



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Prime Minister Anthony Albanese appointed National Patron for the Alannah & Madeline Foundation**

National children's not-for-profit organisation, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation is honoured to announce the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, as its National Patron.

Prime Minister Albanese joins the Alannah & Madeline Foundation's Founding Patron, Walter Mikac AM, International Patron, HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark and the Hon Barbara Baker AC as Tasmanian Patron in supporting the Foundation in its work championing the right of children and young people to live happy, safe and strong.

Since the launch of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation in 1997 by the Hon John Howard OM AC, the National Patronage has been held by every sitting Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Albanese will also continue the bipartisan support for firearm safety through the National Firearms Agreement, first established by Mr Howard after the Port Arthur tragedy.

"I am delighted to become the National Patron of the Foundation and proud to offer my ongoing support to its work and commitment to a safe and happy childhood for all Australians," Mr Albanese said.

"Over 25 years, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation has had an incredible impact, supporting more than three million Australian children and their families."

Twenty-five years ago, Walter Mikac established the Foundation in the belief that all children should have a safe and happy childhood without being subjected to any form of violence. He did this in honour of his daughters, Alannah and Madeline who were killed alongside their mother at Port Arthur, in an unspeakable act of violence one year earlier.

Over this time, the Foundation has supported three million children and their families and is



now a leading national organisation dedicated to keeping children and young people free from violence and trauma wherever they live, learn and play.

The Foundation's CEO Sarah Davies AM said its impact continues through care, prevention and advocacy - from supporting children to heal and recover from trauma, to empowering positive digital citizens and, through Dolly's Dream, to address and prevent bullying.

"After 25 years, the challenges facing children and young people may have changed, but our founding belief has not. We fight for their right to be safe, so their future is strong," she said.

"We have made a great difference in our first 25 years and have helped more than three million children through our care, prevention and advocacy work. Our challenge over the next few is to meet the growing demand for our services to protect and rebuild young lives."

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