



Lord Mayor's Community Trust

Supporting Brisbane's Charities

Media Release

20 November 2007

LADY MAYORESS SUPPORTS CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Lady Mayoress, Mrs Lis Newman, will assist to raise funds on Friday for Brisbane's first ever build of a Centre for Young People by auctioning her very own *Mini Me Doll*.

The luncheon event being held at Brett's Wharf will see other *Mini Me Dolls* up for auction including,

Mrs Newman says, "The Lord Mayor's Community Trust is very proud to be engaged with the development of the Centre for Young People. The generosity of many companies and individuals here in Brisbane has enabled the Trust to donate in excess of \$750,000 to this very important and unique project to Brisbane."

The Centre for Young People will be the first of its kind in Australia. Based on the Common Ground approach, the successful program responsible for changing the face of homelessness in New York, the Centre has the vision to ensure at-risk youth receive all the support they need to get their lives back on track.

The Centre will provide drop in and day services, crisis care and intervention including accommodation, transitional and medium term accommodation and long term accommodation. This model has been developed in response to gaps in current service delivery to young people with highly complex needs.

"The Centre's build was dependent on external funding and it was the Lord Mayor's Community Trust who came forward with a solid belief in this new approach for holistic support and care for vulnerable young people in Brisbane," says Greg Geobal, head of Red Cross Queensland. "Without the support of Lisa and the Lord Mayor's Community Trust's financial commitment we would not have been able to get to where we are today."

Brisbane's Centre for Young People is an initiative of the Australian Red Cross in conjunction with Brisbane Youth Service, Brisbane Housing Company and the Department of Housing Queensland.

The Lord Mayor's Community Trust provides financial assistance to fund emergency accommodation, substance and crisis counselling, health and education services and financial assistance through organisations such as Life Education, Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc, the Abused Child's Trust, and Teen Challenge. The Trust's focus is on organisations that support education and intervention services for young people.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: 23 November 2007
Time: 12 noon for 12.30pm, formalities concluding 3pm
Venue: Brett's Wharf Restaurant, Hamilton

For further information on the event and for media opportunities please contact Libby Marshall on 0419 744 514.

Media contact: Libby Marshall on 0419 744 514

Homeless Fact Sheet

There are four phases of homelessness:

Primary homelessness: people living without conventional accommodation - living on the streets, in deserted buildings, improvised buildings, under bridges and in parks etc.

Secondary homelessness: people moving between various forms of temporary shelter including: friends, relatives, emergency accommodation (refuges, hostels etc) and boarding houses.

Tertiary homelessness: people living in single rooms in private boarding houses on a long-term basis - without their own bathroom, kitchen and security of tenure.

Marginally housed: people in housing situations close to the minimum standard, e.g. people renting caravans on a medium to long-term basis where no-one in the caravan has full-time job.

In Queensland, the number of homeless is reported to be 24,569 and the estimated number of homeless youth is reported to be 6,381.

(Chris Chamberlain and David Mackensie, RMIT University and Swinburne University of Technology, Counting The Homeless 2002).

Significant numbers of Brisbane young people are homeless.

The 2001 Census found a total of 5,094 homeless people in Brisbane with 180 sleeping rough in the City Core.

The 2001 Census also found 109 young people were sleeping rough in the inner city.

Homeless young people tend to have very complex needs.

Documented causes of homelessness include mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependence, family violence, abuse, neglect, family breakdown and financial stress.

Current services are insufficient to provide appropriate accommodation for these young people.

While some areas of metropolitan Brisbane are serviced by supported accommodation for young people, there are substantial service gaps and little appropriate support for young people with complex needs.

There are very limited services to help young people make the transition from homelessness to long-term secure and appropriate accommodation.

There are 0 places offering long-term intensive coordinated support for young people.

Homelessness and the factors that cause it disrupt normal personal development, leading to impaired social and living skills.

Without secure accommodation and support to gain life skills, young people are likely to require lifelong repeated crisis intervention at staggering cost to the community.

(Reference – City Life Brisbane City Council and Australian Red Cross).