



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fix the family, not just the classroom

Government ambition to reform classroom behaviour is a helpful aspiration but it's marriage and the family that must be fixed, according to FamilyVoice Australia

"We urge the federal government to commend marriage and parental enrichment as a higher priority than reforming classrooms," said FamilyVoice Australia spokesman David d'Lima.

"Most of the problems faced by teachers in schools are directly connected to dysfunctional families and the damage done to children by separation and divorce."

"Students with special needs obviously require specialised intervention, but the main issue in classrooms relates to low self-esteem and the serious learning difficulties that occur through parental separation and family dysfunction."

FamilyVoice sees value in the government's ambition to shut down open-plan classrooms and to fund more school-based psychologists, social workers, and behaviour specialists to help identify and manage disruptive behaviour, but is calling on government to incentivise marriage and better family life as a higher priority.

"If we fix marriage and the family, we just about fix everything," David d'Lima said.

FamilyVoice is urging the federal government to find ways to incentivise marriage, such as rewarding married couples through the taxation system.

"Having trashed the meaning of marriage through no-fault divorce, the least the government can do is to provide fiscal incentives that promote marriage and family life," David d'Lima said.

"A tax-refund of \$10,000 per year should be granted to each married couple with primary-age children, for each year the parents stick to their wedding vows.

"That can only help to enrich family life," he said.

"If children ran the world they would live in happy families with mum and dad bound firmly together."



Further details:

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