for indigenous programs may adversely affect our 'Belonging to Family' program in Kempsey.

"This program has been very successful in giving young people and their families the support they need to build productive lives," Ms Larman said. "It would be disappointing if this program were lost."

Ms Larman said that in more general terms, the Budget's cuts to welfare programs would put more pressure on low-income families, especially those where children have a parent in prison.

SHINE for Kids Co-operative Ltd ABN 60 662 072 775

Helping children with a parent in the criminal justice system and their families throughout New South Wales, ACT and Victoria
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Locations at Silverwater, Parklea, Wineler, Bathurst, Cessnock, Wellington, Junee, Kempsey, Kariong, Canberra, Footscray, Lara and Ravenhall

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“We appeal once again for corporate Australia to step up with support for our work. It is in the financial interest of business and the Australian economy that these kids be encouraged to succeed in life.”

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. There are currently more than 40,000 such children across Australia.

“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.”

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

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