

# COMMENT & DEBATE

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## Good neighbours

ANOTHER lonely death of an elderly Australian (*The Age*, 7/7). People disconnect from families and friends for different reasons, yet all have neighbours. We can keep an eye out for elderly and vulnerable residents who live alone, especially those who value their privacy. Has the mail been cleared and newspapers picked up? Are the blinds closed at night or the lights switched on? The police will respond to genuine concerns that something is amiss. We desperately need greater funding of community-strengthening organisations by governments and the corporate sector to encourage neighbours to be better connected.

**Andrew Heslop, CEO, Neighbour Day, Sydney**