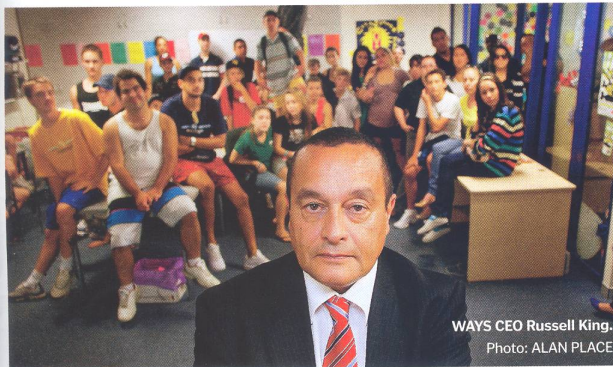


Youth service chopped



WAYS CEO Russell King.
Photo: ALAN PLACE

Rob Bates

HUNDREDS of the Eastern Suburbs' most disadvantaged young people will be forced onto dole queues by the Federal Government's decision to stop funding employment programs at Waverley Action for Youth Services (WAYS), supporters of the organisation have claimed.

WAYS CEO Russell King said the loss of \$1.8 million in federal funding would halve the not-for-profit organisation's budget and cripple its ability to help youth at risk, from Botany Bay

to South Head, as it has been doing since 1995.

The federal Opposition Leader and MP for Wentworth, Malcolm Turnbull, said he was "genuinely astonished" by the decision and that it "defied logic".

"Why at a time of a jobs crisis would Kevin Rudd be disrupting these vital services, forcing more people onto dole queues?" Mr Turnbull asked. "Why would you dislocate the sector, just when unemployment is rising and Australians need these services more than ever?"

To page 6



Bondi Junction

I thought it was an

Warren Hancock was among those evacuated from at Bondi Junction on Monday after a gas explosion the whole building," he said. "It was pretty bad. I More pictures, page 5.



GIL - AUTO

Why do so many of our customers recommend us to
Find out why at www.gilauto.com

■ Phone 9389 8
■ 99 Edgecliff Rd
Service & Maint