MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello today announced that a new partnership between the NSW Government and local communities will see hundreds of disengaged young people receive mentoring to develop their leadership skills and commitment to volunteering.

Mr Dominello said the NSW Government has requested expressions of interest from the NGO sector to deliver a new youth mentoring program, designed to keep our younger generations engaged at school and to develop them to be strong community advocates.

The NSW Government has committed $600,000 to delivering this program in 28 communities across NSW that have been selected based on criteria relating to socioeconomic status.

“Mentoring can be a powerful tool to inspire young people to stay engaged at school and get involved in giving back to their community,” Mr Dominello said.

“Through connecting local older role models committed to volunteering together with students in need of guidance, young people will look beyond their computer screen and make positive connections with different people in their community.

“Students will participate in personal development courses that give them the confidence to lead and to take action in their community on a cause close to their heart – whether that be through coaching a young sporting group, organising a fundraising event for a local cause, or fixing the gardens of an elderly neighbour.

“The program will work with up to 360 young people across as many as 28 regional and metropolitan locations over a 20 week period.

“The NSW Government’s financial commitment will be matched at least dollar for dollar by the successful organisation, in a mutually beneficial partnership aimed at building strong and inclusive communities.

“The Youth Mentoring Program will be independently evaluated prior to broader roll out so that participating communities and the NSW Government can be confident it is making a positive difference in local communities and the lives of young people.

“My hope is that this program will bring together people from diverse backgrounds and different ages to engage with their community in a positive setting and help the participating young people to reach their full potential,” said Mr Dominello.
For further information, and to access the Request for Tender please visit the website
www.tenders.nsw.gov.au or contact the Chief Procurement Officer, NSW Department of
Education and Communities, on 02 8633 1130. The closing date is 7 November 2013.

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