



Lyons Joint Venture Media Release - 12 June 2008

DHA and CIC (Lyons Joint Venture) donate \$50,000 to The Smith Family

The Lyons Joint Venture, a partnership between Defence Housing Australia (DHA) and the Canberra Investment Corporation Ltd (CIC), has donated \$50,000 to support The Smith Family's work in the Northern Territory.

The donation of \$10,000 each year over the next five years – a total of \$50,000 – will support The Smith Family's Senior Indigenous mentoring program at Casuarina Senior College in Darwin's northern suburbs. The Mentoring Program is aimed at encouraging senior students to stay at school, complete Year 12 and develop positive pathways into further study or employment.

"The Smith Family has made a long-term commitment to the NT working with disadvantaged students. We are pleased to be able to further extend our commitment through the Joint Venture's donation," said DHA's Managing Director Michael Del Gigante.

"The Smith Family has a reputation as a national leader in designing and implementing mentoring programs. In the Northern Territory, The Smith Family works in 15 schools in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Alice Springs and Ramingining, working with school communities. In much the same way the Lyons Joint Venture has worked with the community to build the new suburb of Lyons."

"The mentoring program matches individual students with trained volunteer mentors who will provide support, guidance and networks as the students complete school and transition into further study or work," CIC Managing Director Col Alexander said.

"Almost 100 people have already signed-up to be mentors and The Smith Family is looking for more community members to become involved."

The work of The Smith Family in the Northern Territory is evidenced in the 15 school communities in which they are already working. Although only in its early stages, positive results from the programs can already be seen in the communities in which they are operating.

"Disadvantaged children in our schools are getting more out of their education with the support of The Smith Family," reports Northern Territory General Manager for The Smith Family Tricia Rushton. "This donation will help us to continue our work in the Territory. The Smith Family is very grateful to the Lyons Joint Venture for making this investment in the Darwin community."

For more information

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