DIVERSE YOUNG VIEWS TO ADVISE STATE GOVERNMENT IN 2013

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said the diversity of NSW’s population is reflected in the new 2013 NSW Youth Advisory Council – the voice for young people across the State.

Mr Dominello, who is responsible for Youth Affairs, said the 12-member NSW Youth Advisory Council makes an important contribution to the NSW Government’s work and the way it delivers services to young people in NSW.

“Close to 200 nominations for Council membership were received from young people of all ages and cultural backgrounds throughout regional and metropolitan NSW.

“This year’s Council members bring with them a wide range of life experiences – be it as a student, worker, volunteer and children of immigrants.

“The Council reflects the diversity of our State and includes a young Aboriginal woman, a woman born in India and a woman whose parents are Afghan refugees.”

The seven new members will shortly join five continuing members appointed to the 2013 NSW Youth Advisory Council, providing a balance between new and experienced membership.

“The one thing all Council members have in common is a demonstrated desire to take action for positive change in their communities,” Mr Dominello said.

“The NSW Government is privileged to be able to tap into the first hand experiences of these young people who in so many different ways participate in today’s highly diverse society.

“Their unique insights, views and advice will assist in the development of youth-related policies and programs.”

The seven new members of the NSW Youth Advisory Council for the next 12 months are:

- Ms Astha Rajvanshi from West Pennant Hills, age 21 (Chair)
- Mr Piero Craney, Wyoming, 18
- Ms Gina Zheng, Eastwood, 16
- Ms Teleria Milson, Dubbo, 16
- Ms Kayla Lochner, Randwick, 18
- Mr Jesse Hanna, Bexley, 20
- Mr Jake Green, Thirroul, 17
Mr Dominello said the NSW Youth Advisory Council will meet up to eight times a year to discuss a range of relevant topics, as well as monitor and evaluate policy and legislation that affects young people.

“As part of their role, Council members will consult young people, community groups and Government authorities and conduct forums on issues of interest to young people.

“I look forward to working closely with the 2013 NSW Youth Advisory Council.”

The five members re-appointed to the Council are:

- Mr Nathan Inwood, Bathurst, 20 (Deputy Chair)
- Ms Rosemarie Costi, Riverview, 19
- Mr Alexander Leighton, Gloucester, 18
- Ms Marie Nemani, Kogarah, 16
- Ms Melissa Wolfshoerndl, Richmond, 18

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NSW YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: NEW APPOINTEES

**Asthana Rajvanshi**, 21, from West Pennant Hills, age 21 (Chair):

Asthana is a third-year Media and Communications student at the University of Sydney. She was born in India and migrated to Australia at the age of 10. Asthna is president and chair of the University of Sydney Union and was a member of the Parramatta Youth Council from 2007 to 2009.

**Piero Craney**, 18, from Wyoming:

Piero is a member of the Gosford City Youth Council, a council Youth Ambassador and was a member of the State Student Representative Council in 2011. He represented the Central Coast at the 2009, 2010 and 2011 YMCA Youth Parliaments and has received a Premier’s Diamond Award for Volunteering.

**Gina Zheng**, 16, Eastwood:

Gina writes for Ryde Council’s Youth Magazine and has represented her school at the model United Nations Assembly. Gina works part-time at Macquarie University Sports and Aquatic Centre as a gymnastics squad coach.

**Teleria Milson**, 16, Dubbo:

Teleria is a young Wiradjuri woman. In 2012 she was school captain, the leader of the Aboriginal Girls Circle and the College Aboriginal Education Consultative Group committee at Dubbo College’s Delroy Campus. Her goal is to join the NSW Police Force after she completes her HSC.

**Kayla Lochner**, 18, Randwick:

Kayla is a member of the Randwick Youth Council and was a member of the Museum of Contemporary Art Youth Committee in 2010 and 2011. Kayla has been a volunteer and a peer educator at Waverley Action for Youth Services and is chair of the committee advising the NSW Government on the management of Youth Week.

**Jesse Hanna**, 20, Bexley:

Jesse is a third year Commerce/Law student at the University of NSW. He is Chair of Rockdale City Council’s youth council and received a St George Community Award in 2012. He works part-time at the Bexley Swimming Centre as a swimming instructor and lifeguard.

**Jake Green**, 17, Thirroul:

Jake is a committee member of the Thirroul Life Saving Club and a club, branch, state and national medallist for surf lifesaving. He has also been a member of the NSW Delegation to the National Schools Constitutional Convention, part of the Australian Government’s Civics and Citizenship program.