



MEDIA RELEASE

February 17 2016

## It's Time to Start Planning Your Neighbour Day event!

Thinking a street party, a community event or a neighbourhood Easter egg hunt would be the best way to celebrate this year's Neighbour Day on Sunday, 27 of March? If so, now is a good time to start talking to your local council or shire.

Alison Brook from Relationships Australia, the home of Neighbour Day said: "It's important to plan ahead for a street party or an event in the local park, especially if you plan on closing streets or using large areas of a public space. Check the website of your local council or call them to find out if you need council permission for your event."

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door, across the street or on the next farm for a drink, a barbie or just a cuppa. Held on the last Sunday in March every year, it's the perfect day to say thanks for being a great neighbour and for being there when I needed you most.

Ms Brook said: "Neighbours are important because good relationships with others can and do change communities. The research shows that social connection makes us feel better as it helps prevent loneliness, isolation and depression. When you connect with the people who live nearby you are supporting suburbs and towns that are more likely to be safe, friendly and resilient."

Whether it's a cuppa with a neighbour or a barbecue for the block, your Neighbour Day can be as big or small as you'd like. You can organise an event on your own, or work with a group of neighbours on an event for your street or suburb. Decide whatever is manageable for you. Neighbourhood event ideas include: a BYO everything street gathering; a game of cricket in the local park; a barby at the end of the cul de sac; a party on the front lawn; afternoon tea in the back paddock; or a picnic – just to name a few.

You could also keep it very small and make a pledge to yourself to introduce yourself to a new neighbour or have a yarn to someone you haven't spoken to before in your street – as your personal Neighbour Day activity. You can never have too many friends around you!

Everything you need to help facilitate your Neighbour Day event is available on the [neighbourday.org](http://neighbourday.org) website. You can also connect via the Neighbour Day Twitter, Facebook or Instagram pages to share your neighbourhood stories and let us know about your exciting plans.

Relationships Australia is the home of Neighbour Day.

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### Media contact:

Monique Hauber-Davidson, MOB 0404 839 664  
Relationships Australia

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starts at your front door™

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Australia's annual celebration of community  
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