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National Apology a welcome outcome for the victims of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

Relationships Australia Tasmania today supports the Australian Government in their delivery of the National Apology to the Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

Relationships Australia Tasmania's Director of Early Intervention Services Jules Carroll said the National Apology, is a key recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

"The apology is extremely important and will mean a great deal to the survivors of child sexual abuse for many reasons," Ms Carroll said.

"Nothing can fully makeup or atone for the harm caused to survivors and victims of institutional abuse, but the National Apology is an acknowledgement of their pain and suffering.

"The apology recognises the effect of trauma on their lives, their health, their relationships and the myriad of scars that abuse leaves behind. It will increase community awareness about the ongoing lifelong impact of this abuse on people's lives."

Ms Carroll said the difficulties and challenges faced by those who presented their stories of abuse, and the courage it took to do so, has already been a powerful catalyst for change.

"Their stories inside and outside the Commission framework have created a culture where children's voices can be heard and trusted, ensuring children are kept safe and protected in all facets of their lives.

"RA Tas is committed to supporting and working with the victims and survivors of institutional abuse and we are dedicated to ensuring safer futures for all children."

Ms Carroll said RA Tas provides a number of support services for those impacted by institutional abuse.

"We understand the innumerable impacts this trauma can have on individuals across their lifespan – including on their relationships, employment and mental health."

Survivors of child sexual abuse or those affected by the Royal Commission, the National Apology or the National Apology consultation process can contact our Royal Commission Support Services for free, comprehensive support, on **1300 364 277**.

About Relationships Australia Tasmania

At Relationships Australia Tasmania we provide families, couples, individuals, older people, children and communities with tools and strategies, so that they have healthy, positive lives. We help more than 8000 Tasmanians every year to transform and change their lives through counselling, mediation, dispute resolution, support and training.

Our focus is on:

- healthy relationships, discrimination, harassment, conflict resolution, parenting, cultural issues and mental health
- We offer people the services and support they need, when they need it to assist them when life presents challenges.
- Services are available to all people regardless of cultural background, family structure, economic situation, religious beliefs, gender or sexual orientation.

More information about the services and support we offer can be found on our website www.relationshipstas.com.au.

Media Contact: A.Mark Thomas, M&M Communications, 0422 0062 732