

TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2007

## FAMILY WELLBEING UNDER SPOTLIGHT AT CONFERENCE

The first National Family Wellbeing Symposium to examine the state of family life in Australia and to develop strategies to better understand how family wellbeing interacts with social and economic harmony will open at The Australian National University TOMORROW.

The Federal Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, will open the conference. Guests from the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs in Paris and from the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence will also address the symposium.

"The symposium is the first of its type in Australia to examine the concept and meaning of family wellbeing in such a comprehensive way," Families Australia Chief Executive Officer, Mr Brian Babington, said.

"It springs from a recognition that there is widespread interest in all things to do with 'wellbeing' but no widely accepted framework which focuses specifically on family and which could better guide research, policy, program delivery and evaluation."

The symposium will showcase the latest Australian and international findings on family wellbeing, identify current and emerging influences on family wellbeing, provide a forum to discuss family wellbeing definitions, models and frameworks, identify areas for further policy development and research and produce findings to present to stakeholders in government, business and the community sector for action.

Media are welcome to attend the conference.

More information: Brian Babington, CEO, Families Australia: 0417 550 149  
Amanda Morgan, ANU Media Office: 0416 249 245

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WHAT: Families Australia National Family Wellbeing Symposium

WHEN: From 9am, Wednesday 20 June to 4.30pm, Thursday 21 June 2007

WHERE: The Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent, The Australian National University

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