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Funding to help prevent crime

COUNCILS, community groups and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding to help reduce and prevent crime. Berowra Federal Liberal MP Philip Ruddock said applications for the National Community Crime Prevention Program (NCCPP) would close on November 18.

"The program provides a unique opportunity for communities to advance tailored and local solutions to crime and the fear of crime in their own neighbourhoods," Mr Ruddock said. Inquir-

ies: log on to www.crimeprevention.gov.au or call 6250 6666.

FAMILIES in Berowra federal electorate owe more than \$2.7 million in family allowance debts, the Opposition claims.



Mr Ruddock

Figures obtained by Labor

showed 1927 families had a debt, Family and Community services spokesman Chris Evans said. "Labor is very concerned by the significant increase in the size of family payment debts and the failure of the current system to pay families their benefits on time."

HORNSBY State Liberal MP Judy Hopwood has accused the State Government of continuing to ignore the needs of the mentally ill.

Speaking at the beginning of Mental Health Week 2005, Mrs Hopwood said a report by the Auditor General earlier this year had highlighted a lack of specialist mental health services after hours and on weekends. She said the practice of putting children with a mental illness in the same wards as adults also had to stop.

NSW taxpayers had been blatantly ripped off by Labor's flawed land-tax system Hornsby State Liberal MP Judy Hopwood said.

"Revelations by the Ombudsman that 25 per cent of objections to land valuations have been accepted confirms that Labor has been robbing the valuation system to fill its coffers," she said.

"This means many mum and dad investors have been slugged for more than their fair share of both land tax and council rates. This, in turn has led to increases in rental rates."

Mrs Hopwood said not only had the Government put the land tax up, it had abused the valuation system by encouraging the highest possible valuations on properties.