

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



4 March 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN AUSTRALIA CAN HAVE THEIR SAY

NSW Youth Minister, Linda Burney, today encouraged young people to get involved in the Rudd Government's 2020 Youth Summit by responding to the YouthSpeak survey, the largest-ever consultation with Australian young people.

Ms Burney said the survey would allow young people to have their voices heard and their opinions recorded.

"The results of the survey will be passed on to the 100 young people (15 to 24 years of age) from around Australia who will be selected to attend the 2020 Youth Summit," Ms Burney said.

"They will discuss ten critical areas which are also on the agenda for the *Australia 2020* summit so their opinions will be taken seriously in the greater debate. They will also consider options for establishing an ongoing Australian Youth Forum.

"I hope that young leaders in NSW submitted their details to participate in the summit because today is the closing day. Others still have the option of completing the survey, commenting on Facebook, and attending face-to-face consultations in metropolitan, regional and rural areas."

Last week the 2008 NSW Youth Advisory Council met for the first time.

"Two members of this outstanding bunch of young people have nominated to represent the council at the Youth Summit."

"But at an individual level, the survey and other social media will give thousands of young people the chance to express themselves and hopefully have input into decision-making."

Amanda Scott, Chair of the Youth Advisory Council, was looking forward to the outcomes of the National Youth Summit.

"It will provide an excellent forum for young people across the country to be involved with Government," Ms Scott said.

"I think the results of the YouthSpeak survey will also be fascinating, as it will be compiled with input from so many diverse young people. The most important aspect of the survey is that it allows us to generate our own ideas for dealing with our concerns, which is often not covered in questionnaires."

Workshops will be held in schools, hospitals and youth detention centres.

The survey is available at www.youthspeak.org.au. Young people can also put their comments on a Facebook wall at www.facebook.com/pages/YouthSpeak/5739799727. The 2020 Youth Summit will be held in Canberra on 12 and 13 April. The delegates will be announced on 17 March. Further information is available at www.australia2020.gov.au/youth/index.cfm

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