

Minister for Fair Trading  
Minister for Citizenship  
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

**Virginia Judge MP**



29 April 2009

## **MINISTER VISITS LOCAL LISMORE AFRICAN YOUTH GROUP**

Minister for Citizenship Virginia Judge today joined staff, participants and their parents at a homework club set up to assist local African youth in Lismore.

Ms Judge said Community Connections North Coast had received \$18,200 under the 2008/09 Community Development Grants Program for their Lismore African Youth Access program.

“The Youth Access program is a great local initiative run by Connections North Coast that offers support programs for African Youth from Sudanese, Congolese and Sierra Leone backgrounds,” Ms Judge said.

“The programs include a range of activities including a homework club, participation in local sporting groups and a driver education program.

“The staff at Community Connections North Coast have done a great job in setting up social networks by tailoring their program to the needs of the emerging African community in Lismore.

“The program caters for youth between the ages of 13 – 25 and provides them with opportunities to get involved in activities and access services in the broader Lismore community.

“I am pleased that the contribution by the Rees Government is being used in such a practical and meaningful way to assist these young people settle into their new communities and access these important support services.”

Ms Judge said the grants program offered organisations such as Community Connections North Coast an opportunity to address issues of cultural diversity locally.

“The Grants Program is designed to enhance community engagement and the creation of social networks by supporting projects that address issues of cultural diversity,” Ms Judge.

“The grants help facilitate projects that encourage cultural diversity at a local level to promote understanding and awareness of diverse cultures through workshops, performances, festivals and support services.”

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