



Caring neighbours reach out to help Perth man

Neighbours who provided food for a reportedly mentally ill Perth man, unaware his deceased mother and carer was still inside their Beckenham home, demonstrated the importance of caring residents looking out for each other.

"It reconfirms your belief in humanity and the resilience of local communities that neighbours reached out to help when they were asked," said Neighbour Day founder Andrew Heslop.

"The tragedy behind this sad event is enormous and must have been especially traumatic for the man who was unable to easily cope following the death of his mother.

"But from media reports today it is clear observant and loving neighbours did the right thing by alerting police and government authorities to his plight. Residents saw the tell-tale signs of a man in distress and took appropriate action when they became concerned for his welfare.

"It is regrettable the elderly woman's death six months ago has only been discovered this week but it shows, yet again, the importance of caring communities.

"There is no doubt this is a tragic situation but neighbours in Beckenham reacted correctly when they noticed something was amiss. They took action, raised their concerns and provided help. I congratulate them for responding so positively," Andrew said.

Neighbour Day, Australia's annual celebration of community, is held on the final Sunday in March every year.

Founded in Melbourne in 2003 - following the discovery of the death of an elderly woman who had passed away two years earlier - Australians have embraced the day by organising street parties, morning teas, community bbqs and by attending council-run fairs, events and open days in parks and other public spaces.

Neighbour Day has five principal aims –

1. Strengthen communities and build better relationships with the people who live around us.
2. Create safer, healthier and more vibrant suburbs and towns.
3. Promote tolerance, respect and understanding.
4. Break down community barriers.
5. Protect the elderly, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged.

www.neighbourday.org

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