



media release



BoysTown

29 June 2009

Employment Minister launches BoysTown Job Services

Senator the Honourable Mark Arbib, Federal Minister for Employment Participation, and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Government Service Delivery officially launched BoysTown's Job Services today in Kingston and Ipswich.

BoysTown is set to triple its employment services offered to young Australians with the new Job Services in Ipswich, Kingston, Woodridge, Inala and Redlands, Queensland, Adelaide and Port Pirie, South Australia; Blacktown and Campbelltown, Sydney.

Senator Arbib visited BoysTown sites in Kingston and Ipswich meeting with young people and staff, and officially launching the new services.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said the organisation is delighted to be able to offer a fresh start to thousands more disadvantaged young Australians through the new Job Services.

"BoysTown's slogan, 'Fresh start. New Hope' has been adopted for a very good reason. We believe every young person deserves a fresh start and new hope in their future regardless of how many challenges they have faced," she said.

"People who face multiple barriers, which may include limited life skills, a lack of stable accommodation, or health problems, often need intensive ongoing support over a long period of time. The Rudd Government's new Job Services model recognises this.

"The model, which aims to provide a mix of training, work experience and other interventions to help job seekers obtain suitable employment, has been BoysTown's approach to helping young people for some time.

"We live in a complex world with economic, social and political factors often influencing what we see as achievable as individuals.

"These barriers can not be and are not insurmountable with young people working in BoysTown programs proving this to themselves time and time again."

A research project currently being conducted in partnership with Griffith University identified that when young people entered BoysTown programs more than 40 per cent lacked any future aspirations. As they progress this statistic drops dramatically to seven per cent.

"Our team of trainers, youth workers and administrators are dedicated to ensuring this statistic drops from seven per cent to zero, but we recognise this cannot be achieved alone," Ms Adams said.

"The cliché 'no man is an island' might be an old one, but is as relevant today as it was when first voiced some 500 years ago.

"BoysTown is not an island, nor are our Governments, businesses, young people, families and their children.

"We are a community and if we are to go forward as a community we must work together to ensure a strong and sustainable destiny for those who represent our future."

The new Job Services begin from 1 July. To contact BoysTown Kingston call 07 3387 8800 or for Ipswich call 07 3812 3155. For information about other BoysTown Job Services' sites visit www.boystown.com.au.