



**BANKSTOWN**  
Health Service



**The Corner Youth  
Health Service**  
Tel: 9796-8633  
Fax: 9707-2344

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
September 27 2004

## Break down the walls

Bankstown youths are taking to their talents to the streets in Sydney today in a joint effort to breakdown the stereotypes often associated with their community.

*Bankstown Youth 2004* is a creative resistance at Martin Place featuring a range of musical, dance and comedy performances, alongside an exhibition of artwork produced by Bankstown artists.

Bankstown's Corner Youth Health Service (CYHS) psychologist Michael Romeo and *Bankstown Youth 2004* committee member said the event aims to provide the young people of Bankstown a means of defining themselves by challenging generalisations associated with their community.

"Some forms of media are notorious for giving young people, particularly from the Bankstown area, a bad rap," Mr Romeo said.

"The reality is there are many amazing young people who live in Bankstown but are struggling to find a voice," he said.

"As youth workers in the area we are constantly finding news ways to challenge the wider views."

Bankstown Health Service's CYHS, in partnership with Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service and The Australian Arabic Community Council, has spent the last six months developing the initiative.

CYHS psychologist Sekneh Hammoud and *Bankstown Youth 2004* committee member said the initiative provides an opportunity to acknowledge, validate and celebrate young people living in the Bankstown.

"The process will build upon the talents and skills of these young people and empower them to create a sense of identity and build a healthy community," Ms Hammoud said.

Mr Romeo said the local community is already proud of its young creative people but the youth of Bankstown need a bigger voice.

"We are not interested in preaching to the converted but want to flaunt this to the broader Sydney community."

“The youth want to get the message across, not only to those working in the city, but visitors who may have heard about Bankstown but haven’t had a real opportunity to see the diversity of its community,” said Mr Romeo.

**What:** Bankstown Youth 2004  
**When:** Monday 27 September 2004  
**Time:** 12.00 noon – 1.30pm  
**Where:** Martin Place  
Between George and Macquarie Streets  
Sydney, NSW

Bankstown CYHS provides counselling services to young people aged 12 -18 years and their families in the local government area.

As part of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, it develops and implements a range of health education programs targeting young people and the general community.

-ends-

For more information about the event please contact:  
Michael Romeo or Sekneh Hammoud  
The Corner Youth Health Service on (02) 9796 8633 (BH)

**For media enquiries contact: Katie Perry, South Western Sydney Area Health Service Public Affairs (02) 9828 6848 or 0417 697 079**