The Hon Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 8 July 2011

$10,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Victor Dominello MP, today announced that NSW Government scholarships will send 10 young people of Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds to the 2012 YMCA Youth Parliament.

Minister Dominello, who has responsibility for Youth Affairs, today attended the final ‘sitting’ day of the 2011 Youth Parliament.

“The NSW Youth Parliament is a prestigious annual forum for young people to learn about the parliamentary process and get a real taste of what it’s like to be an MP,” he said.

“Today I am delighted to announce that 10 NSW Government scholarships, worth a total of $10,000, will bring that experience within reach for five Aboriginal young people and an additional five young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

“As the Minister responsible for Youth, Citizenship and Aboriginal Affairs, I understand the importance of supporting young people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds to have an equal voice at all levels of our community.

“I hope the experience of participating Youth Parliament will encourage more young people from all sectors of society to play an active role in our democracy.”

At today’s sitting, Minister Dominello was speaker for the 100th bill before the NSW Youth Parliament. It was debated by alumni from each year of the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament since 2002.

“For 10 years, the YMCA Youth Parliament has provided a unique experience for NSW high school students aged 15-18,” Mr Dominello said.

“This year, 93 young people representing 60 electorates debated Bills on a wide range of issues including Community Services and Housing, Education and Training, and Health and Medical Research.

“I applaud all the members of the 2011 Youth Parliament for their efforts and enthusiasm in voicing the concerns of NSW young people.”

Nominations for the 2012 Youth Parliament are managed by the YMCA and will be open later in the year. For more information on the NSW Youth Parliament, visit www.ymcasydney.org/activity/youth-parliament.

ENDS.