

Media Release

June 16, 2010

Regional blueprint sees welcomed investment in young people

The Youth Affairs Council of Victoria welcomes the significant investment in rural and regional young people by the Brumby Government.

Georgie Ferrari, CEO, said “We are pleased that the Blueprint for Regional and Rural Development, *Ready for Tomorrow* focuses so significantly on the needs of young people in rural and regional centres, including substantial investment in improving access to tertiary education.”

Research commissioned by YACVic and rural Local Learning and Employment Networks, highlighted the largely economic challenges faced by rural and regional young people and their families in accessing and completing tertiary education.

“The Brumby Government has recognised that investing in quality tertiary education in regional and rural Victoria is a key way to ensure rural young people can stay connected with their local networks and contribute to their communities” said Ms Ferrari.

Through the *Youth Action Strategy* outlined in the Blueprint, the Brumby Government is responding to the needs identified by YACVic to better understand the issues facing young people and the services that support them in rural and regional areas.

“YACVic is looking forward to working with the Brumby Government to strengthen opportunities for young people and developing a more strategic approach to the future of rural youth services” Ms Ferrari said.

“The Blueprint recognises that investment in young people is key to any strategy to strengthen the sustainability and growth of rural and regional communities” Ms Ferrari said.

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