The Office of Engagement in partnership with the Sudanese Australian Youth Committee and with the support of leading academics from the School of Education is organising the Sudanese Australian National Youth Conference to be held at the Parramatta Campus from Friday 29th to Sunday 31 October 2010.

The annual event brings together the Sudanese Australian community, not-for-profit representatives, government and businesses to hear the experiences of young Sudanese Australian people and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for their successful integration into Australian society. This will be the first time the conference is held in NSW and the University of Western Sydney is very proud of holding this important event and supporting the Sudanese Australian community.

Workshops will be conducted on key issues of interest to the Sudanese Australian community including pathways to education, health issues, links to services and cultural understanding. Cultural and recreational activities will also form part of this event highlighting the importance of culture and sporting events for young Sudanese Australians. African dance “the beauty of my culture” and the Sudanese Australian Annual Interstate Basketball Tournament (SAAIBT) games will take place on Sunday 31st October.

The conference aims to provide an opportunity for young Sudanese people to discuss issues affecting their integration into the Australian mainstream society and share experiences of resettlement as well as get access to information on key issues and services. It aims at bringing together young Sudanese Australians within all tribal groups of Sudan, the Australian community, government and service providers to find solutions to the challenges faced by Sudanese young people to successful integration into Australia. These challenges include: lack of knowledge among service providers and government institutions on how best to communicate and liaise with young Sudanese Australians, lack of appropriate culturally sensitive programs and information on topics such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, the law and education.

For further information about this project please contact the Office of Engagement at engagement@uws.edu.au