



**THE HON LARRY ANTHONY MP  
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR RICHMOND**

**To Whom it May Concern**

I am delighted to offer my support to the Father Son Journeys Project, which seeks to strengthen the relationship between men and their children, particularly in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

This Thanks Dad/Family Journeys project is auspiced by Community Connections North Coast Inc, a not-for-profit community organisation for young people and families in northern NSW. It is also supported by individuals, businesses, schools and community groups.

The Federal Government, through the Department of Family and Community Services, has funded the project as a Men and Family Relationships pilot project since July 2000.

Over the past three years, the project has focused on three areas - developing a national Thanks Dad photo competition and exhibitions around Father's Day, promoting positive activities for men and boys, such as adventure camping weekends, and supporting mums, dads and carers to support young people to make a healthy transition into adulthood.

Over 200 people in difficult situations have also experienced personal professional support from a project worker.

These have included men in crisis over relationships with partners and children and children from high risk chaotic families.

Many of these people would not normally reach out to existing services or have no appropriate local services to access.

There is no doubt that this project is indeed having a positive impact on men and family relationships, particularly in the Northern Rivers region.

Regularly I hear positive stories from men who have come into contact with the project.

I commend project co-ordinator Chris Hawke and his team for their efforts and wish them well for the future.

Yours sincerely

Larry Anthony