

**FOR MEDIA**

# **CRAIG EMERSON**

**Member for Rankin**

**21 September 2011**

## **Local man selected as a Commonwealth Youth Forum delegate**

One young person from Rankin will be part of the 30-strong Australian delegation representing young Australians at the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Western Australia in October, Member for Rankin Craig Emerson said.

Mr Emerson said Beny Alter Bol from Woodridge had been selected to provide youth-related recommendations to Commonwealth Heads of Government.

Beny is currently the Secretary of the Council of South Sudanese Communities in Queensland and is committed to building on the positive influence his culture can bring to local residents.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for Beny to represent not only Logan City, but our nation, at an international forum,” Mr Emerson said.

“I’m sure his recommendations will reflect the future aspirations of our country.”

The Commonwealth Youth Forum will run from 23 to 27 October in Fremantle. It is an important event leading up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, which will be held from 28 to 30 October.

The 30 Australian delegates will join up to 100 other young people from across other Commonwealth nations to learn about the Commonwealth, debate issues to be put forward to world leaders at CHOGM, and benefit from skills-building and networking sessions during the forum.

Minister for Youth, Peter Garrett, announced the names of the 30 Australian delegates on Wednesday 21 September. The delegates were selected via a national application process managed by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.

“Beny will be working closely with youth delegates from around the world, discussing issues of importance and making relevant and creative recommendations,” Mr Emerson said.

“The Australian Government is committed to supporting all young Australians to achieve their full potential, and the Commonwealth Youth Forum is a unique opportunity to do that.”

More information on the Commonwealth Youth Forum is available at [www.youth.gov.au/cyf](http://www.youth.gov.au/cyf)

*Contact: Teresa Lane 0421 9417 365 Office 3299 5910*