SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR OPENS TONIGHT

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth said the state’s largest dancing and singing extravaganza, the Schools Spectacular, opens tonight at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

“Almost 4,000 NSW public school students are preparing to take to the stage, with final dress rehearsals scheduled for this afternoon,” Ms Firth said.

“Schools Spectacular 2010 promises to be another thrilling display of talent, creativity and colour.

“This is about giving our public school the opportunity to take part in a large-scale, professional event.

“Some of the most talented NSW public school students have been working for months, refining their routines and choreography.

“I look forward to seeing them perform tonight,” she said.

The Schools Spectacular involves 3,930 students from 351 schools including a 1,000-voice combined choir; 55 Featured Artists; 2,180 dancers; a 65 piece orchestra with 20 piece stage band plus a 100 member marching band.

Ms Firth said the event had helped launch the careers of many successful Australian entertainers.

“Human Nature, Paulini, concert pianist Simon Tedeschi, Hi-5’s Nathan Foley and Sun Park, jazz diva Emma Pask, Shannon Brown (Ten Tenors) and Australian Idol’s Musical Director John Foreman, are all former public school graduates.

“NSW public schools have a long history of nurturing the talent of Australia’s leading performers.

“This year the audience will see future Australian stars live on stage.

“It’s terrific to see these students get the opportunity to realise their potential.”

The Schools Spectacular is presented by the NSW Department of Education and Training with the support of principal sponsor Telstra.