



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Local Government

Ms Sharon Grierson MP
Member for Newcastle

MEDIA STATEMENT

LOFT YOUTH VENUE COMMENDED IN NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Sharon Grierson MP and the Minister for Local Government, Anthony Albanese, today congratulated Newcastle City Council's Loft Youth Venue on receiving a commendation in the prestigious 2008 National Awards for Local Government.

The commendation was in the Youth Engagement category for the Loft's '*Youth Venue Music Program*'. This project is a youth arts facility that provides performance facilities and hosts activities to foster and promote local youth music.

Ms Grierson said, "I am very pleased that the Loft has been recognised for this excellent program."

"The Loft has hosted activities for more than 70,000 young people since 2000, and has provided performance facilities for more than 200 local bands and performers."

"I understand the challenging issues faced by our young people, and programs like this are essential to help give them opportunities and to show them that their positive contribution to our community is valued and respected."

"I am proud that the National Awards have recognised and rewarded the diversity and creativity displayed by the Loft and its young program participants."

Mr Albanese said, "The high-profile National Awards for Local Government have been going since 1986.

"They are only awarded to councils for projects that are independently judged to be the best or most innovative in their field.

"The National Awards also promote winning councils and projects to other councils around Australia so that local government service delivery and capacity are improved around the country."

Ms Grierson said, "This commendation acknowledges the excellent work being done by the Loft, and showcases the programs of Newcastle City Council to other councils across Australia."

The National Awards for Local Government web site is found at
www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/awards

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