

# NEWS RELEASE



NEW SOUTH WALES

**The Hon. Graham West MP**  
Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Minister Assisting the Premier  
on Veterans' Affairs

**Monday 6 July 2009**

## **NSW Government funding for ACMF**

The Minister for Juvenile Justice and Youth, Graham West, today granted \$40,000 to Don Spencer's Australian Children's Music Foundation (ACMF) to support music programs for young offenders in detention.

Mr West said Australian Children's Music Foundation founder, Don Spencer OAM, has been working in Juvenile Justice Centres since 2003.

"Don Spencer's music program has involved hundreds of detainees at Acmena, Cobham, Juniperina, Riverina, Frank Baxter and Reiby Juvenile Justice Centres," Mr West said.

"Since Mr Spencer established the Foundation, it has distributed over \$350,000 worth of instruments to youth in need and provided free musical equipment and tuition to schools in disadvantaged areas.

Mr West said music programs can make an important contribution to turning around the lives of young offenders in juvenile detention.

"These types of programs, in conjunction with other education and skills training, can give young offenders a more positive direction for their lives.

"The music program is one way of providing a sense of purpose and better self-esteem to young people in custody and helps with their rehabilitation," Mr West said.

Mr Spencer thanked the NSW Government for their contribution towards the ACMF program.

"Music can be a pro-social alternative to a cycle of anti social behaviour and it can reach those who have become 'disengaged'. Participation in music can provide great comfort and it can sometimes mean the difference between a child choosing the right or wrong path in life," Mr Spencer said.

For more information about the ACMF, please visit [www.acmf.com.au](http://www.acmf.com.au)

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