

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Relationships Australia Announces the Neighbour Day *Tell us your story* Competition Winners

Relationships Australia has announced the national and state winners of the *Tell us your story* competition, established as a part of this year's Neighbour Day, celebrated on 30 March 2014.

The competition invited people around the country to submit their stories of a wonderful neighbour or an extraordinary neighbourly act, with cash prizes of up to \$500.

The national winner of the competition, Kate from Queensland, reflected upon the strong sense of community spirit displayed on her street, saying, "We are proud of our diversity and we all work together to make our street the most friendly and safe street to live in."

State winners include Phil from New South Wales, Vesna from Queensland, Gillian from the Northern Territory, Jo from Western Australia, Grace from South Australia, Kelly from Victoria, and Geraldine from Tasmania.

Relationships Australia's National Executive Officer, Alison Brook, was thrilled with the interest this competition created saying, "This was a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into the lives of so many generous Australians, connecting with their communities and caring for their neighbours."

"I encourage everyone to go onto the Neighbour Day website to read these remarkable stories and celebrate that Australian neighbourhoods are alive and well."

Of the many entrants from across the country, Relationships Australia selected stories that highlighted the strong neighbourly connections and important community essence that Neighbour Day promotes.

Northern Territory winner, Gillian, wrote about the importance of creating neighbourly connections through the poignant story of a neighbour who performed life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Gillian's newborn daughter.

Gillian said, "There are only so many times you can say 'thank you' to someone who helps save the life of your child. She is the best neighbour we have ever had."

The *Tell us your story* competition was a new inclusion for Neighbour Day activities this year, which saw more than 30,000 Australians participating in events across the country.

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community and encourages Australians to build stronger and better-connected neighbourhoods.

2014 marked the first year in which Relationships Australia has assumed responsibility for Neighbour Day, with Neighbour Day founder, Andrew Heslop, passing on the baton after ten years at the helm.

Building upon what was one of the largest celebrations in Neighbour Day's eleven year history; Relationships Australia is aiming to establish Neighbour Day as a major annual event on Australia's community calendar.

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