

MEDIA RELEASE

Federal Budget: Good news for families and children...but question marks over impact of cuts

Responding to tonight's Budget, Families Australia Chief Executive Brian Babington said, "Overall, the Federal Budget brought down tonight is good news for families and children".

"Families Australia particularly welcomes new Federal funding in the areas of: education and health infrastructure; new funding to support Indigenous families with child and maternal health and education programs; child care and early education; the development of Australia's first ever National Child Protection Plan; and the overhaul of the Carer Payment (child), which will see thousands of carers of children with severe or profound disability gain access to much needed benefits.

"The Rudd Government's funding cuts are, however, potentially concerning because they may undermine the capacity of agencies assisting families to do their jobs well. The Rudd Government should ensure that front-line agencies, in particular, retain and enhance their capacities to work with families, especially the least advantaged," Mr Babington said.

"Families Australia is also concerned about the apparent absence of specific measures aimed at better supporting grandparents who provide primary care for grandchildren and the lack of measures to provide more comprehensive support to families who are affected by substance abuse," he said.

For comment, contact Brian Babington on 0417 550 149

For further information, go to www.familiesaustralia.org.au or contact Families Australia on 02 6273 4885 or email: admin@familiesaustralia.org.au