



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**24 April 2009**

**\$1,936,980 for Local Family Relationship Services Provider**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, was today pleased to announce funding from the Rudd Labor Government of more than \$1.9 million to go to the Newcastle branch of Interrelate Family Services.

Interrelate Family Centres is a community based, not-for-profit organisation that has been a leading provider of relationship services in Newcastle for the last 30 years.

"Interrelate plays a vital role in the provision of family relationship services to the broader Newcastle region," Ms Grierson said.

"This two year funding commitment on behalf of the Federal Government will assist local families by improving access to what is an important service."

"It is also encouraging to see such a significant financial boost to a local not-for-profit organisation."

The announcement comes as part of a \$100 million nation-wide investment on behalf of the Government to support a range of family service providers, who offer services such as counselling, skills training, and mediation.

The new funding agreements will introduce increased flexibility to family service providers, ensuring a more tailored response to the individual needs of families and children.

More than 212,000 Australians have sought the assistance of a family service provider in the last nine months alone.

**Media contacts: 4926 1555**