



STRONGER  
FAMILIES  
STRONGER  
COMMUNITIES

National Families Week



15-21 MAY 2014

[www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



families  
australia

2014



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY



# National Families Week

**NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK 2014 WILL BE HELD FROM THURSDAY 15 MAY TO WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2014 (COINCIDING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES ON 15 MAY).**

The aim of National Families Week 2014 - the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family - is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The 2014 theme is 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities'.

This year's theme highlights the important role families play as the central building block of our communities and that community wellbeing is enhanced by family wellbeing.

National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your family, make contact with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family life. Let's take the time to reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children, especially as they grow.

Each year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week - Australia's annual celebration of families. In 2013, over 125,000 people participated in National Families Week registered events around Australia, illustrating the importance of families within the community.

National Families Week is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services as a valuable opportunity to demonstrate that families, across the lifespan, are integral to our civil society.

## WHY 15-21 MAY 2014?

National Families Week is timed to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. This day is observed by the United Nations to mark the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society, as well as to show concern about their situation in many parts of the world.

2014 is the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Marking this event offers an opportunity to refocus on the role of families in development; take stock of recent trends in family policy development; share good practices in family policy making; review challenges faced by families worldwide and recommend solutions.

➔ For information on how you, your family or your organisation can get involved in National Families Week, visit the Families Australia website [www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/)



**THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS (LARGE AND SMALL), EMPLOYERS, POLITICAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, FAMILIES AND OTHERS TO GET INVOLVED.**

## PLAN AN EVENT OR ACTIVITY

Make National Families Week your own! You can participate in any way that is appropriate for you. Here are some National Families Week ideas:

### FOR COMMUNITY/NONPROFIT GROUPS, GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES:

- Design and erect a National Families Week display, highlighting services your organisation may provide that could help families work together.
- Promote your services, events and activities to families in your area through local media outlets and in public contact areas such as shopping centres and libraries.
- Host a family-friendly day in your workplace, have a BBQ or a morning tea and invite the children and grandparents!
- Organise an event, such as a seminar, on an issue relevant to families with young children or providing elder care - e.g. work-family wellbeing.
- Ensure your employees are aware of any family friendly facilities, programs or policies you may have in place, and encourage them to make use of them.
- Encourage staff to take time for their families.

### FOR FAMILIES, PARENTS AND INDIVIDUALS:

- Celebrate and have fun being together.
- Take time to talk with your child.
- Have a family dinner.
- Get together with family you haven't seen for a while.
- Join or support a community organisation.



## LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD

But be sure to check whether you need public liability insurance (see [www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/insurance) for further information). More ideas for activities can be found on our website at [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au). You can also access our online Calendar of Events (available at [www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek)) to see what other organisations are doing to celebrate the Week.

## PUT OUT A MEDIA RELEASE

You may be a small local organisation, but that doesn't mean that media won't be interested in how you are celebrating National Families Week. You could highlight the services you provide to families, especially if you've organised a 'media friendly' function or event. Once you have registered your event, Families Australia will send a template to assist you in producing your media release.

## PROMOTE IT!

Spread the word about National Families Week and your event - use websites, social media, display posters in public places, send e-newsletters. Let's make National Families Week really great!

## HELP WITH EVENTS

Register your event with Families Australia before 24 April 2014 and we will send you National Families Week promotional products such as balloons, posters, stickers and notepads. Unfortunately, there is no cash funding available to assist with events.

## USE THE NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK LOGO

Use of the logo is free of charge. All you need to do is cover the costs of running your event and register your event with us. You can use the logo in any way you like to publicise something you are doing during National Families Week. For example, use the logo on your letterhead or on an event poster.

## REGISTERING IS EASY

You can register your event online through our website at [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au). Alternatively, a copy of the registration form is on this poster - simply complete it and return it to Families Australia.

# National Families Week

## CONTACT US

Families Australia is happy to answer your questions and talk to you about how you can celebrate National Families Week. Contact us by phone on 02 6273 4885 or email to [admin@familiesaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@familiesaustralia.org.au)

## WHO ARE WE?

National Families Week is run by Families Australia on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Families Australia is a national, member-based, not-for-profit organisation which works to promote a national policy environment in which the needs and interests of families, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, can be heard and addressed. Families Australia is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and by Families Australia members.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**



# National Families Week

15-21 MAY 2014

## EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

### YOUR EVENT DETAILS

EVENT NAME (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT TYPE (E.G. MORNING TEA, SEMINAR, BBQ) AND PURPOSE OF EVENT ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## HOW TO REGISTER?

- ONLINE** Go online at [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au) and follow the National Families Week links
- MAIL** Complete this form and mail to Suite 3, 7 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
- EMAIL** Email your details to [admin@familiesaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@familiesaustralia.org.au)

➔ To assist us with supplying promotional products in a timely manner, please register no later than 24 April 2014.