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GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has delivered on its commitment to promote vibrant, diverse and stronger communities across NSW with **\$42 million** allocated to initiatives for multicultural communities, children and young people, volunteers and veterans in the 2011-12 Budget.

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello MP, who has responsibility for the Community Relations Commission (CRC), youth affairs, volunteering and veterans' affairs, said the 2011-12 Budget will further strengthen NSW communities.

"The NSW Government sees multiculturalism as an asset for NSW and we will promote the social and economic benefits of our State's diversity through this Budget. We will also provide equitable access to services for people from culturally and linguistic diverse backgrounds," Minister Dominello said.

"During 2011-12, the NSW Government will spend **\$19.2 million** for initiatives and programs through the CRC. This includes investment of \$9 million in the delivery of professional interpreting and translation services for more than 100 different community languages," he said.

Minister Dominello recognised young people as the future of this state and said securing greater support for them was a priority in this Budget.

"I am delighted that the NSW Government will allocate \$1.3 million to the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) to fund the *Keep Them Safe – A Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing* program to boost background checks on those working with children," he said.

The NSW Government's strong commitment to respecting and valuing our veterans and keeping the ANZAC spirit alive in NSW was also affirmed.

"We are investing \$2.7 million in veterans' affairs over the next year. This money will be spent on operating the ANZAC Memorial Building, the important Anzac Memorial Scholars pilgrimages program and Community War Memorial Grants across the state," he said.

Volunteering is another area the Government has targeted in the 2011-2012 Budget.

"Volunteering is vital - it's the backbone of our community. It also directly contributes to our economy and to the health and strength of our communities," he said.

"In 2011-12, the O'Farrell Government will invest \$1.3 million on developing and implementing the state's first Volunteering Strategy.

"The strategy will focus on providing greater support for our volunteers, retaining and increasing volunteer numbers, encouraging new forms of volunteering as well as the diversification of the volunteer base and celebrating volunteering efforts across NSW," he said.