



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

### FUNDING FOR MALLEE FAMILY CARE LEGAL SERVICE

The Victorian Government has today announced that Mallee Family Care will receive \$321,500 in additional funding to support the Organisation in delivering frontline legal assistance through its community legal service.

In announcing the funding, Attorney-General Minister for Workplace Safety, Hon Jill Hennessy MP, recognised the significant contribution Mallee Family Care has made to the communities in which it serves, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Attorney-General further acknowledged the socio-economic impacts that the Mallee region is experiencing as a result of the coronavirus and the importance of having accessible support services for both crisis and recovery.

Mallee Family Care Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Teresa Jayet, welcomed today's announcement, saying the funding will support the Agency to deliver legal services when, where and how they are needed.

“Our legal service works to support the more vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community across a range of legal issues from family violence to finance related matters. As a consequence of COVID-19, there's been an increase in the number of people seeking assistance and for many, it is the first time they've had to access support services.”

The increase in demand and the changed environment has meant that Mallee Family Care has had to reassess the way some of its programs operate, with many services transitioning to online platforms.

“All our teams have worked incredibly hard throughout the COVID-19 crisis, responding to many challenges and adapting our program delivery to meet restriction requirements without compromising the quality of our service.

“This funding will help to sustain these efforts by supporting our continued innovation and in reality, it is an investment not just in Mallee Family Care but in our community.”

Ms. Jayet thanked the Victorian Government and said its recognition of Mallee Family Care's work is appreciated.

“Mallee Family Care has always been driven by the philosophy of local people caring for local people and today's funding announcement will further underpin this commitment.”

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**For all media enquiries:**

**Kirsten Lloyd** | Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator

**T:** 03 5023 5966 **M:** 0459 020 665

**E:** [klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:klloyd@malleefamilycare.com.au)