



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 8 May 2019

Deirdre Cheers named National Families Week Champion

Barnardos CEO Deirdre Cheers has once again been named a Champion for National Families Week 2019, Australia's annual celebration of the importance of families.

National Families Week 2019 will be held from 15 May to 21 May 2019 (coinciding with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May).

The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The enduring theme 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities' highlights the importance of families to communities and that community wellbeing is enhanced by family wellbeing.

Over one hundred thousand people are expected to participate in registered events around Australia, illustrating the importance of families within the community. Events are being held in remote communities such as islands in the Torres Strait as well as in every capital city in Australia. The diversity of events reflects the diversity of the Australian community.

“Barnardos believes strong families and communities are vital for children. Raising children can be especially tough without support and when families break down, children's welfare can be at risk. Our work to strengthen families acts as an extended family member and helps keep children safe at home wherever possible.” Ms Cheers said.

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

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For more information or to arrange media interviews, contact: Irene Saunders, Head of Communications, Barnardos Australia isaunders@barnardos.org.au

National Families Week is run by Families Australia, a national, member-based, not-for-profit organisation, that supports family and child wellbeing.

www.nfw.org.au | www.familiesaustralia.org.au

Barnardos Australia is a leading non-government, non-denominational, child safety and family care organisation which has provided services for vulnerable children, young people and their families in Australia since 1883. Barnardos Australia believes all children and young people deserve caring families in which they can grow safely and fulfil their potential. We work together with children, young people and families to break the cycle of disadvantage, creating safe, nurturing and stable homes, connected to family and community. www.barnardos.org.au