

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



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MEDIA RELEASE

GRANTS ASSIST YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Minister for Youth Linda Burney announced today that applications for the first statewide program of Youth Participation Grants has opened and encouraged young people from all parts of NSW to apply.

Ms Burney said the grants were an exciting challenge for young people to have access to the financial means to create, lead and implement projects, allowing them to be more actively involved in their communities.

"The program offers all young people in NSW aged between 12 and 25 the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$5,500 to run local youth initiatives," Ms Burney said.

"This is the first year the program has been available to young people across NSW. It was launched last year in selected areas and the results were outstanding. Young people had to devise the ideas themselves, submit an outline for funding and then execute the plan.

"Two of the innovative projects to come out of last year's grants were a radio campaign on cyber-bullying in Coffs Harbour and a nutrition kitchen in Camden where young people were educated about healthy eating.

"Key criteria for the selection panel are that the applicants have to demonstrate how their project will benefit the community and how it will increase community interaction.

"An excellent example of how a project last year impacted on planning occurred in Nambucca, where the young people worked collaboratively with the council and the community to hold a skaters' festival. This went off so well that it broke the 18-year deadlock that had halted plans for a local skate park."

The lemma Government's commitment to support communities in building harmony and increasing participation is articulated in the NSW State Plan.

"The NSW Youth Action Plan, the Government's four year initiative to support young people, states that young people who have strong connections with their community are more likely to have better school results, a greater sense of responsibility, good mental health and a longer life. The program definitely reinforces the Youth Action Plan," Ms Burney said.

The program is funded by the Department of Community Services and is managed by the NSW Youth Action and Policy Association (YAPA). YAPA is the peak community group working in the interests of young people and youth services in NSW.

Applications close on 24 April. For details, visit www.yapa.org.au/ypp or contact 1800 627 323 (toll-free from rural/regional landlines), (02) 9319 1100 ext 6 or ypp@yapa.org.au.

Media contact: Phyllis Sakinofsky 9228 4455 / 0406 164 034