



Attorney General & Justice

12 May 2011

YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE THE LAW IN NEWCASTLE

High school students in the Newcastle area will have a unique opportunity to find out more about their local court and law and justice issues affecting young people.

Newcastle Courthouse will host open days on Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20 from 9.30 am – 2 pm. High school students will be able to attend a number of talks and programs on these days focusing on youth-related legal issues. These include:

- presentations by NSW Police on cyber-bullying offences and the issues associated with Facebook and social networking sites;
- information seminars on powers of attorney and guardianship for young people;
- a film presentation by Legal Aid on the repercussions for young people involved in high-risk behaviour;
- role plays on mediation and accessing mediation services;
- presentations by Juvenile Justice on intervention programs for young Indigenous people; and,
- information sessions for young people with a disability, their families and carers.

There will also be an opportunity for legal studies students to seek career advice at a 'legal Q&A' lunch on Friday, May 20 at 12pm. Local court registrars, police prosecutors and lawyers will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice to high school students wishing to pursue a career in the justice sector. Bookings for this session can be made by contacting Newcastle Courthouse on **4921 2200** or by emailing **local_court_newcastle@agd.nsw.gov.au**.

Also on hand over the two days will be representatives from the local court, Law Access, the Aboriginal Community Justice Group, Community Justice Centres, the Department of Fair Trading, Hunter Community Legal Centre, and the Salvation Army. The representatives will be available to provide information on the many legal support services available in Newcastle.

The open days are part of Law Week, an annual event aimed at increasing awareness of the law and improving access to legal services within the community.

Other Law Week events in NSW include mock trial exercises for school students, colouring competitions for primary school students and seminars on drink driving, family law, domestic violence, mental illness and how the law affects senior citizens.

The incoming Attorney General, Greg Smith said he was looking forward to taking part in Law Week activities.

“Law week promotes the rule of law and what lawyers do to serve the needs of the community,” Mr Smith said.

Law Week runs from May 16 –22. For further information about Law Week and what is happening in your area, visit: www.lawweek.com.au.