



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$150,000 FOR MINING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY GRANTS

Schools and community groups in mining areas in the Hunter, Central Coast and North West of the State are eligible to apply for funding support for health and safety initiatives as part of a new \$150,000 grants program.

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher said the new grants program would increase awareness of health and safety issues in mining communities and encouraged all schools and community organisations in the selected areas to get involved.

The grants program is an initiative of the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC).

"This is a terrific opportunity for schools and community groups in mining areas to receive financial assistance for ideas that help improve health or safety in their local area," Mr Hartcher said.

"Having a good health and safety culture at work means bringing those same attitudes home.

"The NSW mining industry has world-leading OH&S principles and we want to see these values shared with the wider community."

Grants of up to \$10,000 are open to schools and community groups in selected local government areas.

Mine Safety Advisory Council Chairman John Hannaford said the message was clear - that good health and safety principles do not stop at the mine gate.

"We hope the new campaign will create wider awareness of the importance of workplace safety that benefits employers, workers, contractors and the community," Mr Hannaford said.

MSAC oversees a range of programs and initiatives targeting industry-wide OH&S improvement.

Applications, which open today and close on 31 July 2012, will need to address how the project relates to health and safety in the local area.

For more information on how to apply for a grant visit www.nswminesafety.com.au.