



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH PROJECTS

Organisations in Castle Hill with programs promoting youth participation and engagement can now apply for up to \$50,000 as part of the NSW Government's Youth Opportunities Grants.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said this is an exciting opportunity for community groups, not-for-profits and councils to help kick-start youth focused projects.

"There are so many great local organisations across our region delivering projects that drive youth participation and engagement," Mr Williams said.

"There is \$1.5 million available for projects that help young people in our local area learn new skills, make friends and create stronger communities."

The program provides one-off, time-limited grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to not-for-profit organisations and local councils for projects that remove barriers preventing youth from taking up new opportunities.

Since the program began in 2012, Youth Opportunities has provided almost \$12 million in funding to close to 247 projects across the state.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward said last year's recipients included programs promoting positive mental health, communication skills and leadership.

"The last 12 months have been tough for communities across our state, and these grants are an opportunity to support programs that engage young people during this critical time," Mr Ward said.

Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women Bronnie Taylor said more than half of last year's grant recipients involved programs in regional and rural NSW.

"This is a fantastic way of getting projects off the ground which empower young people and encourage them to participate in their community," Mrs Taylor said.

For more information about the Youth Opportunities Grants, or to make an application, visit www.youth.nsw.gov.au/youth-opportunities/.

Media: June Belkovskis - 02 8882 9555