

**NEWS RELEASE**



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

**Tuesday 4 November 2008**

## **Young people StepUP and make a difference**

Minister for Youth, Graham West, addressed approximately 600 teenagers at Sydney's first StepUP Youth Forum last week.

StepUP is a two-day event for teenagers, designed to educate, inspire and excite teens about future possibilities in business and in life.

Mr West commended the young people at the StepUP event, who were passionate and enthusiastic about their futures.

"I was impressed with the young people involved in StepUP, and of the many intelligent and thoughtful questions they posed," Mr West said.

"It was inspiring to meet young people who want to make a positive contribution to their communities and to the world.

"It was clear to me that the young people at the youth event are more than willing to step up and make a difference," Mr West said.

StepUP gives young people the opportunity to meet and hear from leading business, sporting, arts and political leaders.

Since 2002, the non-profit organisation has worked with approximately 10,000 teenagers across Australia and New Zealand.

Shane McLucas, Chief Operation Officer at stepUP, said it was important that Governments worked hand in hand with teenagers to get a real understanding of what teenagers are facing in the real world.

"These teenagers are our future," Mr McLucas said.

"They are our future leaders, and many of them will be running the country at some stage. I'm excited that stepUP and the Government are offering our future leaders opportunities to be heard and to be part of the solution."

Every teen at stepUP Sydney has written a letter to Minister West outlining their thoughts on how Government can further support young people.

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