



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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United community wins funding for Armidale Streetbeat Project

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has praised the unity of the Armidale Community in the success of funding for the Armidale Streetbeat Project to be co-ordinated by the Regional Extended Family Services (REFS) Inc.

Mr Windsor has thanked the Federal Minister for Justice and Customs, the Hon Chris Ellison and welcomed the funding of \$470,000 from Community Partnerships Stream of the National Community Crime Prevention Programme for the project designed and supported by so many community groups and individuals.

“I congratulate REFS and the Armidale community for working together to achieve funding for this positive program to assist in addressing concerns about law and order issues in the community.

The community has taken a proactive approach to the issue and worked together to develop a whole of community/whole of Government project to make inroads to providing a solution for the community through opportunities for productive diversion and alternative activities,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the Project features two experienced youth workers, engaged in a 'cross-cultural' collaborative model providing a critical front line link between agencies and young people involved in the recidivist, anti-social or crime related activities.

The youth workers will establish 'real-time' engagement with the target group at the times most 'at risk' behaviour occurs.

The aim of the Project is to redirect the target group into positive activities and programs and support services.

The project is aimed at reducing juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour in Armidale. The two experienced youth workers (employed through the Project) will work outside of business hours and on the week-end, when most criminal and anti-social activities occur.

Armidale has an excellent service system. However an identified gap in the existing service system is that young people do not have access to experienced youth workers in the evenings or on the week-end (most services, apart from the police, are Monday - Friday, 9 - 5).

It is envisaged that the Armidale Streetbeat Project will fill that gap and work alongside of the existing service system.

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“The main ingredient for the success of this application for funding is that it has been a whole of community and a whole of government partnership as illustrated by the 20 support letters that accompanied the submission showcasing a whole of community approach to reducing juvenile crime activity in Armidale.

The following community groups / government agencies have show support for this project:-

Armidale Dumaresq Council (ADC)
Premiers Department
Aboriginal Elders
Police
Department of Juvenile Justice
Department of Education
Armidale Community Foot Patrol Inc
Armidale & District Youth Support Services
Regional Extended Family Services
Armidale & District Womens Centre
Minimbah Preschool and Primary School
ADC Community Safety Committee
ADC Gayinyaga Committee - Aboriginal Advisory Group
Armidale Community Drug Action Team
Kamilaroi Aboriginal Legal Service
Pat Dixon Medical Service
North & North West Community Legal Service Incorporated
Aroonba Aboriginal Corporation
Jobs Australia
Armidale & District Family Support Services
Young Life Youth Centre
Armidale Youth Focus Group
Richard Torbay MP – Member for Northern Tablelands

“The funding for the project is a wonderful outcome for all those involved.

It is an important step in addressing the issues as identified by the community.

I look forward to the Armidale Streetbeat Project achieving its objectives and as a result achieving positive outcomes for the broader community of Armidale,” Mr Windsor said.