

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



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MEDIA RELEASE
Youth Week 5-13 April

PUTTING YOUTH WEEK IN THE HANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Minister for Youth, Linda Burney, today launched Youth Week 2008 at the Royal Easter Show's Youth Stage, promising it will be the biggest celebration of its kind in NSW.

Ms Burney said it was all made possible by the unique partnership between the lemma Government and local councils.

"I expect some 200,000 young people to participate in hundreds of events and activities across NSW as part of the 20th National Youth Week celebrations in NSW," Ms Burney said.

"The theme is *Shout Share Live Unite* and that is exactly what they are going to do at the Youth Stage, where the very best young local talent and overseas acts have appeared.

"The Youth Stage is just one of the highlights that captures the spirit of the week – young people having fun, being creative and expressing their talents at activities and events they help organise.

"This is the time to acknowledge the positive contribution that young people make to our community, and to listen closely to what they are saying and doing. Youth Week demonstrates this and more.

"As the Minister for Youth I take every opportunity to talk up young people – not talk them down or talk down to them – and promote their creativity, energy and ideas."

Minister Burney said the State Government provided more than \$235,000 in grants to councils towards the cost of staging Youth Week 2008 activities and events.

For the third year in a row all 152 local councils in NSW have participated. It means that everyone from the ages of 12 to 25 anywhere in the state can participate in concerts, forums, workshops and other great events in their local area.

"Local Youth Week activities are organised across the state by young people volunteering their time, for the benefit of other young people and the community as a whole, showcasing their talents and raising awareness of issues that affect them.

"The involvement of young people in Youth Week is not only valued – it's essential to its success. I encourage all young people to get involved.

"Last year more than 3,500 young people got involved in organising and managing events and activities and more than 190,000 young people actually participated in Youth Week in NSW."

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To find out what you can do or what's going on near you, contact your local council, or visit www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au.

Youth Week is supported by all levels of government across Australia. In NSW, it is coordinated by the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) and the major sponsor is the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) through its 'Arrive Alive' campaign.

The Youth Stage at the Royal Easter Show is sponsored by *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*, the MMA and the NSW Commission for Children and Young People.

The Minister will be attending the following Youth Week events:

Friday 4 April: 4pm: Marrickville Council: Petersham Town Hall, 107 Crystal St, Petersham
Launch of photo exhibition: 50 years Ongoing Youth Week in Marrickville

Saturday 5 April: 8.15am: 1 Martin Place, Sydney

Launch of National Youth Week

12pm: Liverpool City Council: Ashcroft High School, Ashcroft

Opening the Vibe 3 on 3 Basketball and Hip Hop Challenge

Sunday 6 April: 11am: Thirning Villa, 40 Arthur Street, Ashfield

Opening the Brewhaha Art Exhibition

1pm: Bankstown City Council: Paul Keating Park, Civic Dr, Bankstown

Attending bocce and bbq

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