



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

Friday 12 March 2010

YOUTH HARMONY FESTIVAL 2010

NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos, is today urging young people from all backgrounds to attend the 2010 Youth Harmony Festival to help strengthen and promote cultural and religious ties across the community.

The festival, being held this Sunday at Darling Harbour's Tumbalong Park, is an opportunity for young people to build community ties by engaging in activities that promote a better understanding of cultural and religious diversity in an Australian context.

"Our Indigenous culture together with waves of migration have brought different languages, different practices, and different religions together to make Sydney one of the most interesting and vibrant places in the world," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"This festival is all about helping us understand what we have in common as Australians and to respect each other's religious and ethnic backgrounds so that we continue to forge a harmonious society."

Mr Hatzistergos said the day will be filled with cultural activities, food stalls, music, performances, workshops and sports.

It is expected that between 5,000 and 10,000 people will participate in the event across the day to celebrate traditions from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, the Pacific, the Middle East and Indigenous Australia.

"Some of the performances will have a basis in religious practices and traditions enabling one to see the sincerity and reverence that is common to all worshippers."

"I encourage all young people to attend the festival to make meaningful contacts and reflect on how important some cultural traditions are to your neighbours, just as your own are to you."

The festival will commence 11.00am and finish at 4pm. The event is being organised by the Multicultural Youth Network of the Community Relations Commission of NSW and is also supported by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

For more information about the event please visit www.crc.nsw.gov.au or contact the Community Relations Commission of NSW on 8255 6767.