



THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our Ref: RBG634700

23 July 2012

The Hon. Greg Smith SC MP  
Attorney General and Minister for Justice  
Level 31  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

  
Dear Attorney General,

**Closure of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court**

I am writing to you in relation to the recent closure of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (YDAC).

As you will be aware, the Law Society strongly supports rehabilitative and diversionary programs for children and young people.

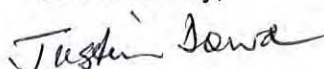
The Law Society notes that the YDAC was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments, and anticipates that the Government will make every effort to retain the Commonwealth funding.

The Law Society requests that the Government earmark the funding from the YDAC for new drug and alcohol rehabilitation and diversionary programs for children and young people that will provide similar assistance and monitoring by the court.

The Committees note that the Government intends to expand the NSW Adult Drug Court and one option would be to divert the funding into establishing a Children's Court annexe to the Adult Drug Court. Another option would be to extend the MERIT program to children and young people.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Justin Dowd  
**President**