

# NEWS RELEASE



**The Hon. Graham West MP**  
Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Member for Campbelltown

**Tuesday 18 November 2008**

## **Youth Minister consults with Nine-year-old Scone Public School student**

NSW Minister for Youth, Graham West, today visited Scone Public School to consult with nine-year-old Ruby Smith, the winner of the 'Be the Children's Commissioner for a Day Competition'.

Ruby visited NSW Parliament House last month to fulfil her role as the Children's Commissioner for a Day. There she met Mr West, as well as Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, and her local Member of Parliament, George Souris.

Mr West said he was impressed with Ruby's ideas for improving the lives of children around NSW.

"Ruby proposed that the children of NSW, particularly those from rural areas, attend a 'special meeting' to discuss their plans for the future.

"Ruby also spoke to me about her idea for a 'Mobile Phone Free Day', which would enable families to spend more time together.

"Today's meeting with Ruby and her classmates at Scone Public School involved further discussions about how we can better promote children and young people's participation in decision making.

"Ruby is to be congratulated for making sure the voices of young people are heard in the halls of power.

"Getting young people involved in Government and community participation are key elements of the NSW Youth Action Plan released in December 2006.

"We have created a website at [www.youth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.youth.nsw.gov.au) so young people can give their opinions on a range of issues including government policy and youth services.

"And in partnership with the University of NSW, the Rees Government is using web-based technologies to further reach out to young people in our consultations.

**Media Contact: Cara Davis 0407 219 944**