



Sharon Bird MP  
Federal Member for Cunningham

## Local groups successful in winning \$650k in family assistance grants

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Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, has today congratulated three local groups for winning \$650,000 in Local Answers grants from the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Ms Bird congratulated –

- Illawarra Children's Services Limited for winning a \$294, 935 grant to help families in Corrimal,
- Southern Youth and Family Services Association for winning a \$299,996 grant to improve the health and wellbeing of young parents and young people and
- Healthy Cities Illawarra for winning a \$57,220 grant for a Building Healthy Men Project.

"These great projects will help families through parent workshops, playgroups, funding a drop in centre, a men's group to tackle depression and build self-esteem."

"We must support parents build families. Any investment in improving parenting will benefit all of us down the track", Sharon Bird said.

The Children's Services as Community Hubs project will improve parent/child interactions, child development, social behaviour patterns and parents' self esteem.

The Children's Services as Community Hubs project will target 600 young children and their families in Corrimal to develop service delivery systems for families and assist childhood development.

The Supporting Young Parents Service will conduct approximately 40 formal and informal activities including Koori Groups, to focus on living and social skills, parenting, relationship skills and teaching skills in a non-threatening environment to enhance learning and practical life skills.

Supporting Young Parents Service will target 70 Indigenous and non-Indigenous young parents and young people aged 14-24 years in Wollongong.

The Building Healthy Men Project will engage skilled session tutors to provide training to improve creative and life skills.

The program will introduce discussions on topics such as parenting, health, depression and isolation to develop a positive group process and empowered person.

“All these three groups have worked hard to put together proposals that will benefit Wollongong families. Well done”, Sharon Bird concluded

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1 August 2007