

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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



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**Friday, 9 October, 2009**

### **Western Sydney Theatre Group Helps Prevent Crime**

Community-based youth theatre group Horizon Theatre will receive \$3,000 in one-off funding towards their new project "Prevention is Better Than Cure", Minister for Community Services Linda Burney announced today when she visited the group at Wiley Park with Member for Bankstown Tony Stewart.

In partnership with the NSW Police and other community organisations, the Western Sydney-based Horizon Theatre will introduce young people to art as a method of expressing their emotions constructively, as well as being shown techniques to aid anger management and self-control.

"The project will give young people experience in ways to solve their problems without resorting to violence, and will learn new ways to respond to conflict," Ms Burney said.

"This is not just about crime prevention - it's about addressing bullying, discrimination, coping with peer pressure, and even giving young people ways to deal with domestic violence."

Young people participating in "Prevention Is Better Than Cure" will also explore issues like human rights and social inclusion and will be introduced to crime prevention information, and will examine issues related to crime.

Mr Stewart said this campaign was established following positive feedback to the Horizon Theatre's previous project, C-Red (Creative and Performing Arts Skills for Conflict Resolution).

"I have had regular contact with the group over the years and have always been very impressed with their work and how well they interact with local young people," Mr Stewart said.

One young man who came to a C-Red workshop said: "this program allows me to do the things I couldn't do in my life And has made me feel safe, happy."

Another participant spoke of how it helped him control his anger.

Horizon Theatre Company was established with the clear aim of developing a world-class repertory theatre in Sydney's western suburbs, and is dedicated to enhancing the artistic, cultural and economic opportunity of marginalised young people.

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