

16 February 2009

Minister launches community horticultural program

EVENT: Launch of the Horticulture and Landscaping Traineeship Program

DATE: Thursday 19 February

TIME: 10am

VENUE: Campbelltown Golf Club, 1 Golf Course Road, Alpine NSW

ATTENDEES: The Hon David Borger, MP, Minister for Housing, and Minister for Western Sydney, local councillors, industry representatives, trainees and their families.

PHOTOS: Photos of young people working on projects are available on request. The Minister will distribute certificates to trainees at the launch, noting their participation in the inaugural program.

The Honourable David Borger, Minister for Housing and Minister for Western Sydney will officially launch BoysTown's Horticulture and Landscaping Traineeship program this Thursday, 19 February.

The program consists of four teams of five trainees who work on horticulture and landscape projects across the Campbelltown and Blacktown regions.

Young people receive paid full-time work and on-the-job training in horticulture and landscaping.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said the trainees are quickly realising there is more to horticulture than digging garden beds.

"Works include a long list of activities including timber work, concreting, paving, painting, fencing and turfing," Ms Adams said.

"Young people are also learning that with changes in climatic conditions, selecting the right plants for the right place is a major contributing factor when creating sustainable landscaping."

According to Ms Adams the enterprise represents an innovative approach to addressing real social economic barriers facing the unemployed.

"We not only provide paid training but the support needed to help people find a place in the Australian workforce.

"Successful trainees receive a Certificate II in Horticulture and Occupational Health and Safety Induction Card (Green Card), but more importantly they also develop enhanced life skills and constant support from our staff."

The Horticulture and Landscaping program is offered in partnership with Housing New South Wales. To access the program participants must live in social housing.

ENDS

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