



media release



BoysTown

6 July 2010

BoysTown 'State of Origin' kicks off Youth Connections

BoysTown is set to kick off its Youth Connections Program with its own 'State of Origin' match at the Brisbane Bronco's Red Hill Club today.

Federal Member for Forde Brett Raguse will officially launch the program, which helps young people aged 14 to 18 years who are struggling with school to re-engage with the community, learning and work.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said the launch is to be celebrated with BoysTown's Inaugural State of Origin Touch Footy Challenge at the Brisbane Bronco's training ground.

"It's only fitting that we kick off our inaugural match in a place where many of our State's Origin greats have honed their skills and inspired many a young person," she said.

"We are privileged to have Corey Parker on hand offering encouragement and tips to our young players."

The 'QBuild Maroons' and the 'Housing NSW Blues' were selected from the young men and women in BoysTown's Queensland and New South Wales programs.

They will play a three match series starting with games between young people from our Logan, Redlands and Western Corridor programs as curtain raisers.

"The Youth Connections Program offers young people specialist youth work support, alternative education options - including arts and sports-based activities, mentoring programs, and enterprise learning projects," Ms Adams said.

"Quite a few of BoysTown's State of Origin players are from the Youth Connections program.

"Given the important role sport plays in the program by promoting not only healthy bodies but healthy minds, today's event is an ideal way to celebrate what is already turning out to be a great program."

BoysTown recognises that no two people learn the same way, with young people often disengaging from education because it is 'just not them'.

"We are working with local organisations to offer kids other ways to engage and learn, including dance, art, and, of course, sports activities," Ms Adams said.

"We are very excited to have rolled out this innovative program across South East Brisbane, the Redlands, Logan and Ipswich and have already seen 33 successful outcomes.

"This means that young people have either returned to school, found employment or have moved on to another form of accredited education."

For more information about BoysTown's Youth Connections Program call 1800 010 885.

Youth Connections is funded by the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. It is a two year program and commenced in January 2010.

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