Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your email of 4 June 2008 to the Premier, The Hon Morris Iemma, MP, regarding World Youth Day 2008. The Premier has asked me to respond on his behalf.

World Youth Day 2008 (WYD 2008), as Trustee of the World Youth Day Trust, is the event organiser of World Youth Day on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. As with other major events of this magnitude, the State and Federal Governments are assisting with transport, security and other essential services like Ambulance support.

The Government supports such events because of the economic benefit to the State and the associated promotion of Sydney as a destination of choice to the rest of the world. The benefits to the tourism industry and flow-on effects to the rest of the State’s economy are expected to be significant.

WYDCA and World Youth Day 2008 have been in discussions with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People to ensure that NSW legislative provisions for the protection of children are adhered to. This will include NSW Police conducting background checks on appropriate personnel connected with the event.

Further, WYD 2008 has advised that policies and procedures for the protection of children and young people are in place. These policies include the proviso that any person under the age of 18 will require supervision at all times.