

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



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BURNEY URGES LOCAL COUNCILS TO CONSULT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Lemna Government has released a report during Youth Week to encourage more local councils to involve young people in decisions that affect them, the Minister for Youth, Linda Burney, said today.

“Young people offer a fresh perspective. It is important for councils to seek their views to make their services and programs attractive to young people and to include them in discussions about local issues,” Ms Burney said.

“The report, ***The Review of NSW Local Government Social Plans***, by the Department of Community Services (DoCS), highlights the great work many local councils are doing to involve young people in their social planning. It can be downloaded at www.youth.nsw.gov.au.

“It does, however, also identify more work is needed. I want to see the NSW Government’s commitment to youth participation promoted across all local councils.

“As demonstrated by the success of this year’s Youth Week, we want to encourage young people to have a voice and get involved in the issues and decisions that affect them.”

Ms Burney said on Monday Eurobodalla Shire Council launched its first youth strategy which will be on exhibition for residents to view and comment on.

“Council used information from last year’s Youth Week, consultation groups, school surveys, youth services and local research to develop the plan which will cover the next five years. I commend Council for this initiative and encourage others to follow their lead.”

The report was compiled by DoCS at the request of the NSW Youth Advisory Council to look at how well youth issues were explored and addressed in council’s social plans.

The report found that 87 of NSW’s 152 councils had conducted either an in-depth or reasonable exploration of the issues facing young people in their social plans. Some had developed solid plans for addressing the issues or had them on the agenda for future planning. Only a small number had not identified any issues relating to young people.

“Some councils were very proactive about consulting with young people but only 57 per cent of councils consulted with them directly and this is an area I believe could be improved significantly,” Minister Burney said.

“Councils are not required to establish a formal youth advisory structure but today’s report shows that youth advisory committees could help increase the level of youth consultation. Only one third have one, and they are mostly in metropolitan councils.”

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