



The Hon Chris Hartcher MP

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE MINE SITE AND THE HOME

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher today welcomed the launch of the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council's (MSAC) pilot Health and Safety Community Grants scheme.

Launched today in Mudgee by the MSAC chairman Norman Jennings and the Mayor of Mid-Western Region Council, Des Kennedy, the scheme will focus on bridging the gap between the workplace and home.

"Sound health and safety principles are as important within the community as they are at the mine site," Mr Hartcher said.

"MSAC is working to promote these fundamental principles in a number of NSW mining companies, starting with Mudgee."

The \$10,000 grants scheme is currently only available to community groups and schools in the Mudgee area, with individual grants of up to \$2000.

Applications, to be made online through the MSAC website, must address a health and safety issue relevant to the community group or school within the Mudgee area.

Community members can also vote online for their favourite application to assist with the Council's final decision.

"This is a great community-based health and safety initiative where local Mudgee community groups and schools can get involved," Mr Hartcher said.

"It makes sense that the world-leading principles which apply in the mine are also carried out both at home and within the community."

Today's launch follows on from the new campaign in Mudgee titled 'Looking Out For Each Other', targeted to highlight the importance of OHS.

"Having a good health and safety culture means bringing good health and safety attitudes home, not leaving them at work," Mr Jennings said.

The marketing campaign and grants scheme are part of MSAC's focus towards achieving a world leading OHS culture throughout the industry.

“The Mine and Safety Advisory Council is providing real and meaningful assistance to the NSW mining industry and mining communities,” Mr Hartcher said.

Community groups and schools in the Mudgee area are eligible to apply on-line at the MSAC website www.nswminesafety.com.au

Closing date for applications is 10 June 2011. Successful applicants will be notified by 1 July 2011.