## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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## BADEN-CLAY CASE HIGHLIGHTS TRAGEDY OF CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

The plight of children of prisoners has been brought to stark attention following the outcome of the Baden-Clay murder trial, the Chief Executive Officer of SHINE for Kids, Ms Gloria Larman said today.

"We feel deeply for the young girls at the centre of this tragedy," Ms Larman said.

"They have done nothing wrong. They are innocent victims. Furthermore, their distress has been compounded by the horror of their father's actions and the intense publicity surrounding this case."

Ms Larman said that the advice of SHINE for Kids was available for the children and their family, should they wish to seek assistance.

"For over thirty years, we have been helping children of prisoners."

"We estimate there are around 40,000 such children across Australia."

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

"The Baden-Clay children clearly have strong family support and we wish them all well."

"However, many children of prisoners don't have any of the support they need. 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 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

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