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

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING YOUTH ADVOCACY MODEL

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello today confirmed the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring a strong and independent voice for children and young people in NSW.

“The NSW Government recently completed the most comprehensive consultations on child and youth advocacy undertaken by the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) since its inception 14 years ago,” Mr Dominello said.

“These consultations involved 34 classroom consultations, two large stakeholder roundtables and online surveys as part of the Speak Up! community consultations.

“A report on the consultations was finalised by the CCYP and released by the NSW Government in December 2013.

“The ‘Strengthening advocacy for children and young people in NSW’ report captured the views of over 900 children and young people, NGOs, youth policy experts and a wide range of other stakeholders.

“This included major contributions from over 40 organisations including Uniting Care Burnside Children Young People and Families, Youth Justice Coalition and the Council of Social Services of NSW.

“The NSW Government has listened to what the community said and we are working to ensure these views are reflected in a new model for child and youth advocacy.

“We are close to finalising the legislation which will give children and young people in NSW the advocate they need and deserve.

“In recent months CCYP has been briefing key stakeholders about the proposed reforms and the Bill is due to be introduced during the next session of Parliament.

“Acting CCYP Commissioner Kerryn Boland and her team have done an excellent job over the past 12 months, especially in conducting state-wide consultations on the future of youth advocacy.

“Ms Boland will continue in her role while the new model for youth advocacy is finalised.

“We are committed to delivering a fresh approach to advocacy for children and young people in this state,” Mr Dominello said.

The Strengthening Advocacy report can be found at http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/

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