



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
24 June 2009

Loft Youth Venue Secures Valuable Federal Funding

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, was today pleased to announce that the Loft Youth Venue has received \$33,398 in funding from the Rudd Labor Government for its ongoing and successful Indigenous Cultural Support Program.

"It is great to see the Loft Youth Venue offering such an important program, and to see the support that it is receiving at a Federal level," Ms Grierson said.

The program will go towards supporting their ongoing arts and cultural training programs for indigenous youth in the Newcastle area.

This is the second significant Federal funding announcement to be awarded to the Loft in the last 12 months, following on from the \$249,955 funding grant it received with Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Cooperative for the Community Level Binge Drinking Initiative last December - the highest amount granted in Australia.

"The continuing recognition in this way by the Federal government is a tribute to the quality of the programs and the successful outcomes that the Loft is achieving with our youth," Ms Grierson said.

"It comes at a particularly vital time, with Newcastle City Council (NCC) tomorrow night voting on the future of the Loft Youth Venue, the only alcohol free youth venue in Newcastle."

"Given its success in competing across the nation for Federal funding – and recognition – it would seem out of step for NCC to downgrade the Loft's operations at this time."

"I look forward to this new funding being put to further good use, and to the Loft Youth Venue's continued successful future."

Media contacts: 4926 1555

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com