

1 February 2018

Dear Principal,

**RE: National Families Week 15 - 21 May 2018**

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 in 2018.

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 prevent this and build support for our mission, schools can educate students about the importance of family and promote family discussions in the classroom and at home.

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 to engage with at home.

The material complements various age groups and curriculums. Activities for primary aged students focus on reflecting on the time they spend with family and aim to stimulate more activities with the family. For older students, Families Week aims to educate them on the differences in types of families and how they can help the wider community.

We ask that you recommend the use of the National Families Week Toolkit to your teachers, and notify the parents/guardians of the students about the Parent Hub. It could be as simple as using one of the provided prayers in the classroom, or using one of the suggested activities. The toolkit is available at <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/ccare/index.php/events>

If you have any queries about National Families Week, please contact Trish Cooney Manager, Mission and Community Relations on 4254 9318 or email [trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

I would like to thank you in advance for your support of Families Week, and to assist us evaluate its effectiveness, we ask that you fill out a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/familiesweek18>

Kind regards,



Michael Austin  
Director

**ILLAWARRA**

25-27 Auburn Street Wollongong NSW 2500  
PO Box 1174 Wollongong NSW 2500  
Ph: (02) 4227 1122 Fax: (02) 4226 9736

**MACARTHUR**

35A Cordeaux Street Campbelltown NSW 2560  
Ph: (02) 4628 0044 Fax: (02) 4628 4549

**SHOALHAVEN**

55 Worrigea Street Nowra NSW 2541  
PO Box 1255 Nowra NSW 2541  
Ph: (02) 4421 8248 Fax: (02) 4422 9020