

MEDIA RELEASE



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA
NSW & ACT

20 March 2011

Girl Guides South Western Sydney Muslim Communities Guiding Project Harmony Day Garden Party at Government House

This afternoon Girl Guides NSW and ACT hosted a Harmony Day garden party in the grounds of Government House to celebrate the completion of the South Western Sydney Muslim Communities Guiding project. Their special guest was Her Excellency the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir.

Since the project commenced in June last year five units have been established. Greenacre Golden Guides was set up in June 2010 and now has 4 leaders and 33 members. Strathfield Junior Guides was established in August and has 10 members plus 2 leaders.

In the Campbelltown area Raby District has been opened this month with Pre-Junior Guides, Junior Guides and Guides units. At present it has 5 leaders and 18 members in all. A new unit will open in Holyroyd High School this coming week.

The development of Girl Guides in West and South West Sydney is led by Susanna Matters as project officer and funded by a Diverse Australia grant provided by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Early in the project Susanna set up a Steering Committee of leaders from the communities who went on to become Girl Guide unit leaders. They welcome a girls only learning space, together with the values based Australian Guiding Program. She has been supported by existing Girl Guides leaders, volunteers and staff members in face to face promotional and training activities.

Girl Guides State Commissioner Belinda Allen expressed her pride in the project's success. "We are delighted that we now have 61 members and 11 leaders from the Muslim communities in South Western Sydney, after only nine months. This is a significant, strategic development for Girl Guides and we believe for Multicultural Australia."

PHOTO ATTACHED

In the Arcade at Government House this afternoon: the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, with (Left to Right) Serene, Marwa, Hayfea and Ushra.

For further information, interviews or visual opportunities before or at the event, contact:

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