



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrate how everyone
makes a difference

National
families week
10-16 May 2009

**Leading Australians speak up for families
in National Families Week 2009 (10-16 May)**

Professor Allan Fels AO is among leading Australians who are speaking out about the importance of building stronger families during National Families Week, 10-16 May 2009.

Professor Fels is one of 36 high-profile Ambassadors for the 7th National Families Week, Australia's major annual celebration of the importance of families. Other Ambassadors include Graeme Innes AM, Human Rights Commissioner, Russell Taylor, Principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and Professor Alan Hayes of the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

"This year, a record-breaking 125,000 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 - '*National Families Week – celebrate how everyone makes a difference*' – encourages everyone to explore ways in which they can recognise, value and support the people who make a difference to the wellbeing of their family."

"The central aim of National Families Week 2009 is to encourage all Australians to think about and celebrate the many different people who make families united and strong and the many different types of families across society, each deserving respect and acknowledgement."

"Families are stronger if they share time together, doing things that strengthen family life", Mr Babington 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 "Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World".

To arrange interviews with Brian Babington or National Families Week 2009 Ambassadors, contact Families Australia on (02) 6273 4885.

Go to www.familiesaustralia.org.au for ✕ a full list of NFW Ambassadors ✕ registered public events listed by State/Territory ✕ NFW 2009 logo

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