

Tuesday 26 July

The first whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People is something to celebrate

It is a day of recognition for children and young people in NSW as the State Government launches its first legislated, three-year, whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

More than four thousand children and young people from across the state were involved in the process of developing the Plan. They were asked what was, and was not, working; what their priorities are; and the qualities of a good society. Feedback to these questions shaped the themes and directions of the Strategic Plan for Children and Young People in NSW.

On the day the Strategic Plan is being launched more than one hundred children and young people from across NSW will gather at the Sydney Opera House to participate in a day-long event called *Speak For Yourself*. At this event, young people will collaborate to create a Charter on their rights and responsibilities to be used when they are involved in decision making processes. They will also have an opportunity to learn about different models of participation.

The Minister responsible for Youth, John Ajaka, will formally launch the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People along with the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People Andrew Johnson.

At 5pm the NSW Youth Advisory Council will kick off proceedings for the official launch of the first Strategic Plan for Children and Young People.

The launch will showcase the breadth of talent of children and young people across the state.

Performing live at this event will be:

- 2015 XFactor winner, 20 year-old Cyrus Villanueva. Cyrus was fresh out of high school when he first auditioned for XFactor. His debut single 'Stone' reached number two in the Australian charts.
- children from the Yurungai Learning Centre, an after school centre for young Aboriginal children
- a group of young people from the School Spectacular program ran by the Art Unit of the Department of Education
- 22 year-old singer-songwriter Ramona Marsters from Kempsey.

Artworks created by children and young people across NSW will be displayed at the Sydney Opera House as part of the showcase.

The Plan will be launched by The Hon John Ajaka MLC, Minister responsible for Youth, at Sydney Opera House at 5.00pm this afternoon.

ENDS

For more information, please contact Una O'Neill on 0439 346 249

Available for interview

- Andrew Johnson, NSW Advocate for Children and Young People
- Brenella Abdel-Rehim and Declan Drake, NSW Youth Advisory Council members

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People and associated fact sheets and videos are available at www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/plan

Streaming

Can't make it to the launch? You can stream the event live on our website at 5.00pm at www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/live