

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

**Virginia Judge MP**



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## **MINISTER SUPPORTS INTER-FAITH PROJECT**

Minister for Citizenship, Virginia Judge will today join youth from a wide range of religious groups at the Sydney Young People's Pre-Parliament Conference.

Ms Judge said the conference at Parliament House is a prelude to the Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in Melbourne in December.

"I am pleased to join such a diverse group of young people of so many faiths who have come to meet in a place where they can listen, learn and engage in discussion," she said.

"The theme of today's event is 'Social Networking beyond Facebook' and involves representatives of the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths.

"I think it's great that young people are looking above and beyond online forms of social networking and engaging in face-to-face contact with others of different faiths and beliefs.

"I use Facebook as another channel to keep in touch with people in my electorate and people I meet when I am out and about in my role as Minister, but it is certainly not the only way to keep in touch."

Ms Judge said nearly 140 people were expected to attend the conference today.

"The Sydney Young People's Pre-Parliament Conference is an inspiring occasion that reflects the state's harmony and diversity," she said.

"In New South Wales we are free to profess, practice and maintain our own linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic heritage," she said.

"I am pleased to see young people choosing to join together to find solutions on how to engage, rather than disassociate from each other.

"Our young people are helping NSW showcase religious tolerance and acceptance.

"I hope these members of the Facebook generation will form a cohesive group to continue this crucial work amongst their peers, and set an example to their elders."

Ms Judge said the Parliament of the World's Religions will bring together more than 8,000 people from across the world, including renowned spiritual, religious and political leaders.

"It invites all people of faith, spirit and goodwill to encounter the vast and rich diversity of the world's religious and spiritual traditions and to take part in over 500 events."

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