



**ST PAUL'S COLLEGE**

www.stpauls.sa.edu.au

792 GRAND JUNCTION RD  
GILLES PLAINS SA 5086  
TELEPHONE +61 8 8266 0622  
FACSIMILE: +61 8 8266 0486  
CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00824D

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# MEDIA RELEASE

For 27 August 2007

## St Paul's student attends Canberra citizenship forum

Current SA Multicultural Youth Ambassador, Martin Deng, 16, has been selected to attend the *Every Voice Counts! Student Forum* which is part of the *Celebrating Democracy Week 2007*. Four students from each state and territory were chosen to participate.

Held in Canberra from 15-21 August, the Forum provides students with a behind-the-scenes tour of Parliament in action, and the opportunity to represent their peers in a discussion about citizenship issues with the Australian Government Minister for Education, Science and Training.

As part of the selection process, all students were required to complete an application, with commendations from their Principal.

“Martin has involved himself in many school activities, and is a gifted athlete, who has also represented the school at athletic meets on a number of occasions,” said Principal of St Paul's, Mr Peter Shanahan. “He is an excellent role model for all students, particularly our refugee students, which currently number 50 out of a school population of 580.”

Martin arrived in Australia from Sudan in 2003, saying it felt good to come to a democratic country where he could choose a good education and career, and people were able to elect their political leaders. “I appreciate that I have the opportunity to do anything I want, and being a responsible citizen means being fair, following the law, participating in my community, helping people where I can, and being a positive role model.”

“In the future, when I grow and have children in this country, I intend to remind them about being a responsible citizen. I will teach them all about this democratic country and help them appreciate it, because this country is the best!”

Martin will be available for comment when he returns from Canberra.

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Enquires can be directed to:

Ms Diane Lee Public Relations Manager Phone: 8266 0622 Email: dlee@spc.sa.edu.au	Ms Kath Liddle Youth Worker Phone: 8266 0622 Email: kliddle@spc.sa.edu.au
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