



NSW DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Head Office 4-6 Cavill Avenue, Ashfield NSW 2131 • Locked Bag 28, Ashfield NSW 1800
DX 21212 Ashfield • Tel (02) 9716 2222 • Fax (02) 9716 2999

File 08/2457

24 JUL 2008

Mr Mel Keenan
Committee Manager
Committee on Children and Young People
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Keenan

I refer to your request of 9 July 2008 for information on a number of issues that arose while I was giving evidence before the Committee on Children and Young People on 2 July 2008.

In your letter you asked for more information on Waverley Council's Supporting Young People's Connection to Activities Project, the number of people in the target group for Better Futures and the number of Better Futures projects with parenting programs part of their strategy.

I note that Waverley Council provided information to the Inquiry on the Supporting Young People's Connection to Activities Project, which it auspiced. One of the major outcomes of the project is the development of an integrated approach to planning that is sustainable beyond the life of the project.

In its submission to the Inquiry, Waverley Council indicated the extent of the opportunities for agencies such as local government and others to work together in the planning and delivery of services to the Inquiry's target group to meet the needs of children and young people in this age group for after-school and school-vacation activities.

Since that time Council has provided additional information on the project outcomes.

The opportunities for local government, youth services and out-of-school-hours services to work together for after-school and school-vacation activities, identified through the project, include:-

- Placing 9-13 Better Futures updates and planning on the agenda for existing bodies, such as Youth Interagencies, Youth Services Networks and OOSH Coordinator Forums.
- Informing other interagencies of the work of the Supporting Young People's Connection to Activities Project.
- Developing and approving a protocol to provide a blueprint for services to work more effectively together when working with young people.
- Compiling information for 9-13 year olds, covering programs, transport and facilities and posting it on the web.

- Compiling a Recreation and Leisure Directory for 9-13 year olds and distributing it through the web and by mail to schools.
- Creating links between OOSH and youth services and starting programs to deal with the transition from children's programs to youth programs.

The Committee asked how many young people in NSW are in the target group for Better Futures. The target group for Better Futures is children and young people aged 9 to 18 years. I advise that at the time of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of 2006, there were 888,684 persons aged 9-18 in NSW (based on place of usual residence).

The Committee also requested information on the number of Better Futures projects that have a parenting program as part of their strategy. Two Better Futures projects with parenting programs as part of their strategy are being funded by Better Futures in 2008/09.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Murphy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Murphy
Director, Strategy and Planning
Communities Division