

# Media Release



For immediate release

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## Youth Week kicks off in Newcastle with Opening Party

Newcastle Community Youth Development Project is putting the final touches on an Opening Party to mark the start of Youth Week 2019, this Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April.

The free event will be held at Wallsend Library in partnership with Newcastle Regional Libraries and will kick off a week of celebrations for young people by young people across the region.

The Youth Week Celebration sees Samaritans and the Youth Development Officers partnering with agencies such as PCYC, Flourish, Newcastle Regional Libraries, Wesley, DARA and the University of Newcastle to entertain young people with live music and performances by local artists.

“Youth Week is a NSW Government initiative and an opportunity for young people to have fun and celebrate the contributions they make in the community. It also provides an opportunity for the community to recognise some of the amazing youth-led initiatives our city enjoys,” Laura Hanlon, Newcastle Youth Development Officer, said.

Youth Week will be an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events.

“We’ve been working with young people and our event partners to create this Opening Party, which received support from the Newcastle Youth Council with the award of a Youth Week Grant.

“We’re proud to acknowledge the important role that young people play in encouraging our community to be creative, forward thinking and fun,” Laura said.

Newcastle Community Youth Development Project, auspiced by Samaritans, is a service that encourages positive social change by highlighting the strengths and abilities of young people and creating opportunities for them to get involved in their communities.

“We’re welcoming everyone to celebrate Youth Week with us- come along for great afternoon out, enjoy the free barbeque or simply take the time to acknowledge a young person who is important to you this week. There are lots of ways to get involved,” Laura said.

The event will be held at Wallsend Library on Bunn Street on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 4-7pm. All are welcome to attend this free event.

For more information on this Youth Week Celebration please visit the event Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/events/2151336661611695/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2151336661611695/) or for other events in your area: <https://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/>

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**Media Contact:** To arrange a photo opportunity and/or interview, please contact Samaritans Communication team on 4960 7100 or 0425 324 974. Media are welcome to attend the event.