



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY: ENROL TO VOTE AND HAVE YOUR SAY

On International Youth Day 2007, Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson has released the results of a survey of young Novocastrians and urged all young people to make sure they are correctly enrolled to vote.

The survey of 100 Newcastle residents aged between 18 and 22 conducted in April found:

- 24.5% said the Environment & Climate Change was the most important issue,
- 23.4% said Job Opportunities, Job Security & Industrial Relations was most important,
- 20.2% said Education, Universities, TAFE and Apprenticeships was most important.

"These are three of the big issues facing our nation," Ms Grierson said, "and there are major choices to be made on each of them at the election later this year."

"Labor's plans to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and invest in sustainable energy...John Howard's unfair industrial relations system...Kevin Rudd's Education Revolution to give all Australians the skills they need to find employment - these issues are extremely important to our future."

"It's great to see so many young Novocastrians having their say on these, and the huge range of other issues they raised in their responses."

"But you can only have your say if you are enrolled to vote, and the Howard Government's changes to the Electoral Act last year makes that harder than ever."

"It is estimated that about a third of all Australians aged 18 to 25 aren't on the Electoral Roll. That would be more than 5,700 young Novocastrians who would miss out on having their say."

"On International Youth Day I urge all young people to enrol to vote and play their part in shaping Australia's future."

For Enrolment Information: www.aec.gov.au

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