



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

24 September 2003

Local Youth encouraged to participate in 2004 Australian National Youth Roundtable

Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, is strongly encouraging young people in the region aged between 15 and 24 to consider participating in the 2004 National Youth Roundtable.

Mr Windsor said the National Youth Roundtable is conducted by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and is the centrepiece of the Government's "Voices of Youth" initiative.

He said the Roundtable provides an opportunity for young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and from various locations across Australia to interact with each other and meet with Federal Parliamentarians to discuss issues of concern.

Mr Windsor cited the extremely positive feedback he has received from Gunnedah teenager, Adam Marshall, who has recently returned from this year's Roundtable in Canberra.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with Adam and other participants whilst they were in Canberra during a recent Parliamentary sitting," Mr Windsor said.

"Adam thoroughly enjoyed his experiences as a Roundtable participant. It is was great to see this enthusiastic group of young people getting involved in their communities and meeting with their Federal Parliamentary representatives."

"Adam and the other participants had the opportunity to research a range of issues facing young people across the country and present their findings first-hand to Government Ministers and other Parliamentarians," he said.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our youth to have direct contact with their Federal Parliamentary representatives, identify issues of concern and present their ideas on solutions to the problems young people are facing in today's society."

"I would strongly encourage young people within the target age group to consider applying to participate in next year's Roundtable," Mr Windsor said.

Applications forms and information relating to the National Youth Roundtable are available on the Internet at www.thesource.gov.au/youth_roundtable or by telephoning 1800 624 309. Applications close at 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 1 October, 2003.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080