

## New \$5.8m Bankstown Arts Centre officially opened

Federal Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP today officially opened the new \$5.8 Million Arts Centre in Bankstown with the Premier of NSW, Kristina Keneally and the Mayor of Bankstown, Tania Mihailuk.

The new Arts Centre is over 800 square metres and includes a theatrette, an outside amphitheatre, two rehearsal rooms, exhibition areas, art studios, a wet studio, offices, workshop facilities, administration and storage facilities making the Bankstown Arts Centre one of a kind.

The Arts Centre was jointly funded by the Federal and NSW Governments. The Federal Government provided \$3.15 million as part of the economic stimulus plan that stopped Australia from going into recession. 170 people worked on the planning and construction of the new Arts Centre.

"Bankstown has produced some of Australia's greatest sporting champions. What is less well known is that it has produced some of Australia's most talented artists like Bryan Brown, Human Nature and AC/DC.

"This new centre is a great place for the next generation of local actors and artists to



learn their trade and take on the world," Mr Clare said.

The new Arts Centre will house under one roof for the first time, the Urban Theatre Projects, Bankstown Youth Development Service, Bankstown Theatrical Society, Bankstown Arts Society and Bankstown District Lapidary Club.

Executive Producer of Urban Theatre Projects Ms Michelle Kotevski said, "For the first time in our 12 year

history in Bankstown, we will have access to a proper theatre and rehearsal space. This is a significant new resource we will be able to invest in the creation of new work by established and emerging western Sydney artists. We hope the Centre, in particular the Theatre, is somewhere locals and visitors will come to love."

President of the Bankstown Art Society, Ms Joyce Williams said, "Bankstown



Art Society is looking forward to being in this wonderful new building to continue our aim of bringing art to the general public."

President of the Bankstown Theatrical Society, Mr Greg Crease said, "The Arts Centre means much more comfort and better surrounding for our patrons. This is a

chance for us to reach a wider audience than we have in the past." Artistic Director of the Bankstown Youth Development Service (BYDS) Mr Tim Carroll said, "This is incredibly exciting. All our local, young, brilliant artists can't wait to get their teeth into it and do the kind of work we do in Bankstown."

### Keneally to deliver 1400 extra nurses for NSW

The NSW Government will deliver around an extra 1400 nurses across the State to boost patient care – as part of a \$560 million package over three years – endorsed by the State's nurses.

Nurses will also receive a 9.7 per cent salary increase over the three years to July 2013.

They continue to be among the best paid nurses in Australia.

"Make no mistake, nurses are the backbone of our health system and they are central to delivering the best healthcare," Ms Keneally said.

"Put simply, this agreement is a big win for nurses – and they deserve nothing less."

Today there are more than 43,000 nurses and midwives working in the public health system in NSW.

The NSW wages and conditions offer means:

- 1400 additional nurses for metropolitan, rural and district hospitals with recruitment to commence in March 2011;
- Wage increase for nurses of 9.7 per cent compounded over three years, comprising:
  - o 3.9 per cent increase from 1 July 2010;
  - o 3.0 per cent increase from 1 July 2011;
  - o 2.5 per cent increase from 1 July 2012;
- Improved staffing arrangements based on the Nursing Hours per Patient Day model that gives nurse managers greater flexibility to best deploy staff at a local level; and
- Additional designated resuscitation nurses in Emergency Departments of Level 3 and above; and

• An approach to staffing based on the number of hours it takes to provide quality nursing care to patients in different types of facilities, with a graduated difference based on type of facility.

Since 2005, the nursing workforce has increased by around 10.8 per cent. Since December 1999 nurses, salaries have increased by 57 per cent, now rising to 66.7 per cent following this agreement.

"Today's agreement will provide more nurses right across the network and across a broad spectrum of health services," Ms Keneally said.

"It will increase the number of nurses rostered in public hospital in-patient wards, extending to palliative care, rehabilitation and, acute adult mental health wards, as well as specialty areas such as Emergency Departments.

"The higher staffing levels will include major referral, metropolitan and rural base and district hospitals, and enhance their ability to meet the changing needs of local communities."

"We have said all along that a blunt one-size-fits-all ratio will not work in NSW," Health Minister Carmel Tebbutt said.

"Nurses told us they felt very strongly about their workloads and we believe this agreement will ease that pressure in some of the busiest sections of our health system.

"This approach gives our nurse managers the flexibility to work out how best to use their staffing levels to better meet the needs of patients."

**Theo Peter**  
St Euphemia College  
202 Stacey St  
Bankstown NSW 2200

Dear Theo

I write in relation to the 2010 NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program (CBP) and offer my congratulations on your organisation's successful application, number CBPP-3130-5125-10-11 for REFURBISHMENT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT ST EUPHEMIA COLLEGE AND PARISH OF BANKSTOWN.

Government officers will be in contact with you shortly to resolve any outstanding issues and if satisfactory a draft contract offer will be forwarded to you by the end of January 2011 for funding of \$100000 for your organisation.

Your local Member of Parliament has been very supportive of the CBP 2010 program and I wish you every success with your project which I am sure will provide improved local infrastructure for the benefit of your community.

If you would like further information please send an email to [cbp.grants@communities.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbp.grants@communities.nsw.gov.au) or contact the CBP program on telephone 1300-707-155.

Your organisation's contact for this project is PETER THEO a copy of this letter has been sent to them.

*Yours sincerely,  
Signed by the Premier*