

Minister for Fair Trading  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering

**Linda Burney MP**



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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Better Futures funding continues for Cringila Youth Project**

Minister for Youth Linda Burney visited the Cringila Youth Project today with local MP, Ms Noreen Hay, where she announced that the project would receive \$28,500 this year to continue with its outstanding work.

Ms Burney said funding for the project had previously been provided through the Community Solutions and Crime Prevention Strategy, to address increasing crime in the area. This project will now be funded through the Better Futures program.

“The Cringila Youth Project has been growing from strength to strength and this year’s funding should further enhance its programs and initiatives,” Ms Burney said.

“Young people aged 12-18 years from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that live in the Cringila, Port Kembla, Warrawong, Berkeley and Lake Heights areas participate in the project.

“Together, they have identified issues that have a negative impact on them and which they would like to address, such as violence, school bullying, verbal, emotional and physical abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and child abuse.”

Ms Hay said the effects of the project on the young people and the community have been remarkable.

“The Project engaged with young people from primary and high schools who were involved in anti-social behaviour and at risk of leaving school. The Project encouraged them to participate in community and youth events, something that previously hadn’t occurred,” Ms Hay said.

“As a result, young people involved in the program have returned to school, and have enhanced their self esteem and confidence.”

Ms Burney said the range of activities they are involved with is remarkable and was a credit to the innovative thinking and hard work of the staff.

“School children have been involved with Youth Week and Harmony Day, with the local Young Women’s Forum, in performances and creative arts projects,” Ms Burney said.

“Also, four members of the Cringila Youth Group participated in the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia conference in Wollongong addressing issues such as racism and discrimination affecting young people in Cringila.”

David Campbell, Minister for the Illawarra, has been a strong supporter of this project since its birth nine years ago.

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Better Futures is the Lemna Government's prevention and early support strategy for children and young people aged 9 to 18 years, giving them improved opportunities to participate positively in their local communities.

Other projects funded by Better Futures in the region are: the Dapto Koonawarra Youth Connect, a Shellharbour Koori youth worker, the Myimbarr Aboriginal Family Service, the Eurobodalla Youth Transport scheme and Wanga Indingii youth development program on the Far South Coast.

Better Futures funding worth over \$6.7 million from the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) will go to more than 50 projects across the state for young people over the next three years.

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