



26 April 2017

Dear Principal

National Families Week 15 - 21 May 2017 - *Making Moments Matter*

With the support of Bishop Peter Ingham and together with Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong, it is with great pleasure that I invite your school to celebrate National Families Week 2017.

While CatholicCare's focus is to offer hope and support to the vulnerable and marginalised, we recognise that there are many families in our community that struggle to make time for each other resulting in family dysfunction and breakdown. In order to help alleviate this and build support for our mission, schools are critical in helping students understand and appreciate the importance of family by actively promoting discussions about families both in the classroom and at home.

We are excited to highlight National Families Week this year. Our theme is ***Making Moments Matter***, in recognition that even through the busy schedules of parents and children, it is vital to consciously take time and make the most of family life and celebrate the meaning of family.

The National Families Week Toolkit has been developed to educate students on the differences in their family situations, and help schools to encourage students and parents to make time for each other in the presence of God. There are several sections in this toolkit, including prayer resources, activities to be used in the classroom, and a parent hub for parents/guardians/carers.

The teaching material for National Families Week is suitable for various age groups and aligns with the NSW curriculum. Activities for primary aged students focus on reflecting on the time they spend with family and aim to stimulate additional activities with the family. For older students, Families Week aims to inform them on the differences in types of families and how they can help the wider community.

We are asking that you recommend the use of the National Families Week Toolkit to your teachers, and to notify the parents/carers of the students about the Parent Hub. It could be as simple as incorporating one of the provided prayers in to their class, or using one of the 20 suggested learning activities. These are all available in an online toolkit which can be downloaded at [Families Week 2017](#) or just go to catholiccare.dow.org.au and click on the Families Week banner.

Any queries about National Families Week, can be directed to Trish Cooney - Manager, Mission and Community Relations on 4254 9318 or via email trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au

I thank you in advance for your support of National Families Week 2017. In due course, we will be seeking your feedback about the value of this initiative. In a spirit of continuous improvement, I look forward to hearing about your opinions and suggestions about National Families Week.

With kind regards,

Michael Austin
Director

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