



Media Release

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Charities have not failed children at risk

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare has strongly rejected false and misleading claims in a report released today by the Centre for Independent Studies.

The report alleges the family and community services sector is self-serving and not focussed on the best interests of children and families.

This allegation has emerged from the report's author, Jeremy Sammut's twisted interpretation to support his own dubious argument.

"I am concerned that Dr Sammut did not take the opportunity to speak to me to fully understand the context of our planned campaign, and the work of our members to support vulnerable children," Centre CEO Dr Lynette Buoy said.

"Our message is clear – the child protection system needs additional resources."

"We are not advocating that every child stays with a damaging family at all costs, as the misleading article in the Herald-Sun claims. We continue to advocate for a robust, well-resourced system that supports all children," Dr Buoy said.

"We support funding the whole system, from early intervention services through to child protection."

"The Centre supports mandatory reporting, but it is just as important to treat the *cause* of the problem."

"We believe equal priority must be given to help families who have difficulty in parenting well. Many young people tell us that their wish is to remain with their family. If we can support that to happen, why shouldn't we?"

Victoria has a community based intake system called ChildFIRST through which *anyone* in the community can make a report if they have concerns for a child's welfare.

“We have a well-networked community-based service system which is best placed to respond to local needs.”

“The expansion of mandatory reporting cannot be considered the only solution. Child protection requires a multitude of responses, from community education through to a range of care options for children who need the support of the state.”

Dr Buoy concluded by emphasising that “We need a well-functioning child protection system as well as a properly resourced early intervention and prevention system, but not one at the expense of the other.”

For more information or an interview contact:

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