

Add a bit of salt to that barbie ...



australiatalksfamily

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH ORGANISATIONAL RELEASE

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Jesus told us to be salt and light. He wanted us to be like the light from a city on a hill and to ensure we didn't lose our salty flavour.

Australia's **National Families Week** in May is a great chance to be salt and light; for families associated with your outreach ministry to be encouraged to roll up their garage door and invite people for an all-weather BBQ – or at least a food based – event in the street.

Rather than invite people into church buildings, encourage families to invite families in their street ... to an event in the street!

National Families Week happens **15-21 May 2015** – it's not traditional BBQ weather but who cares? In a garage there's protection from the wind or rain and an event like inviting over neighbours is a great motivator for tidying the space!

This is a chance for 'the church' to be salt and light – to provide a space for their neighbours to meet each other and connect.

National Families Week has been happening for more than ten years. With Australia such a large country, it's often hard to get the message out – don't be surprised if you haven't heard of it previously. Rather than create something specific for churches to use as a motivator for community connection, we encourage you to resource people involved in your outreach ministry to get behind this national, community-based initiative.

Maybe you could provide them with a one-page prompt sheet of all the possibilities – like rolling up the garage door and inviting people in for a BYO meal; having lunch together at a local park in the street; hosting family events through mainly music or play group/playtime; encouraging chaplains to instigate school events. Inviting families to a street-wide event is an easy invitation. It provides people with a chance to meet those who are shut in or lonely and looking for community. It's a chance to hear about those who need help or companionship; maybe a family who'd love adopted grandparents, perhaps even a meal or two. There are other ideas listed on australiatalksfamily.org.au

15-21 May 2015 – can we ask that you encourage people to mark it in their calendar – a week when households could be encouraged to be salt and light in their own community. Log onto their website <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/> and register your event and ... roll up your garage door. Get out the salt. Prepare to be light.

australiatalksfamily is a collaboration of people from the major denominations and Christian agencies from the Australian community who are committed to exploring possibilities for a better future for our children and families. Visit us at australiatalksfamily.org.au