

Media Release

NSW Government backs young people to Dream.Dare.Do

22 April 2026

[Images from the event today are available here.](#)

As part of NSW Youth Week 2026 (16-26 April), young people from across the state gathered in Sydney today to celebrate the power of youth voice and leadership, bringing this year's Youth Week theme - Dream. Dare. Do. - to life.

Hosted by the Minister for Youth, Rose Jackson, and the newly appointed Advocate for Children and Young People, Katherine McKernan, the event encouraged young people to dream big, challenge the status quo and play an active role in shaping the future.

Today's event featured an engaging Q&A panel led by Marlee Silva with accomplished young Australians sharing their inspirational journeys, aspirations and ways they are making a positive impact in the world and in their communities.

Following the panel discussion, participants took part in immersive future-tech experiences and bold, creative challenges designed to spark creativity, courage and action.

In her address, the Minister for Youth reaffirmed her commitment to lifting and embedding the voices of this generation in the work of the NSW Government. She announced that the NSW Office for Youth will lead a 2026 Youth Summit on 1 December at the Liverpool Powerhouse Arts Centre. Co-designed with young people, the Summit will be an energetic and interactive event focused on elevating and amplifying the voices of young people.

The NSW Government remains committed to working with young people, not just for them by creating real opportunities for young people's voices to influence policy, programs and community change.

Young people are encouraged to have their say on the future of children and young people in NSW by taking part in consultations for the 2027–2030 Strategic Plan. To read the consultation paper, share ideas through a survey or submission, or get involved in a consultation, visit officeforyouth.nsw.gov.au/strategic-plan-2027-30.

NSW Youth Week celebrations continue until 26 April, with opportunities available to register for an event near you. Visit NSW Youth Week 2026: www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week/events.

NSW Minister for Youth, Rose Jackson said:

"It was wonderful to attend today's event and celebrate young people across NSW, while recognising their enormous contributions to their communities and chosen paths."

“We as a Government have a responsibility to do more than just listen and we are committed to creating real spaces for young people to be heard, valued and to shape the decisions that affect their lives.”

“Youth Week is a powerful reminder of the talent, leadership and ambition of young people, and of the future they’re already helping to build.”

NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, Katherine McKernan said:

“Young people led the conversation today, sharing their ideas directly with us and taking part in activities designed to accelerate action, confidence and connection.”

“Youth Week is a reminder that young people aren’t just the future, they’re leading change right now.”

“This celebration event is the first large event for the NSW Office for Youth. We want young people in NSW to know we are taking proactive steps to ensure their voices are at the heart of what we aim to achieve.”

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