

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Women
The Hon. Linda Burney MP



Thursday, 22 October 2009

FUNDING PROGRAM OPENS FOR COUNCILS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney today invited councils and community groups in the Hunter and Central Coast to apply for grants of up to \$300,000 under the NSW Government's grants scheme, *Community Builders*.

Ms Burney urged local councils and organisations to apply for funding when the first round opens on the 2 November.

"The Rees Government is making funding available to local organisations through the *Community Builders Program* in 2010," she said.

"*Community Builders* is a regional community development grants program that provides funding to local councils and non-government organisations for social, economic and environmental projects.

"These grants will give organisations in the Hunter and Central Coast the capacity to develop projects and initiatives that directly respond to the community's needs, particularly the needs of disadvantaged individuals and families.

"Under the program, councils and community groups can apply for \$10,000 to \$300,000 funding over three years."

Other regions to benefit from *Community Builders* include the Illawarra, South West Sydney, Western Sydney and the North Coast.

Community Builders was formerly known as the Area Assistance Scheme. Changes to the program were made following consultations with more than a hundred local councils and community groups.

Applications for funding through *Community Builders* must be submitted by midnight Thursday, 10 December 2009.

More information is available and applications can be made online by visiting www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding/2433.html

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