

11 March 2010

Ipswich gets graffiti clean up

EVENT: Graffiti Removal Program Launch

DATE: Friday, March 12, 2010

TIME: 10.30am

VENUE: d'Arcy Doyle Place, Cnr Nicholas & Brisbane Streets, Ipswich

ATTENDEES: Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann MP and Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale

PHOTOS: Young people participating in the program will be available at the event or contact BoysTown to arrange an alternative time to see them in action removing graffiti.

Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann MP will officially launch the BoysTown Graffiti Removal Program in Ipswich this Friday March 12, 2010.

The project is a collaboration between the Australian Government, Ipswich City Council and BoysTown.

BoysTown Chief Executive Officer Tracy Adams said over the next two years the project will employ disadvantaged young people to work with a qualified program supervisor removing graffiti from public areas around Ipswich.

"Graffiti is an ongoing issue in Ipswich, as it is in any city, and we hope that by getting local people involved in the clean up they will become advocates in deterring others," Ms Adams said.

"Not only is the project improving the local environment it is also a great opportunity to provide young locals with vital paid work experience and training in a supportive environment.

"Most of the young people entering this program are facing issues, including substance abuse, low literacy and long-term unemployment, which prevent them from obtaining employment and participating fully in society.

"Our staff work with young people to help them identify their strengths, build confidence, learn new skills and overcome the barriers that are preventing them from achieving their dreams.

"Every young Australian has the right to be an active member of society and one of the most important ways to enable this is through work.

"We are proud to be working with the Australian Government and Ipswich City Council to give young people the chance to develop real skills in real jobs earning a real wage."

BoysTown is a youth welfare and advocacy agency which provides a range of services including counselling, employment, education and training, youth work, social development and life skills.