**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: At 12:45pm Minister Dominello and Local MP Chris Holstein will be meeting youth mentors and staff at RYSS, 123 Donniston Street, Gosford**

Tuesday 3 December 2013

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES IN GOSFORD**

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello will today join Gosford MP Chris Holstein for a firsthand progress report on a NSW Government-funded youth project on the Central Coast.

The Regional Youth Support Service’s (RYSS) Central Coast Youth Leadership Project was awarded a total of $90,000 in funding from the NSW Government’s Youth Opportunities program.

Mr Dominello and Mr Holstein will today meet with RYSS youth mentors at their shopfront on Donnison Street, Gosford.

RYSS is delivering six exciting projects as part of Youth Opportunities. They include Full Circle, an eight-week program for Year 7 and 8s aimed at tackling bullying and building self-esteem in schools; and Life Skills, helping Year 9 and 10s develop basic skills in budgeting, car maintenance, nutrition and facilitating career development opportunities.

“These youth mentors have been using their new skills to work with young people, identify issues affecting them and present their views to local decision makers – giving Central Coast young people a genuine ‘voice’ in the local community.

“Initiatives such as the Central Coast Youth Leadership Project instil in young people a sense of pride about their community and empowers them to contribute to public debate,” Mr Dominello said.

Mr Holstein said the RYSS Youth Mentors will work with Gosford City Council to undertake wide-spread consultation with young people.

“I think it’s fantastic that this consultation process will make it easier to consider young people’s views when making decisions that affect them,” said Mr Holstein.

“The Youth Mentors will use proactive marketing, social networking and various apps to run online consultations, one-on-one focus groups and consultation with young people and their families.

“The RYSS shopfront is centrally located in Gosford with a range of services for young people including computers with free internet access, a sound studio, theatre and areas to socialise.

“I encourage young people in Gosford to make the most of this service and make their voices heard,” Mr Holstein said.

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