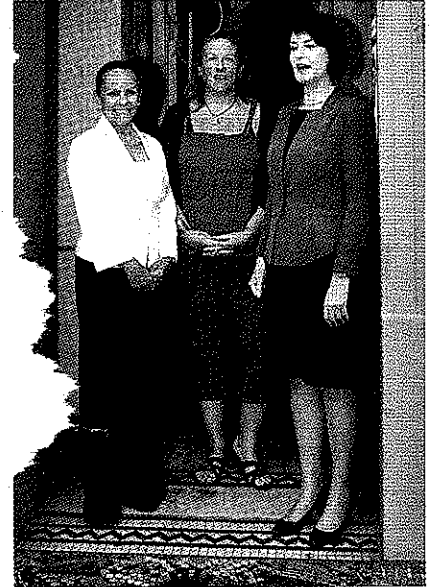


March 20 11

Community to have say on spending centre's cash



Community Services Minister Linda Burney, Lisa Burns and Marrickville MP Carmel Tebbutt at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

Picture: PHIL BLATCH

Kate Carr

NEWTOWN Neighbourhood Centre is \$84,000 better off after a visit from Community Services Minister Linda Burney last Wednesday.

Flanked by Marrickville State Labor MP Carmel Tebbutt, Ms Burney said the funding would help build a stronger community in the Inner West.

"Community centres are so important, because so often they are the first port of call for people," Ms Burney said.

Ms Tebbutt said the combination of services offered by the centre was particularly important to people experiencing difficulties.

"For a lot of vulnerable people, they don't just need one service, they need a bit of everything," Ms Tebbutt said.

Centre co-ordinator Lisa Burns said the centre had not yet decided how to spend the extra cash, and would take the matter to the community first.

"We really want to find out from people what their needs are," Ms Burns.

She said workers from the centre would be holding stalls throughout the Inner West to canvas the issue, as well as calling for feedback on their website.

"It could be for a training program, a celebratory event, or a campaign," Ms Burns said of the possible programs the money could be spent on.

The centre runs a host of courses and services ranging from social support schemes for people with a mental illness