

# *Media Release*

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## FUNDING FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN MARYLAND

NSW Minister for Youth, Graham West and Member for Wallsend, Sonia Hornery, today announced funding for youth activities at the Maryland Multipurpose Centre.

Ms Hornery said youth services were much needed in the Maryland area.

"This funding has allowed the centre coordinator to provide services for young people during the October school holidays," Ms Hornery said.

"Youth services and youth workers play such an important role in engaging our young people, many of whom are negotiating a particularly challenging time in life.

Mr West said the NSW Government had allocated almost \$2,000 funding for the holiday program.

"This will enable the temporary employment of several casual youth workers, and will pay for some great holiday activities for the young people of the area.

"Professional skaters from the Newcastle Skate Shop are today sharing their skills with locals, and a whole host of leisure activities were rolled out Tuesday through till tomorrow" Mr West said.

"I commend the Centre Coordinator for his enthusiasm and hard work in getting this school activity program running," Mr West said.

Centre Coordinator, Peter Di Girolamo, said he hopes this week's holiday activities will raise the profile of the Maryland Multipurpose Centre.

"There is an enormous number of young people in the Maryland area, and it is important for us to provide them with as many services as we can," Mr Di Girolamo said.

"As well as the skate clinic, we have held Hip-Hop production workshops, Spray Art workshop and tomorrow's leisure activities include table-tennis competitions, and computer games.

"We also currently don't have a television at the Maryland Multipurpose Centre, so we would also like to use this funding to buy a small set for the young people," Mr Di Girolamo said.

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