

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



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MEDIA RELEASE

\$6.73 million towards Better Futures

More than 50 projects for young people across NSW will benefit from a total of \$6.73 million Better Futures funding over the next three years, Minister for Youth Linda Burney told the NSW Parliament today.

Ms Burney said the funding will support young people to stay at school, improve family and peer relationships and get more involved in their communities.

"The Lemna Government is working with families and communities to build the strengths of children and young people to meet life's challenges and to reach their full potential," Ms Burney said.

"Better Futures is the Government's early support strategy for children and young people aged 9-18 years."

Projects receiving funding this year include transition to high school assistance programs, life skills workshops to build healthy relationships and activities that encourage young people to participate.

One example of Better Futures is Midnight Basketball in Campbelltown and Armidale, giving young people the opportunity to connect with their peers and communities in a positive way.

Ms Burney said the teams take part in workshops to gain skills in anger management and conflict resolution while getting fit and learning how to work and play together.

"The Menai Youth Action Project will receive over \$200,000 to encourage youth participation in local activities and decision-making.

"Their Young Women's Program allows young women to raise sensitive issues in a venue that is safe, comfortable and free from harassment and intimidation.

"Encouraging young people to join in the planning and delivery of services and community activities can improve their capability, self-esteem and sense of connection. It also ensures they know how to access services and activities that best meet their needs."

Better Futures funding from the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) will be spread across three years, \$2.68 million this year, \$2.57 million in 2008-09 and \$1.48 million in 2009-10.

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