

Fact Sheet

The Role of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments

The NSW and Commonwealth governments are providing assistance as partners to the World Youth Day event organisers, consistent with standard practice for events of this magnitude.

The NSW Government's in kind assistance is in the areas of:

- Security and crowd management
- Traffic and Transport
- Health and medical services
- Accommodation and event facilities
- Emergency services
- Coordination and Planning of government services

The Commonwealth Government's in kind assistance is in the areas of:

- visa facilitation
- security
- coordination and planning (Interdepartmental committee)

This investment is to preserve and enhance our standing as excellent hosts of international events and to ensure that the City continues to operate smoothly. The NSW Government has established the World Youth Day Coordination Authority to coordinate and deliver government services to the public as well as the registered event participants known as pilgrims.

The World Youth Day Coordination Authority

The World Youth Day Coordination Authority (WYDCA) was established under the *World Youth Day Act 2006*.

The principal function of the Authority is to develop policies, strategies and plans in support of World Youth Day and to coordinate and manage the delivery of integrated government services for World Youth Day events.

The World Youth Day Coordination Authority's objectives are:

- To deliver government services for World Youth Day in an efficient and effective manner
- To provide a safe and secure environment for World Youth Day attendees
- To minimise the impact of World Youth Day on NSW and Sydney
- To enhance the international reputation of Sydney and NSW as excellent hosts and organisers for international events
- To maximise the tourism legacy for Sydney and NSW

Event Sites

World Youth Day events include catechesis (teaching) sessions which will be held at 300 sites in greater Sydney, most of which are churches. Also, about 700 temporary accommodation sites will also be established at non-government and government schools.

The major Sydney CBD venues for World Youth Day and Youth Festival events include Hyde Park, The Domain, Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay. These venues will principally be used from Tuesday 15 July to Friday 18 July, 2008.

Royal Randwick Racecourse will be used for the Evening Vigil, sleep out under the stars and the Final Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI on the weekend of 19 and 20 July with Centennial Park used for any overflow from the Final Mass.

Security During World Youth Day

World Youth Day is a major week-long youth event open to the public. Security will be focussed on crowd management and safety. In this regard, the security operations will be different to those of APEC. The Pope requires a certain amount of security but only what is normally provided when an international dignitary visits Australia.

The barricades put in place during the event will be mainly to manage access and pedestrian flow. Participation in the events by the general public will be welcomed. The priority of all NSW Government agencies is to make sure that the city continues to operate and that participants and non-participants have an enjoyable and safe experience.

Getting Around Sydney

There will be greater demand on public transport services as well as road changes to accommodate the movement of the huge numbers of pilgrims and members of the public attending World Youth Day 2008 events. This may lead to some delays and changes to regular transport and traffic arrangements.

The NSW Government has taken into account the need to minimise disruption to people who live and work in the City. Special rail and bus timetables are being designed to help ease the pressure on public transport in Sydney and pilgrims will be asked to limit their travel to non-peak times.

To further limit the impact on Sydney commuters, most World Youth Day 2008 events do not start until after morning peak hour and finish after the evening peak hour.

Use of School Facilities

World Youth Day 2008 will be held during the winter school holidays.

The NSW Government has made a commitment to World Youth Day organisers to accommodate up to 30,000 pilgrims in Sydney schools.

The primary accommodation sites for pilgrims are non-government schools where up to 60,000 pilgrims will sleep.

The NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) has identified just over 400 state schools in the Sydney basin that have suitable facilities (eg. Hall, gym or multi-purpose space) for "indoor camping" in basic single sex accommodation.

If a government school is used for pilgrim accommodation, the school will be:



- reimbursed for the use of utilities such as water and power;
- provided with increased security by DET and NSW Police;
- provided with cleaning & other services using DET contractors; and
- temporary showers and toilets as required.

It is important that schools and local communities are aware that:

- vacation care can still operate but the location within the school may change
- pilgrims will not be on site during the day
- pilgrims on site will be confined to designated areas within the school; and
- members of the community who use school facilities during the school holidays may need to make other arrangements between 14 and 21 July 2008, but should contact their school to clarify.

NSW Government Support for World Youth Day 2008

World Youth Day 2008 will be the largest gathering of people in one place in Australia – ever.

The event is being organised by the Catholic Church and will involve masses, religious instruction, a festival and celebration. As with other major events of this magnitude, the State and Federal Governments are assisting with transport, security and other services.

The Government supports such events because of the economic benefit to the State and the associated promotion of Sydney and NSW as a destination of choice to the rest of world. The State Government estimates a benefit of \$198 million revenue and the Sydney Chamber of Commerce estimates that World Youth Day 2008 will inject \$231 million into the economy.

Once again Sydney will be on the global stage – World Youth Day 2008 will showcase Sydney and NSW to the world.

Helping Make World Youth Day 2008 a Success

Local communities can help make World Youth Day 2008 a success by making the world's youth feel welcome.

The NSW Government asks for the community's patience regarding any changes to public transport and traffic arrangements during the event. Everyone will be working to minimise the impacts as much as possible.

There will be a public information campaign in the months and weeks leading up to the event and during the event itself so people are able to make arrangements to either participate or minimise the impact. Don't forget, everyone is invited to attend. People who want to register to volunteer or provide home-stay accommodation can go to www.wyd2008.org. Information about government services during this time will also be available via www.wydca.nsw.gov.au

