



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform



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RESIDENTS ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES FOR GRAFFITI ACTION DAY

More than 1000 volunteers will today don a pair of cleaning gloves, pick up a bucket and a rag and clean up graffiti hotspots around the state as part of Australia's first ever Graffiti Action Day.

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos thanked the volunteers making the inaugural Graffiti Action Day 2010 a huge success.

"Everybody who rolls up their sleeves and lends a hand today on Graffiti Action Day has shown real pride in their local community," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"They're pitching in to make their neighbourhoods cleaner and safer places to live and sending a clear message to graffiti vandals that they've had enough."

Following the success of Graffiti Action Day 2010 in NSW, Mr Hatzistergos said he supported calls to expand it to other states and territories and make it a national day of action from next year.

Graffiti Action Day 2010 involves:

- More than 1000 volunteers
- 142 graffiti cleanup sites
- 1000 buckets and safety goggles
- 26 community organisations
- 28 councils

Peter McLean, Chief Executive Officer of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, said more than 1000 volunteers took part in community clean up events at more than 142 graffiti sites.

"There is a real grassroots effort from communities and councils around the state to take a stand against graffiti vandalism today," Mr McLean said.

"Graffiti Action Day shows just how easy it is to remove graffiti quickly and effectively. All you need is a bit of know-how and the right product.

Mr McLean said graffiti costs the NSW economy and tax payers over \$100 million each year, money that could be better spent on vital community resources such as parks, libraries and roads.

"For example, Campbelltown Council alone spent \$280,000 on cleaning up graffiti last year while the City of Sydney spends more than a million," he said.

"We know that removing graffiti quickly is the best way to discourage graffiti vandals, it boosts civic pride, and minimises crime and the perception of crime."

Mr McLean said all volunteers will today be briefed in techniques for safe and effective graffiti removal and provided with personal protection equipment.

Graffiti will be removed today using a number of methods including scrubbing with environmentally friendly SoSafe cleaning products and water and a number of high pressure water blasters provided by council mobile graffiti removal vehicles.

Crime Stoppers is a strong supporter of Graffiti Action Day and urged the public to report acts of graffiti vandalism to www.crimestoppers.com.au or by calling 1800 333 000.

“If you or your neighbour’s property is being damaged we would very much like to know about it,” Crimestoppers CEO Peter Price said.

Graffiti Action Day is part of the NSW Government’s action to crackdown on graffiti.

Other measures include:

- Penalties for graffiti vandalism doubled to 12 months in prison
- Giving police the power to confiscate spray paint from unsupervised juveniles in public
- Set up the Police/Rail Counter Vandalism Taskforce to target graffiti and vandalism on the rail network.
- It is now illegal for juveniles to carry spray cans unless for education, employment or legal art
- \$1 million in grants from the NSW Government each year for anti-graffiti design at hotspots

Established in 1975, Keep Aust Beautiful NSW is the premier not-for-profit organisation working to preserve, protect and enhance this state’s unique and diverse environments.

To see the Premier’s Graffiti Action Day message, see <http://www.kristinakeneally.com.au/video-lounge/graffiti-action-day> or on Facebook or Twitter.

To register for Graffiti Action Day next year, send an email to graffitiactionday@kabnsw.org.au or visit www.kabnsw.org.au for further information.

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