



Senator Natasha Stott Despoja
Senator for South Australia

30 March 2008

Mr Andrew Heslop
Founder Neighbour Day

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOUR DAY
SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2008**

I am very pleased to again support the Neighbour Day initiative and to celebrate Neighbour Day 2008.

Neighbour Day has the simple but invaluable aims of strengthening our community 'from the inside out' and promoting a range of strategies to increase our interaction at the local level. The Day serves as a reminder to reflect on the simple things we often take for granted and the fact that in order to have friendly and supportive neighbourhoods we ourselves must take time to be neighbours.

The founder of Neighbour Day, Andrew Heslop, grew up in Adelaide and encourages us to hold fast to local relationships that all too often are neglected in our busy daily working lives. Neighbour Day is an opportunity to reflect on the individual responsibility to create the type of community where the elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged are not ignored and our children are supported by a vibrant community network. It is a day to reflect on the far-reaching and cumulative effects of small gestures of consideration such as introducing yourself to your neighbours and keeping an eye out for each other – as the slogan goes *The community you want starts at your front door!*

I hope that this year across Australia there will be much sausage sizzling, chatting over fences or even merely a quick call to a neighbour to say hello... I wish the Neighbour Day initiative continued success and hope that our Federal Government will work to realise the UN's invitation for it to become an official UN Observance Day internationally.

Natasha Stott Despoja
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