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***Leading Australians bat for families
in National Families Week 2008 (11-17 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. Other Ambassadors include Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes AM, Divonne Holmes à Court, Wendy McCarthy AO, Sally Capp from the Committee for Melbourne, and Professor Allan Fels AO, former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

"This year, a record-breaking 120,000 people will participate in hundreds of local community events across Australia," according to 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.

"Simple things can make a world of difference, such as having a family meal together, scheduling work meetings in normal work hours and planning a family night or outing each week."

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".

To arrange interviews with Brian Babington or National Families Week 2008 Ambassadors, contact Families Australia on (02) 6273 4885.

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

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