



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

17 November 2008

Media Release

\$250K TO REDUCE BINGE DRINKING IN NEWCASTLE

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson has today welcomed the Rudd Government's announcement of a \$249,955 grant to Newcastle City Council to help reduce binge drinking in our City.

Ms Grierson and the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, announced the funding in Canberra today along with projects all around the nation under the Rudd Government's Community Level Initiatives program to reduce binge drinking.

The two-year project will have a twofold approach:

- early intervention & prevention targeting the Indigenous community, and
- creating a safe environment (Nightcare) for young people enjoying late night entertainment.

Ms Grierson said the funding showed the Government's commitment to local solutions aimed at the health and well-being of young people at risk of binge-drinking.

"This project will provide young Indigenous people with alternatives to weekend binge drinking by engaging them with the wider community through organising and participating in alcohol and drug-free events," Ms Grierson said.

"I'm particularly pleased that the Loft and Awabakal are involved in this proposal – they have a great record of delivering innovative programs and giving young people involvement in and ownership of the programs and their outcomes."

"The Nightcare service will also provide a managed area for all young people in the inner city that will help to reduce the level of harm associated with binge drinking."

"These are practical local solutions that the Rudd Government is proud to support through its Community Level Binge Drinking Initiatives."

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