



## Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

### Media Release

June 5, 2009

### New children's contact service to help separated families in Devonport

SEPARATED families will now have another safe, neutral environment to hand over care of their children with the opening of a new North-West Children's Contact Service in Devonport today.

Mr Sidebottom said it was a pleasure to accompany Federal Attorney-General Robert McLelland at the launch of the new centre today, which is funded by the Federal Government and overseen by Relationships Australia in collaboration with Roland Children's Services.

"I'm delighted the Attorney-General could join us today to open this new centre, and to highlight the fantastic work that children's contact services provide on the North-West Coast," Mr Sidebottom said.

The North-West Children's Contact Service has operated since 2007 and will receive \$683,111 between 2007-10 from the Rudd Government. Funding will be continued in 2011.

The North-West Children's Contact Service has assisted almost 200 people in its first year of operation. Sites operate in Devonport, Burnie and Ulverstone.

The service engages in initiatives that foster integrated services for families, including:

- Being involved with the Launceston Family Pathways Network
- Providing a regular email update to family and law practitioners, and
- Participating in an information evening hosted by the Family Relationship Centre next door, aimed at family law practitioners.

"Family breakdown is a very traumatic time for a family, particularly when children are involved," he said.

"Services like this are crucial in providing children the opportunity to maintain solid relationships with both parents after a family breakdown.

"It also offers separated parents the opportunity to pass their children into the care of the other parent without the trauma or conflict which may occur if they meet."

Children's Contact services across Australia had 10,086 registered clients in 2007-08.

**For more information: Eliza Young**

**0439 342 159**