

MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon. Linda Burney MP
Minister for the State Plan
Minister for Community Services**



Tuesday 22 June 2010

EXTRA FUNDING FOR MARRICKVILLE YOUTH SERVICE

NSW Minister for Community Services Linda Burney with Member for Marrickville Carmel Tebbutt today announced extra funding of \$30,000 for *Twenty10*, an organisation that helps young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the inner West.

Speaking at the launch of *Twenty10's* strategic plan Ms Burney said *Twenty10* is a highly-regarded organisation with a 28-year history of working with youth across NSW.

"It provides services for young people who are same-sex attracted, gender diverse or questioning their sexuality or gender," Ms Burney said.

"It does excellent work by offering them assistance in finding accommodation and by also addressing the underlying issues associated with homelessness.

"The service offers case-management, accommodation, group programs, advocacy, living skills development and information and advice for young people and their families. It also assists young people to access other specialist services such as related welfare agencies, legal and financial organisations and primary health care.

"It is more than providing a warm bed for the night – it helps young people achieve greater stability in their lives and reduce the chance of them being homeless in the future."

Managing Director of *Twenty10* Rebecca Reynolds said the one-off payment would allow the organisation to extend its current counselling support.

"Counselling is an important aspect of the holistic services we offer. However, we have not been able to keep up with demand. This extra funding makes a great contribution to meeting this growing need," she said.

Ms Tebbutt welcomed the boost to local services.

"*Twenty10* is well known for its excellent work. This extra funding is welcome news for young people living in Marrickville who already benefit from the invaluable services provided by this organisation," she said.

"Supported Accommodation Assistance Programs (SAAP) services such as this one address the fact that homelessness is a complex problem and the people confronting it typically have complex issues to overcome," Ms Burney said.

"By providing this combination of secure housing and intensive support, SAAP is steering people away from the streets and into a better, more secure future."

This funding is a one-off payment through SAAP in addition to the \$363,293 Community Services provided in 2009/10. SAAP is a joint federal-state program.

SAAP currently provides funding to more than 220 service providers in NSW.

From 1 January 2009, the program was incorporated into the Commonwealth's National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA).