



# Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FUNDING FOR CASTLE HILL TO BOOST SUMMER FUN

Councils in Castle Hill can sign up for a share of \$1.3 million in NSW Government funding to deliver free events, activities or experiences to enliven local public spaces this summer.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said grants of up to \$10,000 were available through the Festival of Place Summer Fun(d) program to activate the community and encourage people to stay local.

“Councils are encouraged to deliver free activities such as innovative lighting displays, outdoor markets, micro-festivals, open-air theatre, street parties, lawn libraries and street entertainment.” Mr Williams said.

“Businesses across Castle Hill have done it tough this year and this funding will help to get people out and about in a safe way just in time for the festive season.

“I encourage councils to put forward innovative ideas for events that will help people connect after a challenging year.”

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the fund forms another part of the NSW Government’s inaugural Festival of Place, which celebrates the diversity of NSW’s public spaces.

“We’ve already seen how our public space programs such as Streets as Shared Spaces and Your High Street have restored confidence and helped to lift local business activity.

“These \$10,000 grants, in addition to the relaxation of planning rules for alfresco dining and local events, will give councils the tools they need to attract people to come out, shop locally, and enjoy our magnificent summer weather.”

Councils can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) with a simple online form, in December or January, to boost events over Christmas and during summer.

Further information about the program and a link to the EOI is available at: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces/festival-of-place/summer-fund>

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