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***Tens of thousands in NSW to celebrate family
in National Families Week 2008 (11-17 May)***

Over 33,000 people in New South Wales will celebrate the vital importance of families in National Families Week events next week.

Events will be held from Bondi to West Wyalong, from Tweed Heads to Broken Hill, and include morning teas, film nights, art competitions, sausage sizzles, seminars, book launches and work/family balance surveys.

“These celebrations are 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.

“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.”

This year, National Families Week Ambassadors from NSW include champion Australian cricketer, Michael Bevan, Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes AM, Divonne Holmes à Court, and Wendy McCarthy AO.

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 Brian Babington or NFW2008 Ambassadors, contact Families Australia on (02) 6273 4885.

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