

I strongly support prevention programs that break the cycle of hopelessness — Lord Mayor Clover Moore

Youth services in crisis

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Mr Garrett's spokesman said he (Mr Garrett) was in Queensland at the time of the rally but was kept informed by staff at his electorate office. The spokesman said it was "unfortunate" WAYS had been unsuccessful in tendering for their previous contract.

Meanwhile, funding could be axed for the Kings Cross Youth At Risk Project, which has co-ordinated youth services, provided brokerage funds to help keep youngsters off the street and collected data about young people engaging in risky behaviour since July 2005.

State funding was allocated only until June 2009 and at least one government agency involved in the project confirmed it did not have further funds available.

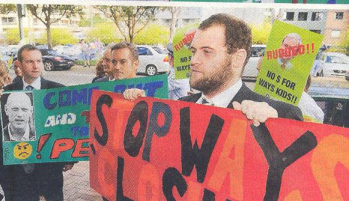
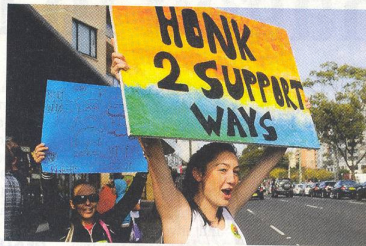
Sydney MP Clover Moore has raised the matter in the NSW Parliament twice in the past year and is concerned that funding could be axed.

She said the project was partly responsible for the 10 per cent reduction in youths reporting sex work as their reason for moving to Kings Cross. It had also been successful in moving many young people back to family or community support, she said.

"I strongly support prevention programs that break the cycle of hopelessness and help young people off the street before they get entrenched in street sex work, drug use and dealing, crime and antisocial behaviour," Ms Moore said.

The Premier, Nathan Rees, acknowledged the program's effectiveness, confirming it provided brokerage assistance to 638 young people, including 1374 instances of emergency assistance and case management, between July 2005 and March this year.

He said the project had made contact with a further 435 youths through



(Clockwise from top left) Jade Yarden calls for honkers; placards at the rally; Randwick mayor Bruce Not Smith and Woollahra Councillor Chris Howe at the protest; Woollahra Councillor Anthony Boskovitz; protest get the message across; and WAYS chief executive Russell King during the rally. Photos: ALAN PL

outreach. In response to Ms Moore's question in Parliament regarding funding, Mr Rees said the project's steering committee was conducting an "in-depth analysis . . . to assess fu-

ture needs". However, a spokeswoman for the Department of Community Services said it "does not have any funding available for this project to continue after June".



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