



NSW Police Force

MEDIA RELEASE

Upbeat Project celebrates one year at Blacktown PCYC

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A proactive partnership involving the NSW Police Force, the Sebastian Foundation, and PCYC NSW is marking one year of changing the lives of western Sydney youth through music.

The Upbeat Project is designed to create a safe and secure environment for youth to express themselves musically, as well as provide them with an opportunity to engage with music industry experts and develop skills and an understanding of the entertainment industry.

Since its launch 12 months ago at Blacktown PCYC, Upbeat Project has seen young people, aged between 12 and 17, access a refurbished music studio, following a donation from the Sebastian Foundation.

NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb praised the project, which has given western Sydney youth a new, safe and fun outlet to channel their creativity.

"NSW Police works closely with stakeholders like the PCYC to promote educational services that support and empower youth to instil a sense of belonging and good decision making," Commissioner Webb said.

"By offering young people from western Sydney the opportunity to express themselves through music, we're providing them industry experience and the potential for a future career path as a performer or producer, as well as deterring them from anti-social behaviour."

Guy Sebastian said the Sebastian Foundation aims to give young Australians the resilience and confidence they need to be the best version of themselves.

"Our main focus is teaching vital coping skills through The Open Parachute in-school wellbeing program. The Upbeat Project complements this work by reaching youth in the community, giving them a sense of purpose and a safe place to channel their music talent," Mr Sebastian said.

"We're so excited to see the space in action one year on from its launch. And we love the fact that the studio is being used so regularly by local youth groups and is also now part of the school music curriculum for some local schools."

PCYC NSW Chief Executive Officer, Ben Hobby, said the project has been a positive addition to Blacktown PCYC.

"We are honoured to host this incredible music studio at PCYC Blacktown. Enormous thanks goes to the Sebastian Foundation for their generosity and the opportunities they have given to local youth," Mr Hobby said.

"This partnership with PCYC NSW has not only provided a creative outlet for the rising generation, but also empowered them with new skills and pathways for personal growth. It's truly inspiring to see how music can transform lives and encourage a sense of belonging among our young members."

Upbeat Project participant Liliana Pumati, aged 15, said the course has had a positive impact on her and her friends.

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" I love playing the instruments that are at the music studio at the club. I currently go to church and because of the free music space that Blacktown PCYC offers, I've been able to practice more, and it has helped with my confidence when I play these instruments," Miss Pumati said.

"It makes me feel like I'm achieving something in life because I get to record music and have fun with my friends."

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