



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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ROTARY TO RUN GRAFFITI REMOVAL DAY

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced that Rotary Down Under would take the lead role in organising Graffiti Removal Day for 2012.

“Rotary is one of the world’s most respected organisations and has been at the forefront of community-based campaigns in NSW to combat graffiti,” Mr Smith said.

Graffiti Removal Day 2012 will encourage local councils and community members to nominate sites that have been vandalised with spray paint.

“The Government can’t win the war against graffiti on its own. We need people all across the state to be involved,” Mr Smith said

“Graffiti Removal Day will enable exasperated communities to restore civic pride by taking a united stand against vandals.”

Rotary will harness the power of social media to maximise the impact of Graffiti Removal Day.

“Community members will be able to nominate graffiti hotspots and volunteer for the clean-up via a Graffiti Removal Day website,” Mr Smith said.

“Rotary will also utilise Facebook to update the community on the event and encourage people to contribute their ideas on tackling the scourge of graffiti.”

Rotary Down Under Executive Director, Bob Aitken AM, said the organisation was delighted to be involved in Graffiti Removal Day.

“Rotarians are passionate about combating graffiti, which is why we have been working with the NSW Government on setting up volunteer graffiti removal squads around the state,” Mr Aitken said.

“We are excited by the opportunity to lead a much larger grass-roots campaign against graffiti and we encourage all members of the community to get involved.”

Mr Aitken said the campaign reflected Rotary’s focus on serving the community.

“Clubs across Australia already play a vital role every year in community events such as the Red Shield Appeal, and the promotion of mental health awareness.”

The Government's decision to award Rotary Down Under the contract for Graffiti Removal Day followed an open tender process.

Mr Smith said the success of the NSW Government's new Graffiti Hotline demonstrated the importance of community involvement in combatting graffiti.

"The hotline has received 582 calls since it was established in March, resulting in 482 graffiti reports being referred to councils and other government agencies for action," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the date for Graffiti Removal Day 2012 would be announced shortly.