



ANDREW CONSTANCE MP
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services

MEDIA RELEASE

FUNDING BOOST FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPS

The NSW Government has announced a funding boost for Muscular Dystrophy NSW, enabling children and adults to attend an annual camp or retreat.

Minister for Disability Services, Andrew Constance, said \$200,000 will be provided each year to double the amount of places at muscular dystrophy camps.

“Muscular Dystrophy NSW has been given \$100,000 a year since the 2009-10 financial year to provide 50 places at camps and retreats. Now, the O’Farrell Government will not only continue this funding commitment, but double it to a total of \$200,000 each year from 2011/2012,” Mr Constance said.

The Minister made the announcement after meeting with comedian Jerry Lewis, who’s raised over 2 billion dollars for people with muscular dystrophy.

“Our new commitment will ensure many more children and young adults with muscular dystrophy will continue to enjoy the fantastic experiences offered by the camps and retreats.”

Mr Constance today also announced an additional one-off allocation to Muscular Dystrophy NSW to support their Duke Of Edinburgh Program.

“I appreciate the excellent work that Muscular Dystrophy Association of New South Wales are doing through the Duke Of Edinburgh program and I am pleased to be able to provide a one-off contribution of \$100, 000 to support this project.”

Mr Constance said that the extra money would be provided through the Government’s Stronger Together initiative.

David Jack, the CEO of Muscular Dystrophy NSW said the 2010 camp was a great success.

“It was great because 39 young people got to hang out together. Make some new friends, and be challenged to pursue life in a different way,” Mr Jack said.

“The camps feature a range of activities for children and young adults including wheelchair sports, archery, arts and craft, adventure and discovery days and a Paralympic sports day.

“They also include neuromuscular clinics and workshops where children have the opportunity to learn how to write a song.”

Mr Constance said each camper was accompanied by a one-on-one carer who were around the clock companions and provided help with all daily needs and a friend to accompany them on camp activities.

“The majority of carers are volunteers completing studies in nursing, social work or disability courses.”

Mr Constance said that the camps were a highlight of the year for Muscular Dystrophy NSW because they provided interaction and camaraderie for children and young adults with muscular dystrophy and a valuable experience for the student carers who helped them.

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