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***Champion cricketer Michael Bevan bats for families in
ACT National Families Week celebration (10 May)***

Champion Australian cricketer Michael Bevan is among leading Australians who are speaking out about the importance of building stronger families during National Families Week, 11-17 May 2008.

Michael is one of 36 high-profile Ambassadors for the 6th National Families Week, Australia's major annual celebration of the importance of families. He will be making a special appearance in Canberra on Saturday 10 May to open Communities@Work's 'Celebration of Families' event.

'CELEBRATION OF FAMILIES' WILL BE HELD ON 10 MAY BETWEEN 10AM AND 3PM ON THE FORESHORES OF LAKE TUGGERANONG (AT COLISHAW STREET). EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND, HEAR MICHAEL SPEAK AND JOIN IN THE FUN AND GAMES WITH FREE ENTERTAINMENT, RIDES AND ACTIVITIES.

"This event is going to be Australia's largest National Families Week event, with more than 5,000 people expected to attend. It is part of hundreds of local community events being held across Australia involving a record-breaking 120,000 people," says Families Australia Chief Executive Brian Babington.

"As well as celebrating family life in general, this year's special theme - '*work and family - getting the balance right*' - acknowledges that many people are finding it increasingly difficult to spend enough time with family.

"All Australians, particularly working parents and employers, are encouraged to find ways to help improve work-family balance for themselves and others," he said.

National Families Week is run by Families Australia, Australia's peak, independent, not-for-profit organisation promoting the interests of families, on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. National Families Week coincides with the UN International Day of Families on 15 May, with its theme this year of 'Fathers and Families: Responsibilities and Challenges'.

For interviews with Michael Bevan or Brian Babington, contact Families Australia on (02) 6273 4885 or 0417 550 149.

Go to www.familiesaustralia.org.au for a full list of public events in the ACT and nationally a NFW Ambassadors a ideas for better work-family balance a registered public events listed by State/Territory a NFW 2008 logo