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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN DUBBO

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant today announced $86,000 in funding to help train local youth to become volunteers with the State Emergency Service.

As part of the NSW Government’s Youth Opportunities program, Western College Incorporated will receive the funding to engage disadvantaged young people in emergency services volunteer roles and help them take on leadership roles in their local community.

Dubbo City Council is also receiving a grant - $20,000 towards hosting the 2013 NSW Local Government Youth Council Conference.

Mr Dominello and Mr Grant met today with staff and young people at Western College, a not-for-profit, community-based registered training organisation in Dubbo.

“I believe that with the right opportunities, young people can make major positive contributions to community life in NSW,” Mr Dominello said.

“NSW Government funding for an exciting project will see Western College work with the Macquarie region’s (SES) to train, up skill and mentor disengaged or disadvantaged young people to become SES volunteers.”

The two year project will involve about 20 people from Dubbo aged 16 - 24 years. The group will form a youth sub-committee of the local SES and receive regular training to volunteer in emergency situations.

“It’s an excellent opportunity for young people to develop their skills and knowledge and to build relationships in the local community, including potential future employers,” Mr Grant said.

“The NSW Government is committed to empowering and supporting youth, leading to stronger communities.”

Dubbo City Council will host the 2013 NSW Local Government Youth Council Conference in November. The biennial conference is expected to attract 300 young people from across the State. Young people from isolated and disadvantaged communities will receive assistance for transport and registration costs.

For more information on the Youth Opportunities program, visit the website at www.youth.nsw.gov.au.

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