

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

National Families Week 2006 (14-20 May) - Celebrations Around the Nation

Over 90,000 people will participate in local events across the nation for this year's National Families Week (NFW), 14-20 May.

Amongst the hundreds of events, there'll be a family artwork and photography competition in Hurstville (NSW), a conference on family day care in Alice Springs (NT), a workshop on 'why my family is special' in Morayfield (Qld), a parenting expo in Geraldton (WA), a family swim day in Ballarat (Vic), a theatre piece about young people in families in Canberra (ACT), a family fun day in Launceston (Tas), and a Dad's 'chat and dinner' in Port Pirie (SA).

National Families Week is run by Australia's peak not-for-profit body promoting the needs and interests of families, Families Australia. It celebrates and highlights the critical role of families in Australian society and coincides with the UN International Day of Families on 15 May. Community groups, businesses and government departments around the country have registered more than 380 local events to reach over 90,000 people.

This year the Week will focus on families with children aged 12 to 18 years and the important role of parenting. The CEO of Families Australia, Mr Brian Babington said that the slogan '*This National Families Week, take time for TLC – talking, listening, connecting*' is aimed at encouraging all Australians to take action – to really hear and connect within their families, and make special effort to do one or two new or different things to improve relationships.

More information about events around the nation is attached.

PLEASE CALL Families Australia on 02 6273 4885 for details of these and other events in your area.

Highlights of National Families Week 2006 will include a national launch at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney on Wednesday, 17 May; unveiling of a new Australian parenting website, www.raisingchildren.net.au; and the release of results of a survey commissioned by Families Australia to explore the attitudes of about 400 respondents towards family wellbeing, young people and parenting.

To arrange interviews with Brian Babington, please contact Kirstie Parker on 0412-646 926 or Families Australia on (02) 6273 4885. For more information on NFW 2006 (including a list of registered public events) or to download the NFW 2006 logo, go to www.familiesaustralia.org.au.

12 May 2006

National Families Week 2006

– Just some of the events in your area

PLEASE CALL Families Australia on 02 6273 4885 for details of these and other events in your area

NSW

- The Australian Parenting Website (www.raisingchildren.net.au) will be launched at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP (17 May)
- Bankstown City YMCA is holding a family morning tea
- Centrelink Hurstville is running an artwork and photography competition
- Holroyd City Council is hosting parenting education sessions
- The NAPCAN Foundation will launch its Child Friendly Campaign
- Shellharbour City Council is having a community barbeque
- Relationships Australia, Wollongong, is running sessions on 'surviving adolescence'
- The Discovery House, Castle Hill, is celebrating families at playgroup
- The Benevolent Society Campbelltown is launching its 'communities for children' initiative

Queensland

- Central Queensland TAFE, Mackay, is holding a NFW Forum
- Family Care Services, Maryborough, is hosting an open day for families
- Lady Gowrie Caboolture Family Day Care, Morayfield, has a workshop on 'why my family is special'
- Mossman State High School, Mossman, will run a photo and prose competition
- The Department of Main Roads, Cloncurry, is having a 'bring your family to work' open day'

NT

- Anglicare Youth Services, Ludmilla, is hosting the Pandanus project reunion
- Alice Springs Family Day Care is running a conference on Family Day Care
- Somerville Community Services, Casuarina, will be holding a movie day

ACT

- ParentLine is running a theatre piece about family communication at the Canberra Multicultural Centre on 'What was That You Said?'
- Belconnen Community Services is hosting a 'Mini Fun day'
- Communities @ Work is holding a 'Family Expo' at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome

Victoria

- Anglicare Victoria at Frankston is running a 'families are special drawing competition'
- Centrelink Hamilton is sizzling sausages
- The Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, is launching its 'Snapshots of Australian Families with Adolescents'
- The City of Kingston is holding a positive parenting seminar
- MacKillop Family Services in South Melbourne is running a seminar on work and family balance with Dr Carr-Gregg
- YMCA Berwick is launching its Mums and Bubs fitness classes
- YMCA Ballarat is running a family swim day
- The Australian-Vietnamese Women's Welfare Association is walking in the park
- Wimmera Uniting Care at Horsham is holding an art competition

WA

- Banksia Grove Community Centre, Wanneroo is holding a 'camels, kites and kids' day
- The City of Mandurah Library hosting family story time
- Treasure Island Child Care Centre, Cannington, is holding a morning tea
- YMCA Newman is having a picnic in the park
- The Department of Community development Geraldton is hosting a parenting expo

Tasmania

- Good Beginnings – Anglicare Launceston is running a family fun day
- St Helen's District Hospital, St Helens, will run pet training classes
- Milpara Early learning Centre, Burnie, is putting on a family breakfast
- George Town City Council is screening movies.

SA

- Uniting Care Wesley Port Pirie will hold a Dad's 'chat and dinner'
- Aboriginal Family Support Services Port Augusta is holding a community fair
- Mission Australia Whyalla is hosting a family BBQ
- Centacare Wudinna will bake pancakes at a family breakfast