



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:** Tony Elshof  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
Family Services Australia  
[tony@fsi.org.au](mailto:tony@fsi.org.au)  
+61.2.4256.7333 (Office)  
+61(0)407.015.447 (Mobile)

**Family Services Illawarra offers greater community mental health support by acquiring Wollongong's Warehouse One7**

*Albion Park-Shellharbour, Wollongong, Nowra - Ulladulla, NSW Australia.*

Family Services Illawarra and Warehouse One7 announced today that their organisations have merged to create a more innovative community service provider for Southern NSW.

Having had a successful working relationship for a number of years, these services have permanently joined forces to provide unified support and care to vulnerable families across the Illawarra Shoalhaven.

This acquisition by Family Services Illawarra will give families and NGO partner agencies access to a multi-disciplined Family Model of Care, streamlining client referral processes for those most at risk, while improving the quality of support.

“The unique local connection of Family Services Illawarra and Warehouse One7 gives our community wrap-around support with dedicated mental health services, to help clients better achieve their health, well-being and life goals,” said Gary Jackson, CEO and Company Secretary of Family Services Illawarra.

“Together we are committed to enriching our local communities by directing more resources to our programs that offer continuity of care and reducing cracks that at-risk families often fall-through,” said Virginia Williams, newly appointed Principal Therapeutic Practices of Family Services Illawarra.

Family Services Illawarra provides an overarching therapeutic approach based on contemporary national and international research. Our services include mental health, intensive family preservation, early intervention, child youth and family, domestic and family violence, positive parenting initiatives, early child education and specialised play-based supports.

Ends ###

## **About Family Services Illawarra**

Family Services aims to keep clients Safe, Well, Strong and Connected through direct services to local children, young people, parents and families who are striving to achieve this but face multiple and sometimes insurmountable challenges. For more than 30 years Family Services Illawarra has provided separate local community services that merged in 2006.

In 2016 a revised multi-disciplined service commitment was launched to holistically support unmet client needs in multiple geographies in Southern NSW. Throughout the regions it operates in, Family Services Australia has been established to continue its community support journey through Merger and Acquisition (M&A), Community, Philanthropic, Government, Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and select Corporate sector partnerships.

For more information visit [www.fsi.org.au](http://www.fsi.org.au)

## **About Warehouse One7**

Established in 2014, Warehouse One7 provides a range of counselling and personal development services in a friendly environment for kids, teens and families in the Illawarra, helping to protect and promote their well-being. Warehouse One7 offers an uplifting environment that continues to create long-lasting solutions to some of the most demanding health challenges facing society and communities today.

Warehouse One7 will continue to operate on a semi-autonomous basis maintaining its distinct Warehouse community concept and identity. Warehouse One7 has been founded on a model that acknowledges that the best progress occurs for vulnerable people when there is a strong base of support around them.

For more information see [www.warehouseone7.com](http://www.warehouseone7.com)

## **Mental Health ('Mind Matters' Aurecon October 2015)**

- ❖ An invisible challenge to society accounting for 4 out of 10 leading causes of disability worldwide, with over 450 million people suffering from some form of mental illness;
- ❖ Mental illness represents 13% of the global disease burden, surpassing both cardiovascular disease and cancer;
- ❖ Around 20% of the world's children and adolescents are estimated to have mental disorders, with similar conditions reported across different cultures;
- ❖ By 2030, depression will be the second highest cause of disease burden in middle-income countries and the third highest in low-income countries; and
- ❖ In the last 45 years suicide rates have increased by 60% worldwide.