



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF INDIA TO BE SET UP

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Premier Kristina Keneally today announced the NSW Government is working to establish the Parliamentary Friends of India – to foster strong links between India, the Indian community and NSW Members of Parliament.

The Premier has written to the Opposition Leader seeking bipartisan support for the plan.

Member for Macquarie Fields, Dr Andrew McDonald will be co-convenor of the group.

“The NSW Parliamentary Friends of India would provide a wonderful opportunity for NSW Members of Parliament to engage with and learn about Indian culture,” Ms Keneally said.

“The NSW Government’s move to establish the Parliamentary Friends of India sends a clear message about the important role the Indian community plays in the professional, philanthropic, business and cultural life of NSW.

“This builds on the new *Premier’s Indian Subcontinent Community Awards* which will recognise volunteer work and community service in the NSW Indian Subcontinent community.”

Dr Andrew McDonald said, “The NSW Labor Government is a proud supporter of the Indian community and in the past month we have celebrated Parramasala, the Deepavali dinner at Parliament House and the launch of the *Premier’s Indian Subcontinent Community Awards*.”

“Establishing the Parliamentary Friends of India will ensure the strong relationship between the NSW Government and the Indian community in our State continues to grow,” Ms Keneally said.