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Living in Harmony Program Launch

“This is a positive example of a community working together to promote harmony,” said Tony Windsor, Federal Member for New England when he launched the Armidale Living in Harmony Program at the Old Teacher’s College in Armidale on Saturday.

He was speaking at Armidale’s Harmony Day Event, part of Australia's biggest ever, multicultural event and coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Living in Harmony Program is an eight month arts based project for which the Program’s Manager, Arts North West, has received \$50,000 from the Federal Government’s Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

The Program will provide young people, disadvantaged youth in particular, with a forum for self expression and an opportunity to re-engage with the community through a range of arts based activities. The product of these activities, which will include video, composition and performance, will be presented back to the community at the culmination of the Project.

According to Jack Ritchie, Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts North West, “The Armidale Living in Harmony Project is a proactive strategy, developed in response to community issues.”

Partners in the project are the Armidale Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Armidale CDEP, Arts North West Regional Arts Board and the Armidale Big hArt Advisory Group.

Arts North West was one of 37 recipients chosen from 219 applications submitted from across the country, to receive grants totalling just over \$1.5 million for projects designed to attack racism and promote community harmony.

“I congratulate all those groups involved in the program and wish them every success.

I would also like to thank the Minister, the Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, his Ministerial staff and his Federal Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs for first their recognition of the Armidale Community application for assistance through this program and second for their assistance to me in preparation for making this announcement.

All have been very helpful and obviously committed to providing a positive outcome to the community,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor on 0427 66 8868