



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

### **Building Better Care for the Mallee**

Mallee Family Care has received grant funding from the Australian Government through its application to the Building Better Regions Fund. The Organisation's submission sought support for its development of a community facility enabling the co-location of its Mildura sites to promote better integration of its services, to support all members of the community.

The Building Better Regions Fund supports projects that will provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas and Mallee Family Care Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Teresa Jayet, said the development of the community support facility will generate significant advantages for the Mallee region, broadening the scope of services the Organisation can offer, increasing the number of clients, participants and consumers it can support and improving regional employment opportunities.

"Our Organisation has seen rapid growth over the last ten years, doubling in size in terms of the range of services, clients and employees.

"Consequently, we've outgrown our current space and there's considerable community demand which is continuing to drive further expansion.

"We're seeing more people and offering more services than ever before and we need a facility that will allow us to do this effectively and to accommodate our future growth for children, adolescents, individuals and families, across NDIS, allied health, mental health, counselling services and foster care programs."

The Mallee Family Care project will see the construction of a purpose-built facility, absorbing its six Mildura offices into one centralised location and allowing their clients to access a range of services in one place.

Ms. Jayet said that by bringing all the Organisation's services into one building, clients can access a range of supports without the need for retelling their story multiple times, which can be traumatic, and without the need for travel between office locations.

"This project is all about ensuring we provide the best possible care for our community and that means reducing the barriers to seeking help and having the ability to adapt and broaden our services to meet the changing needs of people living in the Mallee."

Chair of Mallee Family Care, Mr. Ross Lake OAM said he is gratified that the Federal Government has recognised the contribution the Organisation makes to the region and he thanked the Member for Mallee, Dr. Anne Webster, for her support of the project and for her advocacy.

"From the very beginning, Mallee Family Care has been dedicated to helping our community with local services and solutions and to keeping its needs at the centre of everything we do.

"We're committed to supporting the wellbeing of each of our clients, and to developing the opportunities for career pathways, for local people. This project will achieve both these things."



#### **For all media enquiries:**

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The Organisation's project is backed by a detailed Business Case, undertaken by Ernst and Young, which demonstrates that every dollar committed to the project will be a long term investment in strengthening community supports, services and opportunities.

"Our catchment covers over 92,000 square kilometres and across that area, there are over 5000 people we support every year. Each of those people matter and they deserve access to services," Ms. Jayet said.

"The purpose of this project is to ensure that everyone in our region can access support locally, when they need it, under one roof."

**ENDS**



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