

Media Release

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Support for Tasmanians affected by past adoption practices

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Relationships Australia Tasmania today congratulated the Tasmanian Parliament for taking the significant step of apologising to those Tasmanians affected by past adoption practices.

“Tasmania probably had one of the highest rates of post war adoptions with an estimated 4,500 adoptions taking place between 1950 and 1970. Whilst there is no accurate data about the number of forced adoptions that occurred, it is estimated that there are potentially 2,700 Tasmanian families who have been affected by past adoption practices,” CEO Mat Rowell said.

“Relationships Australia Tasmania recognises that past adoption practices have had a lasting impact on not only mothers, but also fathers and those who were adopted as children. The experience of grief and loss and severe and ongoing trauma impacts on themselves and their families.”

Mr Rowell also welcomed the decision to provide additional resources toward the support and counselling of those Tasmanians affected by these practices.

“Tasmanians who have been affected by these practices have clearly identified the need for access to counselling and mental health services to provide support with these long-standing issues,” Mr Rowell said.

“Relationships Australia Tasmania, with the support of the Tasmanian Government, is pleased to be able to offer a specialist counselling and support services for individuals and families affected by past adoption practices,” he said.

These services are available statewide and can be accessed by contacting Relationships Australia Tasmania on 1300 364 277.

For further information please contact Mat Rowell on 0439 370 256