TENDERS OPEN FOR NEW YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello today announced the calling of tenders for a state-wide Youth Mentoring Program, which will see Year 8 and 9 students across all 93 state electorates given the opportunity to participate in individual mentoring.

Mr Dominello said a central component of the mentoring program would be a community project, developed and managed by each student over the course of a year, with guidance from an individual mentor.

“This program is about giving students an opportunity to build life skills and self-confidence by working collaboratively with a mentor to deliver a project which makes a positive difference in their local community,” Mr Dominello said.

“Research show that mentoring can play a vital role in helping young people to remain engaged with school education, as well as raising self-esteem, and fosters ambition to succeed in tertiary education and employment.

“Students will be selected based on state electorates, and similar to the highly successful Community Building Partnership Program, it will incorporate the involvement of local MPs.

“They will spend at least 30 hours working with their mentors, including at least 10 hours of one-on-one mentoring, to help them make their project vision a reality. The most innovative project ideas will be recognised through regional showcases and awards.”

Mr Dominello said four contract packages are being tendered with each package covering a mix of metropolitan and regional areas:

- **Contract package 1**: Central Coast, Northern NSW, Mid North Coast, Hunter New England
- **Contract package 2**: Northern Sydney, Sydney, Western NSW
- **Contract package 3**: South Western Sydney, Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains, Far West
- **Contract package 4**: Illawarra, Southern NSW, Murrumbidgee, South Eastern Sydney

“Every young person being mentored will be provided with a program that meets state-wide quality assurance standards and appropriately addresses their own local situation,” Mr Dominello said.

Following today’s announcement of tender bids, there will be a public briefing session for potential bidders on Monday, 14 October before the final submission date of 7 November.

Successful tenderers will be announced prior to the commencement of the program in February 2015. Further information is available on the NSW Government Tenders website: [https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/](https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/).